

YOUNG ISRAEL OF THE MAIN LINE

Weekly Update

Rabbi Avraham Steinberg
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Parshas Lech-Lecha פרשת לך לך

October 19–20—ח' חשוון תשס"ח

Shabbos Davening Times

Earliest candle lighting: 5:08pm
Candle lighting: 5:59pm
Mincha - Friday: 6:00pm

Sof Zman Krias Shema: 10:02am
Shacharis: 8:45am
Mincha: 5:55pm
Maariv: 7:00pm

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis Sunday: 8:00am
Mincha/Maariv Sunday: 5:55pm
Shacharis (Mon., Thu.): 6:40am
Shacharis (Tue., Wed., Fri.): 6:50am
Maariv (Mon.–Thu.): 7:45pm

Next Shabbos Times

Candle lighting: 5:49pm
Mincha - Friday: 5:50pm

Calendar of Shiurim

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

*All shiurim are at YIML unless specified.

THIS SHABBOS

Kiddush:

Kiddush is community sponsored.

Bnos and Pirchei:

Both Bnos and Pirchei will IY"YH meet this week from 3:45pm to 4:45pm at LMS.

Special Shiur:

Following Mincha, Rabbi Steinberg will deliver a special shiur on the topic: *Davening Mincha and Maariv Tartei D'Sasrei.*

Winter Davening Schedule:

Please note that our wintertime Maariv schedule of 7:45pm Monday–Thursday starts this week. See the calendar for Sunday Mincha/Maariv.

Board Meeting:

There will be a meeting of the YIML Board on Monday, October 22, 2007 at 8:00pm.

All submissions, suggestions, and sponsorships should be directed (by Wednesday evening) to the editor of the Weekly Update, פלוגי בן פלוגי (weeklyupdate@yiml.org).

Bnos Notes:

Please pay your yearly membership dues (\$36 per girl) if you haven't done so yet. Remember—you can celebrate your daughter's birthday with a Bnos Birthday Bash—ask for info!

Tefillin and Mezuzah Checking:

Rabbi Shmuel Bodenheim will be returning to the YIML on Sunday, October 21 for Tefillin checking. Please note: R. Bodenheim will also check the Mezuzos of those whom he was unable to service during his visit before Yom Tov, but cannot guarantee that he will have time for Mezuzos of others. Rabbi Bodenheim can be reached at (212) 781-5385.

Presentation for Women:

Be part of a worldwide event and join us for an inspirational video entitled: *No Prayer is Unanswered: The Treasure Chest of Persistent Prayers*, with Shiurim by Rebbitzin Tehila Jaeger and Rebbitzin Tziporah Heller. This video will be shown at the Young Israel on Monday, October 22, at 8:00pm. The suggested minimum donation is \$5, and is a fundraiser for Aniyei Eretz Yisrael (the impoverished and needy of Eretz Yisrael). For more info contact Dini Steinberg at (610) 664-3796.

Advanced Gemora Shiur:

The Advanced Gemora Shiur with Rabbi Steinberg, now learning Masseches Makkos, meets on Monday nights at 9:00 PM. Mareh Mekomos are sent out by e-mail in advance of the shiur. To join the e-mail list, contact Rabbi Steinberg: rabbi@yiml.org.

ONGOING EVENTS

Chevra Mishnayos:

The Chevra Mishnayos is now learning Seder Zeraim. 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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The Torah teaches us that our father Avraham was told to leave his home in Mesopotamia and to travel to an unknown land, which eventually turned out to be the Land of Israel. Midrash points out to us that the entire success of Avraham's mission in life—to spread the idea of monotheism and the universal God—was dependent on his living in the Land of Israel.

The question naturally arises why this should have been so. After all, he could have been successful in so doing had he remained in Mesopotamia, which then was the center of human civilization and culture while the Land of Israel was somewhat of a backward, out of the way place.

There are many possible answers to this question but the one that intrigues me most is as follows. Being successful in spiritual missions and growth always requires sacrifice and some physical discomfort. The prophet castigates those that are complacent and comfortable in Zion.

A person is born to toil and accomplish, to be busy and productive. Without undergoing the arduous and potentially dangerous journey to the Land of Israel, Avraham will never fulfill his spiritual destiny. Avraham is the symbol of challenges in life.

The ten tests that he undergoes shape him and mold him into the father of our people and the symbol of human civilization and monotheistic progress. Only by leaving his comfortable and familiar surroundings can he achieve greatness. It is therefore imperative for him to leave and to wander, to be a stranger and an alien in foreign society in order to grow into his great spiritual role of influence and leadership.

But why the Land of Israel as the desired destination for Avraham? Jewish history provides us with this insight. It is in the Land of Israel that a Jew can truly achieve spiritual elevation and development. The Land of Israel provides greater challenges to Jewish development than any other location on the face of this earth. Throughout Jewish history, the Land of Israel has posed the greatest challenge to Jewish communal living. It is no surprise therefore that we who live in Israel find it to be a daily struggle in our lives. Nevertheless, it is the place for the greatest Jewish accomplishments and achievements. And therefore it is the destination for Avraham in his quest for spiritual growth and attainment.

He will find it to be a difficult place to live in. But as he struggles with his tests in life and rises to each challenge and occasion the Lord promises him that the Land of Israel will be his place on earth for all of his generations.

The challenge of living in the Land of Israel has never waned but God's promise to the Jewish people has always remained in force as well. It seems obvious that the ultimate fulfillment of Jewish life can only be realized in the Land of Israel. The problems faced there sometimes seem overwhelming. But the rabbis stated that according to the pain and difficulty so is the reward. As the children of Avraham and Sarah we are bidden to rise and overcome all of our tests and challenges as well. From: <http://www.rabbiwein.com/Weekly-Parsha/2007/10/198.html>