

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Bamidbar / Shavuos
June 7, 2019 / 4 Sivan 5779
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Candlelighting: 8:40 pm

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Parsha: Bamidbar

The second year after the exodus from Egypt, G-d commanded Moshe to take a census of all the Jewish men eligible for the army, those over twenty years old.

Although the Jewish people had already been counted earlier the same year, Rashi explains that this census was meant to impress upon the Jewish people G-d's love and concern for them. A person counts and spends time with something that he loves and cherishes. The nation realized that G-d wanted them to be counted, each tribe by itself and each man by himself, in order to show how much He loves every Jew.

This was especially important after the sin of the Golden Calf, when the nation had fallen in disgrace before G-d. They needed the reassurance that G-d still loved them. For this reason the Levites were not counted. Since they did not sin by the Calf, they never needed that reassurance that the rest of the nation needed. (Although the Levites too would be counted later, it was for a different reason, to be able to redeem the firstborn Israelites who had sinned with the Golden Calf. Each firstborn needed one Levite to

redeem him. The Levites were actually counted from thirty days old and older.)

The sum total of the census was around six hundred thousand people. Considering the fact that this number was approximately the same as the number of Jews that had first left Egypt, it was a comfort to them. Despite G-d's anger and His punishment, they were not in any danger of being decimated.

The camp was arranged in a quadrilateral shape, with the Levites and the Mishkan in the center. A group of three tribes camped on each side, with one of the tribes serving as a leader for each grouping.

Each of the tribes had its own specific place, and it would occupy that place throughout the forty years in the desert, in order for the nation to be able to function properly. This represented the unique mission of each tribe. Each of the tribes was also situated equidistant from the Tabernacle in the middle. This showed that no tribe was more important than another, and that only in conjunction with one another could they accomplish their mission as a whole unit together.

Friday, June 7

7:00 Shacharis

8:40 Candlelighting
8:40 Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, June 8

8:45 Shacharis.
*Kiddush is sponsored
by the Taylor family in
honor of Menashe
Shapiro's aufruf*

7:30 Pirke Avos

8:30 Mincha
*Shalosh Seudos @
home before Mincha*

9:48 Maariv
>9:59 Candlelighting

12:30 ALL-NIGHT
LEARNING.

Sunday, June 9

5:00 Shacharis (Vasikin)
8:45 Shacharis

8:40 Mincha
9:40 Maariv
>10:00 Candlelighting

Monday, June 10

8:45 Shacharis
YIZKOR

8:00 Neilas HaChag
8:45 Mincha
9:50 Maariv

Tuesday, June 11

7:00 Shacharis
8:00 Pirke Avos (Stoll)
10:00 Maariv

Wednesday, June 12

7:00 Shacharis
8:00 "The Prophets Still
Speak" (Stoll)
10:00 Maariv

Thursday, June 13

7:00 Shacharis
10:00 Maariv
10:15 Parsha Class

Insights: Shavuos

He gave us His Torah... (Liturgy) Rav Meir Simcha of Dvinsk, the Ohr Somayach, was studying a difficult section of the Torah with a friend, when they reached an impasse. No matter how hard they tried they could not understand the material. Rav Meir Simcha told his friend, "We must pray to G-d now that He help us love the Torah." The friend looked at Rav Meir Simcha with a puzzled expression on his face. "What does loving the Torah have to do with understanding Torah?" Rav Meir Simcha explained, "When a baby babbles it is impossible to know what he is saying. The mother, however, understands the baby's needs quite well. Why is she different than anyone else? The answer is because she loves the baby more than anyone else, and is thus able to understand it better. Similarly, if we would love Torah more we would be able to understand it better too."

Did You Know?

There are different opinions regarding the blessing recited before eating cheesecake. If the cheese has flour mixed into the batter for taste, and not merely as a binder, the blessing is certainly Mezonos. If the cake sits on a crust and is baked with the crust, the blessing is also Mezonos and no blessing is required on the cheese. If, however, the crust is primarily intended to hold the cake and not for taste, some authorities say that Shehakol is recited on the cake and it covers the crust too, while others require two blessings. It is best to recite Mezonos on something else and have the crust in mind. If the cheese is baked separately from the crust, two blessings are required, Mezonos and Shehakol.

Thought for the week: A person must be educated before his errors become a philosophy. *(A Candle by Day)*

Mazel Tov!

*Menashe Shapiro upon his
upcoming wedding*

Condolences

*Stuart Mintz & family upon
the loss of his wife, Chaya
(Jennifer)*

Raffle

*Win \$36,000 or other
prizes in the Annual Raffle!
Purchase tickets today*

All Night Learning

Several speakers, including:

R Stoll – Yechezkel

**R Nisenbaum – Mitzvos that
Apply Today**