

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Vaeschanan / Nachamu

August 16, 2024 / 12 Av 5784

Volume 29, Issue 44

Candlelighting: 8:07 pm

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

Friday, August 16

6:45pm Early Mincha / Maariv

8:07pm Candlelighting

8:10pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, August 17

8:45am Shacharis

*Kiddush is sponsored by
R. Moshe Stoll upon the
yahrzeit of his father*

7:15pm Pirke Avos

8:00pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos

9:14pm Maariv

Sunday, August 18

9:15am Parsha Class

(R. Nisenbaum)

10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"

(R. Stoll)

Monday, August 19

8:00pm Will resume Aug 26

(R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, August 20

8:00pm Tanna d'vei Eliyahu

(R. Stoll)

Wednesday, August 21

8:00pm Nach Still Speaks –

Tehillim (R. Stoll)

Thursday, August 22

10:15pm Parsha Class

(R. Nisenbaum)

Torah Podcast

Listen to Rabbi Nisenbaum's "Torah Podcast" at Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeartRadio, and more, or download at www.maverickpodcasting.com

New episodes twice a week!

Weekday Minyanim

7:00am Shacharis (M-F)

8:00am Shacharis (Sun)

10:00pm Maariv (Sun-Th)

Class Connection

R. Nisenbaum:

425-436-6200 #352171

"The Torah Podcast" weekly at all podcast locations

R. Stoll:

Zoom: 876-619-3551

Audio: 669-900-9128

Parshas: Va'eschanan

After his opening remarks, Moshe continued his monologue to the Jewish people. He related how he had hoped after conquering the lands of Sichon and Og that G-d would relent from His decree and allow him to enter the Promised Land. The Midrash mentions that Moshe prayed 515 prayers to be allowed to enter the land, but G-d would not relent. G-d allowed Moshe to climb a mountain to view the land from a distance.

This may have been Moshe's way of warning the people of the importance of keeping the mitzvot properly. Moshe, great as he was, could not realize his lifelong dream of entering the land because of a small deviation from fulfilling G-d's exact words.

Moshe also instructed the people not to add to or detract from the mitzvot of G-d. The mitzvot can only exert their Divine influence upon a person when they are observed as the will of G-d. When a person detracts from or adds to a mitzvah, i.e. introduces five or three sections in the tefillin instead of four, they become the product of his own intellect rather than that of the A-lmighty's, and they no longer have the same meaning or carry the same value.

Moshe also reminded them that only by keeping the mitzvot properly would the Jewish people earn the respect of their non-Jewish neighbors. Even others

recognize the Torah and mitzvot as the source of the Jews' wisdom.

The people were told that when they enter the Promised Land they would find great abundance. However, they must not succumb to the great dangers presented by prosperity. It is important to remember that all prosperity is a gift from G-d, and that it should not lead them astray.

Moshe also prophesied that the nation would not always follow the Torah properly and would turn to idolatry. They would then be led into exile among the other nations. In exile the people would see for themselves that no other nation has ever laid claim to the assertions of the Jewish people. No other nation has ever been freed from a country like Egypt amidst all the wonders and miracles like the Jewish people.

The purpose of all these wonders, and of the scattering in exile, is to impress upon the Jewish nation the omniscience of G-d and their responsibility to follow His commandments properly. This message is

emphasized by the requirement to repeat the Shema, the Jew's pledge of allegiance to G-d, twice each day.

Only when this message is absorbed will the nation enjoy longevity and prosperity in their land.

Mazel Tov
Shmully & Dina Halpern upon the
marriage of their daughter

Dahlen Firestone upon the
marriage of her son

Michael Blumenthal & Marla
Kassof upon their marriage

Issue Sponsorship
Muriel Weber on her mother's
yahrzeit Miriam bas Avraham 18 Av

Richard & Gilda Katz on her
mother's yahrzeit Perl bas Betzalel
12 Av

Insights: Va'eschanan

He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me. (Deut 5:19) The Midrash says that both tablets were of equal size to teach us that the commandments of both tablets, those between man and G-d as well as those between man and man, are of equal importance, and a person must be as meticulous in observing the obligations between man and man as he is in observing the obligations between man and G-d. There was a shoemaker who lived in Jaffa who was admired greatly by the Chazon Ish. The Steipler Rav once asked the Chazon Ish what was so special about the man that the Chazon Ish would send people to this man to receive his blessings. The Chazon Ish replied that the shoemaker's scrupulous honesty in business was unmatched by anything he had seen. He felt that the man's level of integrity was no less difficult to achieve than greatness in Torah scholarship.

Did You Know?

It is customary to cover one's eyes with the right hand while reciting the Shema, in order to enhance one's concentration. Even a left-handed person covers his eyes with his right hand. The Shema may be recited either sitting or standing. In the morning, however, if one was sitting beforehand, he should not stand intentionally in order to recite the Shema. It is important to think before reciting the Shema that one intends to fulfill the mitzvah of reciting the Shema and accepting the yoke of G-d's Kingdom and His unity.

Thought for the Week: We don't mind going around in circles as long as we make the ends meet.
(A Candle By Day)