

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Vayishlach
December 9, 2022 / 15 Kislev 5783
Volume 28, Issue 8
Candlelighting: 4:38 pm

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

Friday, December 9

4:38pm Candlelighting
4:40pm Mincha / Maariv
8:15pm Shiur @ R. Nisenbaum's

Shabbos, December 10

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush sponsored by R. Moshe Stoll in honor of his receiving Chasan Torah

4:00pm Laws of Shabbos
4:30pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos / Maariv

Sunday, December 11

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

Monday, December 12

8:00pm The Seven Shepherds – Yosef and Purity (7/8)

Tuesday, December 13

8:00pm Pirkei d'Rebbi Elazar (R. Stoll)

Wednesday, December 14

8:00pm Nach Still Speaks – Tehillim (R. Stoll)

Thursday, December 15

10:15pm Parsha Class (R. Nisenbaum)

Flashes of Torah

R. Nisenbaum's new book is now available!
Get your copy now.

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

Parsha: Vayishlach

On the way home from Laban's house, Jacob received word that Esau was coming towards him with an army of 400 men. He understood that Esau's hatred had not yet abated since thirty-four years earlier, when they had last seen each other.

Jacob prepared for his meeting with Esau in three ways: He first sent a gift to Esau, he prayed to G-d for assistance, and he planned a military strategy.

The gift was meant to appease Esau's enmity. Jacob wanted to show that he would share his material success with Esau, and that he was not trying to usurp his brother's blessing for his own material gain. Yet Jacob was realistic too. In the event that Esau would not be placated by the gift, Jacob realized he must prepare for war. He divided his camp into two parts. If one camp would be attacked, the other would always be able to flee to safety, thus ensuring Jacob's survival.

But even after both of these precautions were taken, Jacob realized that salvation was dependent upon the Al-mighty. He therefore prayed for G-d's protection from the dangers of Esau.

Jacob's concern about his future was a valid one. The night before the meeting, after taking his family across the river, Jacob returned to retrieve some small pitchers he had forgotten behind. While alone, an angel fought with Jacob

until morning. The Talmud identifies this angel as the spiritual force of Esau. The struggle actually foreshadowed the physical meeting Jacob would encounter the next day with Esau. The angel could not win over Jacob, but he did wound Jacob's thigh. The commentators understand the symbolism of the thigh as a reference to Jacob's children, thereby threatening Jacob's survival. Jacob would not let the angel go until he blessed him. This was Esau's admission and recognition of Jacob's rights to their father's blessings. The angel named Jacob "Israel", meaning that he was victorious in his quest over the angel.

The following day Esau did have a change of heart and let Jacob return home in peace.

Jacob's challenges were not yet over, though. During his return trip his mother Rebecca passed away before he could have a chance to see her. His daughter Dinah was violated by the prince of Shechem. Shimon and Levi were infuriated and destroyed the entire city, incurring international wrath. Afterwards, Jacob's wife, Rachel, died in childbirth. Jacob decided to bury her near Bethlehem instead of in Chevron with the other Patriarchs and Matriarchs. He wanted to allow his descendants to be able to pray by her tomb during their exile from Jerusalem. Rachel's tomb remains a special place to pray for our needs until this day.

Condolences
to Esther Sara Carrol upon the passing of her son

Insights: Vayishlach

Ya'akov remained alone and the man fought with him (Gen. 32:25)

The Midrash says that this was the angel of Esau who fought with him. Rav Leib of Pressberg asked a prominent man in the community to accompany him to collect money early in the morning to assist a poor man. The man excused himself that he had to first pray. Rav Leib countered, "When Yaakov fought with the angel, the Midrash identifies him as Esau's angel. How do we know that? Because when Yaakov asked him for a blessing, he excused himself that it was time to sing his praises to G-d. Somebody who postpones helping another with the excuse that he must first pray to G-d is connected to Esau!"

Did You Know?

A person must light Chanukah candles in his own home, therefore if one is a guest at a friend's home for the evening, he should first light at home, or else light later when he gets home. If he will be sleeping at the friend's home, he need not light at home, but should either light himself at the friend's home, or else give the friend some money to become a partner in his lighting. If one is staying at a hotel, he should light in the hotel room. If one will be in transit through the night, if possible, he should have his wife light at home and rely on her lighting. If the whole family is traveling through the night, the mitzvah cannot be fulfilled.

Thought for the Week: Let us not attribute to the evil eye what should be attributed to the evil! (A Candle By Day)