

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Vayelech / Shabbos Shuva
September 30, 2022 / 5 Tishrei 5783
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Candlelighting: 6:52 pm

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Friday, September 30

6:52pm Candlelighting
6:55pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, October 1

8:45am Shacharis
4:45pm Teshuva Class for women
(@ R. Nisenbaum – 2352 Milton)
5:45pm Shabbos Shuva speech
(men & women)
6:45pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos /
Maariv

Sunday, October 2

7:30am Selichos / Shacharis
10:00pm Maariv

Monday, October 3

6:30am Shacharis
10:00pm Maariv

Tuesday, October 4 Erev Yom Kippur

6:40am Shacharis
3:00pm Mincha
6:45pm Candlelighting
6:50pm Kol Nidre
7:45pm Maariv

Wednesday, October 5 Yom Kippur

8:00am Shacharis
8:02pm Fast Ends

Thursday, October 6

7:00am Shacharis
10:00pm Maariv

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

Parsha: Vayelech

Moshe presented the nation with his final words of farewell and encouragement on the last day of his life. He told them that although he was not able to lead them into the Promised Land himself, he had appointed a capable successor in Joshua. He promised them that they had nothing to fear, and they would yet enter the Land.

He also instructed the people in the last two of the 613 mitzvos. The purpose of both these mitzvos was to help them maintain their commitment and connection with G-d and His Torah.

The first mitzvah was Hakhel, where the entire nation was required to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem every seven years. The king would read from the Torah on a specially constructed podium. For the men and women this would prove to be a most inspiring experience, both intellectually and emotionally. However, the mere opportunity to see millions of Jews in the Temple at one time, studying Torah, was so great that even the tiny infants had to be brought in order that the image be seared in their subconscious mind. The experience would serve as a boost for the nation that would last for the next seven years.

The last mitzvah in the Torah was for each individual to write his own Torah scroll, or at least to have one written for him. This Torah scroll would serve as a reminder for each individual of the eternal covenant G-d made with the people. Although the time would come that the people would forsake the Torah and fall prey to the surrounding cultures, the Torah scroll would provide a constant reminder of an unchanging standard in a world in flux. The nation's responsibilities to G-d, and the standard to which they are to aspire, remain the same as when they were first given at Sinai. The Torah will never be forgotten, and ultimately the people will yet return to G-d and the Torah.

This message is also alluded to in the special Haftara for Shabbos Shuva, the Shabbos between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. The prophet Hosea encourages the people to repent from their evil ways. Essentially, the sin is not an intrinsic part of one's personality; thus it can be removed and atoned for. The potential for sincere Teshuva always remains, and G-d is always willing to accept it and forgive.

Mazal Tov

Ben & Batya Rosner upon
the birth of a daughter

Insights: Yom Kippur

Al chei...that we have sinned with arrogance (Liturgy)

Rav Eliyahu Dessler describes the foolishness of arrogance and how a person's infatuation with honor will often blind him. A person makes a simcha and the speaker embellishes the praises of the host to all the guests. The host knows that the praises are greatly exaggerated. The speaker, too, realizes that the praises are not at all accurate. The crowd also understands that the praises have little to do with reality. The host even knows that the speaker himself does not believe his own words. And yet, the host sits there basking in the glory of all the supposed praises! In our confession we admit to the folly of our ways.

Did You Know?

The pitum is a little stick-like protrusion that grows from the top of an esrog. The shoshanta is a flower-like piece at the top of the pitum. If the shoshanta falls off the esrog leaving the pitum intact, the esrog may still be used during Succos. Even if the pitum itself broke, as long as part of it remains, the esrog may still be used during Succos if no other esrog is available. After the first day of Succos, even if the pitum breaks off completely, the esrog may be taken but no blessing is recited on it.

Thought for the Week: *Repentance is a kind of healthy spiritual revenge.* (A Candle By Day)