

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Vayetze

November 24, 2023 / 11 Kislev 5784

Volume 29, Issue 7

Candlelighting: 4:43 pm

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

Friday, November 24

4:43pm Candlelighting
4:45pm Mincha / Maariv
8:15pm Parsha Shiur
@ R. Nisenbaum

Shabbos, November 25

8:45am Shacharis
4:10pm Laws of Shabbos
4:35pm Mincha
5:49pm Maariv

Sunday, November 26

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

Monday, November 27

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

Tuesday, November 28

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

Wednesday, November 29

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

Thursday, November 30

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

Vayetze

Jacob left his parents' home to escape from his brother Esau's wrath, and to find a wife from his mother's family, as well.

On his way to Charan, Jacob stopped to sleep at the mountain of Moriah, the same spot that Abraham had brought Isaac as a sacrifice. He dreamed about a ladder reaching from earth up to the heavens. G-d spoke to him from above the ladder and promised Jacob that He would accompany him throughout his exile, and that eventually he would return to the Land of Canaan with his children. The ladder represented Jacob's mission of bridging the spiritual world he had enjoyed until this point, and the physical world he would encounter in the house of his uncle, the deceptive Laban.

In Laban's house, Jacob had to overcome many difficult challenges. He offered to work seven years for Rachel, Laban's younger daughter's hand in marriage. Laban tricked Jacob into marrying his older daughter, Leah. Jacob had to work another seven years to marry Rachel. Although Jacob loved Leah, he did harbor some resentment towards her because of her involvement in this deception.

G-d saw Leah's pain and allowed her to bear children, immediately, unlike any of the other three Matriarchs. This endeared her to Jacob. She bore him a total of six sons, Reuben, Simon, Levi, Judah; and then later, Yissachar, and Zevulun. She also bore Jacob a daughter, Dinah.

Rachel saw that she could not yet bear children, so she gave her maidservant Bilhah to Jacob as a concubine. Bilhah bore Jacob two more sons, Gad and Asher. Leah also gave her maidservant Zilpah as a concubine to Jacob. She too bore him two sons, Dan and Naftali. Finally, Rachel conceived, and she bore Jacob a son, Joseph. Later, on the road back to Canaan, she bore him another son, Benjamin, but she died during childbirth.

Laban tried to cheat Jacob out of his hard-earned wages. Jacob had to make numerous deals with Laban in order to receive his fair pay. Even then, only through miraculous intervention could Jacob prevent Laban from cheating him.

After twenty years in the house of Laban, Jacob spoke to his wives, and decided to return to his parents' home in Canaan. He tried to leave secretly, but Laban learned of the escape and caught up with Jacob's camp. Eventually, the two made peace with one another, and Jacob left peacefully. The peace was short-lived, however, as Jacob received word that Esau was awaiting his return with an army of four hundred men.

All these circumstances helped prepare Jacob with the fortitude he needed to be able to build the Jewish nation.

Mazel Tov

to Rabbi Ephraim & Chanie
Nisenbaum upon the birth of a
grandson

to Leibel & Aliah Preyger
upon the marriage of their
granddaughter

the Corbett family on the
Bas Mitzvah of Chaya

Insights: Vayetze

He dreamed and behold! a ladder stood on the ground. (Gen 28:12) When The Gerrer Rebbe, Rav Pinchos Menachem, was a child, his rebbe asked him why didn't Yaakov climb up the ladder with the angels? The young boy answered, "But it was only a dream!". The rebbe laughed, but then asked, "So why didn't he dream about climbing the ladder with the angels?" The young boy was stumped, so he asked his father, Rav Avrohom Mordechai. The elder Rebbe told his son, "The Torah says that G-d stood over him. If Hashem was with him on the earth, there was no need for him to climb to heaven! Our job is to find G-d down here, and not in Heaven!".

Did You Know?

Throughout the week after the wedding it is customary, though not obligatory, to invite family and friends to special meals with the bride and groom. If there are ten men present, the Sheva Berachos (seven blessings recited at the wedding ceremony) are recited for the couple. It must be the first wedding for either the bride or the groom in order to recite the Sheva Berachos throughout the week. At least one of those present may not have attended the wedding, as his presence now increases the joy of the bride and groom. On Shabbos the blessings may be recited even if there is nobody new present.

Thought for the Week: We seem better versed to find truth in beauty than in finding beauty in truth. (A Candle By Day)