

I have often felt and even publicly stated that the relationship of Jews to the Land of Israel, just as their relationship to the Torah itself, is the litmus test of being Jewish – not necessarily strict fulfillment of observances per se but being Jewish and faithful to one's people. It is ironic in the extreme that the two noisiest factions within the Jewish world today – the leftist, liberal and completely acculturated section of Jewish society on one hand and some of the rigorously observant section of Orthodoxy on the other - are both in agreement that Jewish sovereignty in the Land of Israel is somehow not a good thing for Jews or the world generally.

Apparently opposition to the State of Israel makes for strange bedfellows. There are many conflicting causes to this state of affairs. But the bottom line is always the bottom line – opposition to the existence of the State of Israel as a Jewish state.

This week's parsha with its description of the bitter opposition by the leaders of the tribes of Israel in the desert to the planned entry of the Jewish people into the Land of Israel points out how this attitude of negativism spelled tragedy for the entire people of that generation.

Midrash and Talmud advance compelling arguments as to what these leaders thought and how they justified their error to themselves. But again, righteous self justification is not a valid reason for standing in opposition to Jewish control over the Land of Israel. Lack of faith, lack of judgment, personal conflicts of interest, fear of the unknown, misplaced theology and the inertia of exile all combined to push these previously great leaders of Israel over the brink of rebellion and despair. This week's parsha is one of the saddest in the entire Torah.

The idea of the importance of avoiding slander and not speaking evil about others is expanded in this week's parsha to include the prohibition of slandering the Land of Israel as well. Just as evil speech is forbidden even if it be true but is of no purposeful or permitted purpose, so too does this injunction against evil speech apply to the Land of Israel.

The Land of Israel is an inanimate object not capable of feeling the hurt that evil speech causes when directed against fellow human beings. Nevertheless, such speech against it is forbidden for it damages the speaker and not only the object about which he or she spoke.

In last week's parsha we read about Miriam and Aaron speaking about Moshe. If the greatest people of Israel fall victim to engaging in such speech then others feel a right to do so as well, as this week's parsha makes clear. Israeli governmental policies can be scrutinized and criticized. Leadership can be challenged and changed. But the basic right of the Jewish people to live in the Land of Israel under Jewish sovereignty is not given to discussion and argument. I think that this is the clear message to be derived from even a cursory reading of this week's parsha.

Adapted from <http://www.torah.org/learning/rabbiwein/5771/shlach.html> by Rabbi Berel Wein.

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Parshas Shlach

פרשת שלח

Stone Chumash page 798; Haftarah, page 1184.

June 17-18, 2011

ט"ז סיון תשע"א



Shabbos Schedule



Mincha and Kabbalas Shabbos: 7:00pm

Candle Lighting: 8:14pm

Parsha Chaburah by Dennis Rosen: 7:55am

Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur: 8:15am

Shacharis: 8:45am

Sof Zman Krias Shema: 9:16am

Graduation Kiddush is sponsored in honor of our graduates. Mazel Tov!

Mincha: 8:00pm

Shalosh Seudos is jointly sponsored by Arthur and Sandie Rosenthol to commemorate the yahrtzeit of his father, Yaakov ben Abba, and by Len and Mila Ladenheim in honor of the upcoming wedding of Marc Ladenheim and Erika Kamish.

Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.

Chabura given by Yosef Weinberger on the topic of mitzvos lav lehenos nitnu.

Maariv: 9:17pm

Weekday Davening Times

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| Shacharis: | Sunday: | 8:00am |
| | Monday and Thursday: | 6:40am |
| | Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: | 6:50am |
| Mincha/Maariv: | Sunday to Thursday: | 8:20pm |
| Mincha Friday, and Kabbalas Shabbos: | | 7:00pm |
| Candle Lighting Friday: | | 8:15pm |

Weekday Shiurim

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Daily Mussar Shiur: | 15 minutes before Shacharis |
| Mishna Brura: | Mon and Wed after Maariv |
| Melachim Aleph Shiur: | Monday at 8pm |
| Halacha Shiur: | Tuesday at 8:30pm. |
| Nefesh HaChaim: | Thursday at 10:10pm |

Check with Dr Daniel Eisenberg to confirm.

Chevra Mishnayos Siyum!

The Chevra Mishnayos siyum on Seder Nezikin will take place at Shalosh Seudos this Shabbos. Don't forget to finish your mishnayos! If you would like to sponsor the siyum, please speak to Moshe Eisenberg.

TAGHS Flea Market

Don't miss the upcoming TAGHS Flea Market. Sunday, June 19 from 9am until 2pm at Torah Academy (742 Wynnewood Road, Wynnewood). Fabulous deals on quality clothing, new giftware, household items, books, toys etc. etc. RAIN OR SHINE!!! Proceeds benefit Friends of Torah Academy Girls High School

Women's Learning Experience – Spring Session

The Women's Learning Experience will be on break until July. Please be on the lookout for our Summer Schedule. Any questions please call Janis Fine 610-888-0477.



- Mazel Tov to Michael and Ellen Braffman and Family on the engagement of Ruthie Braffman and Danny Shulman of Teaneck, NJ.
- Mazel Tov to Penny Pugach on her upcoming marriage to Moshe Parilis.
- Mazel Tov to Len and Mila Ladenheim on the upcoming marriage of Marc Ladenheim and Erika Kamish.
- Mazel Tov to Gary and Gail Cantor on the engagement of their daughter Elisheva Cantor to Steven Jackson.

Mazel Tov to our Graduates and Thank You to the Sponsors of today's Kiddush

Akiva Yaakov, Kindergarten (Avis). Sima, High School and Yeshaya, 8th grade (Chase). Moshe, High School (Eisenberg). Shifra Lieberstein, 8th grade (Fine). Caroline, Nursing MS and Dovid, HS and Yaakov Moshe, K (Frager). Yoni, High School (Gold). Rachel, 8th grade (Gorlechen). Adam, High School, and Jonathan, High School (Pendrak). Ben Zussman, 2nd year Medical School (Sternberg). Tzipora, 8th grade (Weinberger, Brudnoy). Mendel, 6th grade and Feiga and Malka 4th grade (Yoffe). Izzy, Gan (Shrager).

Pirchei and Bnos

Bnos of Bala Cynwyd will be having their annual end-of -the-year shalosh seudos at LMS from 4:30 to 6pm. This will be the last Bnos shabbos group of the year.

Pirchei end-of-year BBQ will be Sunday, June 19th from 5:30 to 6:30pm at the Silvers, 151 Highland Circle. Cost is \$10/person. Food, Fun and More! For more information contact Rabbi Silver at 610-668-6833 or silverdollar@verizon.net.