

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Shavuos
May 25-27, 2023 / 6-7 Sivan 5783
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Candlelighting: 8:30 pm

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Thursday, May 25

8:30pm Candlelighting
8:30pm Mincha
9:38pm Maariv

Friday, May 26 Shavuos Day 1

12:15am Learning until 5pm
5:10am Shacharis (Vasikin)
9:00am Shacharis

7:00pm Mincha / Maariv [early]
7:20pm Earliest Candlelighting
8:31pm Candlelighting
8:35pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, May 27 Shavuos Day 2

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is available for sponsorship
~10:30am Yizkor
8:25pm Mincha
Shalosh Seudos / Neilas
HaChag
9:40pm Maariv

Sunday, May 28

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

Monday, May 29 Memorial Day

8:00am Shacharis followed by
Breakfast & Class:
"What Happened at
Mount Sinai"
8:00pm "What a Jew Believes" –
Torah: Transmission of an
instruction manual

Tuesday, May 30

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

Wednesday, May 31

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

Thursday, June 1

10:15pm Parsha Class
(R. Nisenbaum)

Weekday Minyanim

7:00am Shacharis (M-F)
8:00am Shacharis (Sun)
10:00pm Maariv (Sun-Th)

Parshas: Shavuos

Seven weeks after the Jewish people left Egypt, G-d felt they were ready to receive the Torah, the purpose of their redemption from Egypt. After camping at Sinai, the people purified themselves three days prior to receiving the Torah, in preparation for the event. In many ways this purification and preparation were like a

conversion of sorts, enabling the people to accept the mitzvos and become a nation. It is interesting to note that the account of the experience at Sinai follows the account of the conversion of Yisro, Moshe's father-in-law.

That is one of the reasons it is customary to read the Book of Ruth on Shavuos. The Book of Ruth is also the story of a famous convert, who went on to become the grandmother of King David and the Messianic dynasty.

At Mount Sinai the people heard the Ten Commandments. The Midrash explains that when G-d uttered the first two commandments, the experience was too powerful for the people to behold. They pleaded to Moshe that they would die if they heard any more. Moshe then repeated the remainder of the Ten Commandments to the nation. The Talmud finds a hint to this in the passage, "Moshe commanded

us the Torah..." The numerical value of the Hebrew word "Torah" is 611. This alludes to the 611 mitzvos, besides the two that the people heard directly from G-d.

Although the people only heard the Ten Commandments on that day, all the mitzvos are alluded to in the Ten Commandments. That is why we say that the Torah was given on this day, despite the fact that they only heard the Ten Commandments.

After the Commandments, Moshe climbed the mountain where he remained for forty days. During that time he received all the details of the mitzvos. This is referred to as the Oral Tradition. G-d also dictated to Moshe the Written Torah, from the beginning of Beraishis (Genesis) until the middle of Exodus, where it describes the Sinai experience. Moshe transcribed everything he was told. The remainder of the Torah was dictated to Moshe throughout the rest of the forty years in the desert.

Shavuos is the day we celebrate the Sinai Revelation. It is the day we are supposed to rededicate ourselves to Torah study and observance.

Mazel Tov
to Jesse Anderson and Shira Chavin
upon their upcoming wedding

Insights: Shavuos

and He gave us a Torah of truth (Shavuos liturgy)

Dr. David Luchins relates that as an NCSY adviser, he was once trying to lead a Torah class at a Shabbaton for teenagers. The group, however, argued that they could not attend the class as they had to prepare a song to present later in the day. When he heard their song, "We love the Torah..." he ruefully remarked, "I guess their love for Torah is to sing about it rather than to study it." The Kotzker Rebbe remarked similarly, "Talking about Torah is still not learning Torah." The joy of Shavuos is best celebrated by studying the Torah.

Did You Know?

It is customary for a bride and groom to be escorted to the chuppah, the marriage canopy, with candlelight. The reason for this is to recall the fiery smoke at Mount Sinai when the Jewish people were wedded to G-d. Another reason offered is that the candles suggest a prayer to G-d to illuminate the way for the bride and groom as they face the unknown challenges of life. The groom is led to the chuppah before the bride. This is also reminiscent of Mount Sinai, where the Torah relates that G-d, the Groom, preceded the Jewish people, the bride, to the mountain.

Thought for the Week: Ignorance of the L-rd is no excuse. (A Candle By Day)

Torah Podcast

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