

YOUNG ISRAEL OF THE MAIN LINE

Weekly Update

Rabbi Avraham Steinberg
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Parshas Vaeschanan Shabbos Nachamu

פרשת ואתחנן שבת נחמו

י"ג אב—27-28 July

Shabbos Davening Times

Earliest candle lighting: 6:50pm
Candle lighting: 8:02pm
Mincha - Friday: 7:00pm

Sof Zman Krias Shema: 9:32am
Shacharis: 8:45am
Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishis: 7:50pm
Maariv: 9:04pm

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis Sunday: 8:00am
Shacharis (Mon., Thu.): 6:40am
Shacharis (Tue., Wed., Fri.): 6:50am
Mincha/Maariv (Sun.-Thu.): 8:05pm

Next Shabbos Times

Candle lighting: 7:55pm
Mincha - Friday: 7:00pm

Calendar of Shiurim

DAY	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	NOTES
Shabbos	7:55am–8:15am	Parsha Chabura	B. Avis	ROTATES
Shabbos	8:15am	Parsha Etymology	R. Steinberg	
Shabbos	7:15pm	Minchas Chinuch Chabura	R. Steinberg	OFF WEEK
Shabbos	After Mincha	Medical Halacha	D. Eisenberg	OFF WEEK
Sunday	After Shacharis	Sefer Hachinuch	M. Buchbinder	
Mon., Wed. Sun.-Fri.	Before Mincha 15 min. before Shacharis	Mishna Berura Chovos haLevovos	Eli Back R. Steinberg	
Tuesday	9:00pm	Advanced Gemora: Kesubos	R. Steinberg	Resumes in Sept.
Wednesday	8:45pm	Women's Shiur	R. Steinberg	Resumes in Sept.
Thursday	10:10pm	Nefesh Hachaim	Rav Sholom Kamenetsky	Resumes in Sept.

* All shiurim are at YIML unless specified.

COMING EVENTS

Tefillin and Mezuzah Checking:

Mark your calendar. Rabbi Shmuel Bodenheimer, our Sofer Sta"m (scribe) will be in town (at YIML) beginning Sunday, September 2nd, IY"H, to check your tefillin and mezuzos.

Please be aware that Rabbi Steinberg will be away beginning this week, until August 14th. If a great need to be in touch with him arises, please speak to David Chase or Josh Weinberger.

All submissions, suggestions, and sponsorships should be directed to the editor of the Weekly Update, פלוני בן פלוני (weeklyupdate@chaseplanet.us).

THIS SHABBOS

Softball Team Shabbaton:

Kiddush this week is sponsored by the *first-place* Aish HaTorah-Young Israel Softball Team—the Four Corners—as they enjoy a Shabbaton in our Shul this weekend. Yasher Koach to team captain Gershon ben Shalom who leads the team almost as well as he cooks up a chulent! Seudah Shlishis is community sponsored.

Condolences:

YIML extends heartfelt condolences to Miriam Kovacs on the loss of her mother, Mrs. Sarah Kellner.
Hamakom yenachem osah b'soch she'ar availei Tzion v'Yerushalayim.

ONGOING EVENTS

Chevra Mishnayos:

The Chevra Mishnayos is now learning Seder Kodshim. See the shul bulletin board to sign up.

Women's Tehillim Group:

The Women's Tehillim Group meets Mondays at 9:45am at 345 Bala Ave.

Are you on our e-mail list?

To subscribe to the shul mailing list, send a message to majordomo@chaseplanet.us with the following in the message body (all one line): `subscribe yiml YOUR-EMAIL`

Rabbi Steinberg Contact Information

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D'VAR TORAH by Rabbi Berel Wein

Parshat Vaeschanan

The most cogent lesson from this week's parsha is that there are no indispensable human beings in this world. Human beings are not replaceable and no two are alike, but they are not indispensable. One generation leaves and the next one arrives but somehow the world continues to exist.

There was no greater leader or prophet than Moshe. He cannot be replaced per se. But the world generally and the Jewish people particularly are able to exist and accomplish even after his demise and absence. Moshe, the rabbis of the Talmud tell us, was the sun while Yehoshua, his beloved disciple and successor, was only the moon. But the moon was sufficient to conquer and settle the Land of Israel for the Jewish people and to prevent any form of idolatry to compromise the faith of Israel.

I think that the symbolism of the great miracle of Yehoshua in "stopping" the sun and moon at the time of his battle with the Canaanites in the Valley of Ayalon, indicates this lesson of non-indispensability. Moshe and Yehoshua, the sun and the moon, can be "stopped"—they can disappear and no longer be active, but eventually the battle must be fought, in any case, by the people of Israel.

No reliance on the sun and the moon is justified. The bitter lesson of life in all of its enormity is that every generation, every person, has to fight the battle of life and spirit and triumph even if we are not the equal of the generations that preceded us and even if our leadership pales in comparison to the type of leadership that went before us in Jewish life.

Jewish life after the death of Moshe must have been terribly different from the time of his life. A leader and prophet like Moshe occurred only once in human history. But a new generation arose that did not know Moshe personally. Had Moshe survived to lead this new generation there would have been the clear and present danger that Moshe, who was now treated as a great but still human being, would be treated as a god.

Leaders are matched to their times and generations. They are never to be viewed in the abstract or absolute. The generation of Moshe perished in the desert of Sinai. That great generation of our ancestors that stood at Sinai and received and accepted the Torah never came to the Land of Israel. And if they never arrived in Israel then Moshe also could not arrive. The leader and the generation that he leads are permanently intertwined.

That is the essence of the story in the Talmud about Choni Hamaagel who after waking from a seventy year sleep asked for his death since his generation and peer group no longer lived. No one is indispensable and every generation passes from the scene. The leader of one generation, no matter how great and wise he is, is not necessarily the proper head of the next generation. And that is the lesson that Moshe himself comes to realize and understand in today's parsha.

This is implicit in G-d's statement, so to speak, not to discuss the matter of entering the Land of Israel with Him further. The secrets and mysteries of human social existence remain hidden from human view and understanding.

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