

Thought of the Week

The entire thrust of Torah life lies in the word tzav which informs us as the title of the parsha of this week. Tzav means command, order, instruct. It allows little leeway for individual creativity in the performance of ritual and commandments.

The values of Torah life come with an instruction manual. And just as the wonderful gadgets of technology in our lives require adherence to the manual that accompanies each device, in order for it to operate effectively, so too the Torah in the spiritual realm of Judaism requires adherence to specific instructions.

It is not for naught that any and all of the blessings that were composed by the rabbis to be recited before the performance of a mitzvah contains the word v'tzivanu – and He has commanded us, for the word mitzvah itself, which we usually translate in terms of being a good deed, literally means something which has been commanded.

It is this recognition of being commanded, of following the instruction manual of the Torah in a committed and punctilious fashion that defines Judaism throughout the ages. In today's world there are many who seek to "improve" upon the Torah. They have written a new and ever changing manual of instructions using such sweet sounding terms as "relevant" "progressive" "attractive" to describe prayer services, Torah commandments and Jewish values.

The fault line in Jewish life today remains as it always has been this acceptance or rejection of the concept of v'tzivanu. But Jewish history teaches us that none of this tinkering with that concept survives the passage of time and the ever changing mores of human society. It is only the old instructional manual that still stands and preserves us after all else has passed from the scene.

The concept of v'tzivanu rubs us the wrong way. We are by nature rebellious against authority imposed upon us by others. From infancy onward we demand to do it all by ourselves, when and how we wish. Therefore we can sense what the rabbis meant when they said that the people of Israel accepted the Torah at Mount Sinai and they felt that the mountain hung over their heads as a terrible and forced burden.

Here they were going to be commanded to do things a certain exact way, to make the Torah's values supreme over their own personal desires, logic and way of life. But they were warned then that abandoning the Torah and not following the instructional manual would bring personal and national problems, tragedies, defections and harsh judgments.

The mountain still hangs over our heads as we are witness to this fact in so many facets of our lives. So again we are brought full circle to the idea of tzav and v'tzivanu. The concept of tzav as promulgated in this week's parsha is not addressed solely to Aaron and his descendants but it is part of the heritage of Judaism for all Jews and for all who wish to witness Jewish continuity in their families and the Jewish people as a whole.

Adapted from <http://www.rabbiwein.com/Weekly-Parsha/2011/03/524.html> by Rabbi Wein.

בס"ד

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Parshas Tzav

פרשת צו

Stone Chumash page 568; Maftir, page 1066 (25:17-19);
Haftarah, page 1214.

March 18-19, 2011

י"ג אדר ב' תשע"א



Shabbos Schedule Shabbos Zachor



Candle lighting and Mincha Friday:	6:52pm
Parsha Chaburah by Dennis Rosen:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	10:07am

Kiddush is sponsored by Drs. Marguerite and Ron Werrin to commemorate the yahrzeits of both their fathers: Ron's father, Nathaniel Werrin, Noach ben Michael; and Marguerite's father, Elliott R. Weill, Elya ben Yitzchak haLevi.

Mincha: 6:45pm
Chabura given by Rabbi Josh Weinberger on the topic of Shehechyanu on the Megillah.

Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.
Maariv: 7:56pm; Megillah reading at 8:25pm.
Second Megillah reading at 10pm at 378 Bala Ave.

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis:	Sunday (Purim):	8:00am
	Followed by Megillah reading at approximately	8:40am
	Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha:	Sunday (Purim):	5:10pm
Maariv:	Sunday (Purim):	7:45pm
Mincha/Maariv:	Monday through Thursday:	7:00pm
Mincha and Candle Lighting	Friday:	6:59pm

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

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

Women's Learning Experience - Winter Session

Mon at 10:30am: Tehillim for Cholim.
Mon at 11:00am: Rabbi Greenspan - Parsha haShavua.
Tues at 9:30am: Rabbi Shmidman - Sefer Tehillim, at LMS.
Tues at 8:00pm: Stacey Goldman - The Imahot, at the Werrin home, 161 Highland Circle, Bala.
Wed at 10:00am: Rabbi Gold - Haggadah Highlights.
Thu at 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg - Geshet HaChaim.
All classes at 8 Concord Circle, unless otherwise noted. For information or free babysitting, call Janis Fine 610-888-0477.



- Mazel Tov to Ben and Amanda Zussman on the bris of their son Asher Avraham. Mazel Tov also to the proud grandparents, Mel and Debra Zussman, and Moshe and Ariella Sternberg.
- Mazel Tov to Rabbi Uri and Sarah Leah Greenspan on the bris of their son Raphael.

Parshas Zachor - Second Reading

There will be a second reading of the special Maftir of Parshas Zachor immediately after Adon Olam, before Kiddush -- please note the time.

Note from Rabbi Steinberg: Women who have the custom to make sure that they hear Parshas Zachor should adhere to their minhag. However, please note that the prevalent custom of most of our ancestors' communities was that women did not go to hear this reading. It is therefore unnecessary for women who do not have this custom to adopt it as a stringency.

Pirchei and Bnos

Bnos will meet from 4:30 to 5:30pm at LMS. For information, contact Meira Friedman at 610-617-9529.

Pirchei will not meet this Shabbos.

Matanos L'evyonim

Money for Matanos L'evyonim can be given to Rabbi Steinberg. Checks should be made to "YIML Rabbi's Discretionary Fund."

Community Announcements

Kohelet Yeshiva High School will be having their annual women only Mother/Daughter Purim Chagiga on Sunday, March 27th at 5:30pm. The evening will include a musical production as well as dinner and dancing. For information or to make a reservation, please contact the school office at 610-667-2020 or office@koheletyeshiva.org.