

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Vayelech / Shuva
September 10, 2021 / 4 Tishrei 5782
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Candlelighting: 7:27 pm

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Friday, September 10

6:30am Selichos & Shacharis

7:27pm Candlelighting
7:30pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, September 11

8:45am Shacharis

5:00pm Teshuva class (women)
@ 2362 Milton
6:20pm Shabbos Shuva speech
(men & women)
7:20pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos /
Maariv

Sunday, September 12

6:30am Selichos & Shacharis

9:15am **Parsha Class**
(R. Nisenbaum)

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

Monday, September 13

6:30am Selichos & Shacharis

8:00pm Sukkos Secrets

Tuesday, September 14

6:30am Selichos & Shacharis

Wednesday, September 15 EREV YOM KIPPUR

6:40am Selichos / Shacharis

3:00pm Mincha
7:17pm Candlelighting
7:20pm Kol Nidre
7:35pm Sunset
8:17pm Maariv

Thursday, September 16 YOM KIPPUR

8:00am Shacharis

8:34pm Fast Ends (60 min)

Friday, September 17

7:00am Shacharis

7:13pm Candlelighting
7:15pm Mincha / Maariv

Parsha: Vayelech / Shuva

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.

Insights: Vayelech

For on this day, He will atone for you...before G-d you will be purified (Vayikra 16:30) The day before Yom Kippur, Rav Shlomo Zalmen Auerbach's telephone would be ringing all day. Halachic questions regarding the fast and other issues would come from around the world to the eminent Halachic authority. When things quieted down shortly before the holiday began, Rav Shlomo Zalmen mused aloud, "Thank G-d we see so many people today who seek guidance in order to lead every detail of their lives meticulously according to the Torah. However, with all the questions I received today, not one person asked me any questions regarding repentance, which is the primary mitzvah of Yom Kippur. The laws of teshuvah, or repentance, are just as detailed and complex as any other mitzvah, yet for some reason people think they can figure it out themselves. Why aren't they as concerned as fulfilling it as meticulously as they do other mitzvos?"

Did You Know?

One should not bring pots and pans inside the succah as it is considered disrespectful to the succah. Dirty dishes should also not be left in the succah after eating. Similarly, one should not store things in the succah that he would not keep in his dining room, such as bicycles, brooms, and such. It is traditional to decorate the succah to beautify the mitzvah. The decorations may be thrown away after Succos, but they should first be wrapped in a bag, and not merely be discarded with other trash. The same applies to throwing out the schach covering of the succah

Thought for the Week: Making-up does not cancel an offense; it merely conceals it—as does “make-up” in the case of a woman. (*A Candle By Day*)

Shanah Tovah

**Have a Happy, Healthy
New Year from the
Jewish Learning
Connection!**