

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Va'eira  
December 31, 2021 / 27 Teves 5782  
Volume 27, Issue 14  
Candlelighting: 4:48 pm

Waxman Torah Center · 2195 S. Green Road · University Heights, OH 44121 · (216) 691-3837 · www.clevelandjlc.com

## Friday, December 31

7:00am Shacharis  
4:48pm Candlelighting  
4:50pm Mincha / Maariv  
8:00pm Parsha Class  
2362 Milton

## Shabbos, January 1

8:45am Shacharis  
4:10pm Laws of Shabbos  
4:40pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos /  
Maariv

## Sunday, January 2

8:00am Shacharis  
9:15am **Parsha Class**  
(R. Nisenbaum)  
10:00am **"The 613 Mitzvos"**  
(R. Stoll)

## Monday, January 3

7:00am Shacharis  
8:00pm **Questions & Answers**  
(R. Nisenbaum)

## Tuesday, January 4

7:00am Shacharis  
8:00pm **Avos D'Rav Nosson**  
(R. Stoll)

## Wednesday, January 5

7:00am Shacharis  
8:00pm **Nach Still Speaks**  
(R. Stoll)

## Thursday, January 6

8:00am Shacharis  
8:00pm **The 12 Jewish Months**  
(R. Stoll)  
in person, Zoom & audio  
10:15pm **Parsha Class**  
(R. Nisenbaum)

## Class Connection

**R. Nisenbaum:**  
425-436-6200 #352171

**R. Stoll:**  
Zoom: 876-619-3551  
Audio: 669-900-9128

## Parsha: Va'eira

G-d sent Moshe and Ahron to Pharaoh to order him to free the Jews. The mission appeared to be a failure. Pharaoh first mocked the Al-mighty, and then made the Jewish people work even harder, accusing them of laziness. The Jewish people, too, were angry with Moshe for having made things worse for them. Moshe complained to G-d that he would not accomplish anything by returning to Pharaoh. G-d, however, assured Moshe that the people would be redeemed amidst great wonders and miracles.

Ten plagues were brought upon the Egyptians. These accomplished two goals. First, they served as a punishment for the Egyptians' mistreatment of the nation. But they also served as a lesson for both the Egyptians and the Jews, showing that G-d was in total control over the world and over nature.

Moshe warned Pharaoh that if he would not let the people go, all the water throughout Egypt would be turned to blood. The Nile River was considered to be a god in Egypt, serving as the sole source for water in the region. By first afflicting the Egyptian god, it proved G-d's superiority over their idols. This was also the significance of the fifth plague, pestilence, which killed the Egyptian cattle, another god of the Egyptians.

Following the first plague, G-d brought a plague of frogs throughout Egypt. The swarming frogs wreaked

havoc, inundating the whole country with their croaking noise. This was followed by a plague of lice, and then by a plague of wild animals that roamed the country. A plague of pestilence killed most of the livestock, followed by a plague of boils that afflicted the Egyptians themselves. The last plague mentioned in this portion was that of a miraculous hail-and-fire mixture, that destroyed almost all the Egyptian vegetation.

Each of the plagues lasted for a week, and then Pharaoh was given three weeks to reconsider letting the people go. Pharaoh refused to be impressed by the miracles that Moshe and Ahron performed. Even when he

saw that his own magicians could not duplicate the miracles, he hardened his heart and would not let the people go. After the first few plagues the suffering became so great, that Pharaoh did consider allowing some segments of the people to leave temporarily. This, however, was not acceptable to Moshe.

After five plagues of suffering throughout Egypt, and despite the pleas of his own nation, Pharaoh still refused to recognize the hand of G-d. By that time, since he had been given so many opportunities, G-d hardened Pharaoh's heart and did not allow him to let the nation go. This would pave the way for him to receive the next five plagues and eventually the punishment he, and the Egyptian people, deserved.

### NEW SERIES: UNDERSTANDING EMUNAH

A new 10-part series with R. Nisenbaum  
beginning Mon. Jan 17 at 8:00.

## Insights: Va'eira

**Amram took his aunt Yocheved as a wife and she bore him Ahron and Moshe (Exodus 6:20)** Rav Moshe Feinstein asks why the names of Moshe's parents are not mentioned until after he was appointed to redeem the Children of Israel. He suggests that it is meant to convey an important lesson in child education. The parents of a gifted child will often take pride in their child's capabilities. This pride, however, is often premature. The gifted child will often understand his studies without exerting much effort, preventing him from developing skills that will later be necessary. The evil inclination of a gifted child will also be stronger, and may try to lure him away from studying Torah in order to excel in other areas. Often the most promising student will not be the one who actually succeeds. For that reason, only after Moshe grew up and was chosen to lead are his parents identified, for only then could they take pride in him. Rav Ahron Leib Shteinman once said, "A teacher receives his reward in this world in the pride he has of his gifted students, yet his reward in the World to Come he receives for the effort he spends on his weaker students. His salary he receives for teaching the average students."

## Did You Know?

One may not recite any blessings or prayers in a place which is unclean, such as a bathroom. One may not even recite prayers near the open door of a bathroom, even if there is no odor. Although our modern bathrooms are much more sanitary than the bathrooms of old, and though they also serve other functions too, such as a place to wash and brush one's teeth, many authorities hold that the laws regarding an unclean place apply to them too. It is also prohibited to recite prayers in a place where there is an offensive odor. If one has a catheter attached, as long as it is covered and there is no odor, he may recite prayers.

**Thought for the Week: Don't knock repetition; corn comes out of ears too!** (A Candle By Day)

### New Book

*R. Nisenbaum's new book of essays and anecdotes will soon be published. If anyone is interested in sponsorship, please contact him.*

### Mazel Tov

*Rabbi Ephraim and Chanie Nisenbaum upon the marriage of their daughter*