

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Va'eschanan
July 23, 2021 / 14 Av 5781
Volume 26, Issue 40
Candlelighting: 8:34 pm

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

Friday, July 23

7:00am Shacharis
7:05pm Mincha / Maariv (Early)
8:43pm Candlelighting

Shabbos, July 24

8:45am Shacharis
**AT YOUNG ISRAEL
LOWER LEVEL**
8:25pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos /
Maariv

Sunday, July 25

8:00am Shacharis
**10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"
(R. Stoll)**

Monday, July 26

7:00am Shacharis

Tuesday, July 27

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

Wednesday, July 28

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

Thursday, July 29

7:00am Shacharis
**8:00pm Wisdom of the
Hebrew Language
(R. Stoll)**
**10:15pm Parsha Class
(R. Nisenbaum)**

Class Connection

R. Nisenbaum:
425-436-6200 #352171

**R. Nisenbaum's Sunday
and Monday classes will
resume in August.**

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

Parsha: 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 mitzvos 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 mitzvahs of G-d. The mitzvahs 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 mitzvahs properly would the Jewish people earn the respect of their non-Jewish neighbors. Even others

recognize the Torah and mitzvahs 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.

Insights: Va'eschanan

These words that I am commanding you today shall be on your hearts, and you should teach them to your children (Dev 6:7) Alshich explains that only if the Torah is embedded in one's heart will he be successful in transmitting it to his children. Rav Nachum Diamant relates that a great Torah scholar once told him that his greatest growth came from three things that he accepted upon himself. The first is that he never expected anything from his wife that he did not expect from himself. This pushed him to expect more from himself. The second is that he never demanded anything from his children that he did not demand of himself. For example, he realized that he could not demand his children to daven better if he socialized with others during davening. And the third thing is that he never expected anything of his students that he was unsure of whether he could expect it of himself. He once noticed that his students were staring out the window during class. He went to the window and saw a parade passing the classroom. He was going to reprimand the students when he thought that had nobody else been around, he might have stared at the spectacle himself. He decided not to say anything, but he worked on focusing better on his own studies and overcome other distractions. Small wonder, that this scholar was so successful in raising a beautiful family as well as becoming a successful rebbe of hundreds of students.

Mazel Tov

**to Gary and Liat Shyken
upon the Bar Mitzvah of
Eliezer**

Newsletter Sponsorship

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Miriam bas Avraham 18 Av
and**
**by Richard & Gilda Katz on
the yahrzeit of her mother
Perl bas Betzalel 12 Av**

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Did You Know?

One must put mezuzah scrolls at the entrance of each room in the house. The room must be at least approximately 36 square feet to need a mezuzah, thus exempting most closets. The bathroom also should not have a mezuzah. The mezuzah must be in the top 2/3 of the doorway, preferably with the bottom of the mezuzah being right at the bottom of the top third. Some sources recommend either placing one's hand on the mezuzah when leaving or entering one's house. Others suggest placing one's hand on the mezuzah and then kissing the fingers. They also suggest one offer a short prayer to G-d for success upon leaving one's home.

Thought for the Week: Our job in life is to Theo-rise.
(A Candle By Day)