

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Vayishlach
December 1, 2023 / 18 Kislev 5784
Volume 29, Issue 8
Candlelighting: 4:40 pm

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

Friday, December 1

4:40pm Candlelighting
4:45pm Mincha / Maariv
8:15pm Parsha Shiur
@ R. Nisenbaum

Shabbos, December 2

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush Sponsored.
See inside.
4:10pm Laws of Shabbos
4:35pm Mincha
5:46pm Maariv

Sunday, December 3

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

Monday, December 4

8:00pm The Wisdom of Koheles -
(R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, December 5

8:00pm Tanna d'vei Eliyahu
(R. Stoll)

Wednesday, December 6

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

Thursday, December 7

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

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.

Kiddush Sponsored

anonymously as a shmira for soldiers Michael David ben Rut & Avraham and Aryeh Lev Nachman ben Rut & Avraham (& all soldiers)

Longer Davening...

Beginning at Maariv this Tuesday (Dec 5th), we add "Tal U'Matar" in Shmoneh Esrei

Insights: Vayishlach

Therefore the children of Israel should not eat the sciatic nerve. (Gen 32:33) Rav Shimon Shkop would warn his students to avoid reading heretical materials, even if they felt they were strong enough not to be influenced by them, as there would certainly be adverse effects. He also discouraged them from debating with others who held heretical views. As proof of the danger, he cited Ya'akov's struggle with the Angel of Esav. Although the Torah testifies that Ya'akov was victorious in his battle, he did not emerge unscathed. He explained that this is why the Torah prohibits eating the sciatic nerve, to teach us that even someone as great as Ya'akov must be careful when he is exposed to other ideas that are antithetical to Torah, since even he was harmed.

Did You Know?

When lighting Chanukah candles on a Friday, since the candles are lit earlier than the other days, one must be certain that they can burn for at least one hour and 45 minutes. This means that longer candles must be used, as the regular Chanukah candles only last for around a half-hour. Under extenuating circumstances, one should light at least one longer candle. Children who light should also light longer candles. Although preferably a husband should light Chanukah candles before his wife lights Shabbos candles, if she sees that it is getting late, she may light before him.

Thought for the Week: Seeing is acknowledging; **not** seeing, believing. (*A Candle By Day*)