

Our parashah promises, "He will return and gather you in from all the peoples to whom Hashem, your G-d, has scattered you." Chazal observe that the Torah does not say, "He will return *you*." Rather it says, "He will return." It seems that Hashem, Himself, will, so-to-speak, do teshuvah.

R' Yochanan Luria z"l explains: Hashem will repent for exiling us, even though He (obviously) committed no sin. The lesson in this is that we, too, should not be ashamed to repent. Indeed, if He who was not on the wrong path promises to change His ways, then certainly we can and should leave a path which is wrong.

To what may Hashem's promise be compared? asks R' Luria. To a doctor whose patient is afraid to take the medicine that has been prescribed for him. In order to show the patient that the pills are not harmful, the doctor may himself swallow some. So, too, a person may be afraid to change for the better because such a change is an implicit admission that his old ways were misguided. Such an admission can be embarrassing and painful. Hashem therefore says, "I will change My ways first (i.e., gather your scattered people); then you can follow Me."

R' Luria adds: I used to disapprove of tzaddikim who constantly fast and afflict their bodies. I reasoned, "Hashem has created the human body in an ideal fashion, and a person who protects that body enhances his ability to obtain knowledge." Later, however, I realized that these tzaddikim, who fast to obtain atonement although they have barely sinned, make it possible for those who really have sinned to repent without standing out or being noticed. Regarding these tzaddikim it is said (Daniel 12:3), "Those who bring merit to the public will shine like the stars forever."

R' Avraham Yitzchak Hakohen Kook z"l writes: One must have a deep faith in the power of teshuvah and must be confident that a mere hirhur / passing thought of teshuvah can have a significant positive effect on the person himself and on the world as a whole. Necessarily, after a hirhur of teshuvah, one will be happier with himself and more pleased with his soul than he was before. How much more so will this be true if the hirhur of teshuvah has led to a firm resolution of teshuvah, if it is joined with Torah, wisdom and fear of Heaven, if the trait of love of G-d rings within a person's soul. This thought can provide great consolation to one who has committed sins against his fellow man and is unable obtain forgiveness for whatever reason, R' Kook adds, for at least he has repaired as much as he is able. (Orot Ha'teshuvah 7:6)

Adapted from <http://www.torah.org/learning/hamaayan/5771/netzavim.html> by Shlomo Katz.

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Parshas Nitzavim-Vayeilech

פרשת נצבים-וילך

Stone Chumash page 1086; Haftarah, page 1202.

September 23-24, 2011

כ"ה אלול תשע"א



Shabbos Schedule



Light Candles, Mincha and Kabbalas Shabbos: 6:39pm

Parsha Chaburah by Barry Weiss: 7:55am

Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur with Rabbeinu Yonah: 8:15am

Shacharis: 8:45am

Sof Zman Krias Shema: 9:51am

Shabbos Groups, upstairs, for ages 2 and up. Children under 2 must be supervised by a parent. 9:45am

Kiddush is sponsored by Koby and Rivky Milgraum and family in honor of their new daughter, Tamar Rachel.

Mincha: 6:25pm

Shalosh Seudos is communally sponsored.

Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.

Maariv: 7:41pm

To subscribe to the YIML email list, visit
<http://mail.chaseplanet.us/mailman/listinfo/yiml>

Weekday Davening Times

Sunday: Slichos at 1:00am, Shacharis at 8:00am.
Monday: Slichos at 6:10am, Shacharis at 6:40am.
Tuesday: Slichos at 6:20am, Shacharis at 6:50am.
Wednesday: Slichos at 6:00am, Shacharis at 6:50am.
Mincha/Maariv: Sunday to Tuesday: 6:35pm

Rosh HaShanah Schedule

Erev Rosh HaShanah, Wednesday Light and Mincha: 6:30pm
Maariv on Wednesday: 7:33pm

Rosh HaShanah, Thursday Shacharis: 8:00am
Shofar: 10:30am
Mincha: 6:25pm
Light Candles after, and Maariv: 7:31pm

Rosh HaShanah, Friday Shacharis: 8:00am
Shofar: 10:30am
Light Candles: 6:27pm
Mincha, and Kabbalas Shabbos: 6:25pm

Rosh HaShanah Shiurim

Motzai Shabbos Nitzavim, Sept 25, 12:45am - Introduction to Selichos: A Different Kind of Confession
Between Mincha and Maariv on Rosh Hashanah (both nights), Sept 28 and 29: Rav Yisroel Salanter's great "Letter of Mussar"
Shabbos Shuvah Drashah, Oct. 1, following Mincha: Where the Great Journey Begins...Hirhurei Teshuvah

Chevra Mishnayos

The Chevra Mishnayos is learning Seder Taharos. See shul bulletin board to sign up or email eisenber@pol.net with your name and the masechta (and chapters) you intend to learn.



▪ Mazel Tov on the bris of Yona Zecharya son of Lauren and Aaron Gordon and grandson of Sid and Susan Laytin.

Bnos of Bala Cynwyd

Bnos will meet from 4 to 5pm at LMS. Please pay your yearly membership (\$36/girl). Contact Meira Friedman: 610-617-9529.

Membership and High Holiday Seating Packet

Please return your membership and high holiday seating packet as soon as possible to ensure the best chance at a seating arrangement which is as you desire. The packet can be found on the yiml internet archive <http://chaseplanet.us/yiml/>.

Men's Mikva Notice

The mikva closing schedule is as follows.
Erev Rosh HaShanah, Wed, Sept 28: Closing 4:20pm.
Erev Sukkot, Wed, Oct 12: Closing 4:15pm.
Erev Shemini Atzeret, Wed, Oct 19: Closing 4:15pm.

eScrip Fundraiser

Funds raised through the eScrip program go to the Women's League youth activities fund. In addition to Genuardi's, escrip (www.escrip.com) has expanded their program to include Pathmark and Shoprite. To participate, you must go to the site and register your card numbers. You need to renew yearly for Genuardi's. Proceeds from your purchases will then be credited to our shul. You can split your escrip donations between organizations, thus TA parents can still receive scrip credits. For those who would like to participate but do not have internet access, the forms are available in a pocket on the shul bulletin board. Please fill them out and return them to Janet Eisenberg.