

YOUNG ISRAEL OF THE MAIN LINE

Weekly Update

Rabbi Avraham Steinberg
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Parshas Pinchas

פרשת פינחס

July 10-11—ט"ט תמוז תשס"ט

Shabbos Davening Times

Earliest candle lighting:	6:59pm
Candle lighting:	8:14pm
Mincha - Friday:	7:00pm
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:24am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishis:	8:00pm
Maariv:	9:16pm

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis Sunday:	8:00am
Shacharis (Mon., Thu.):	6:40am
Shacharis (Tue., Wed., Fri.):	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv (Sun.-Thu.):	8:15pm

Next Shabbos Times

Candle lighting:	8:10pm
Mincha - Friday:	7:00pm

Calendar of Shiurim

DAY	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	NOTES
Shabbos	7:55am– 8:15am	Parsha Chabura	R. Kovacs	ROTATES
Shabbos	8:15am	Mishlei Shiur	R. Steinberg	
Shabbos	After Mincha	Seudah Shlishis	R. Steinberg	
Shabbos	After Mincha	Chabura	Y. Schwartz	
Shabbos	After Mincha	Medical Halacha	D. Eisenberg	
Mon., Wed.	After Maariv	Mishna Berura	Eli Back	
Sun.–Fri.	15 min. before Shacharis	Sefer Hamaspik L'Ovdei Hashem	R. Steinberg	
Tuesday	9:00pm	Choshen Mishpat	R. Steinberg	Resumes in Sept.
Thursday	10:10pm	Nefesh Hachaim	Rav Sholom Kamenetsky	Resumes in Sept.

*All shiurim are at YIML unless specified.

THIS SHABBOS

Kiddush and Shalosh Seudos:

Kiddush is sponsored by Dennis & Eve Rosen to commemorate the yahrzeit of Dennis' mother, Sara bas Nissim.

Seudah Shlishis is community sponsored.

Chabura:

The Shabbos Afternoon Chabura will be given this week by Rabbi Yisroel Schwartz on *Understanding Netilas Yadaya'im*.

MAZEL TOV!

To David & Cheryl Epstein and Family...

... on the birth of a grand-daughter, born to Chavi and Dovi Goldschmidt.

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

COMING EVENTS

Young Israel of the Main Line
is pleased to present
a Pre-Tisha B'Av
Lecture for Women

*Sanctified by Fate:
a Discussion of the Kedoshim
who Perished in the Holocaust*

By Mrs. Cheryl Epstein

Sunday, July 26 (5 Av)
at 8:30pm
at the Young Israel of the Main Line

ONGOING EVENTS

Chevra Mishnayos:

The Chevra Mishnayos is now learning Seder Kodshim.
See the shul bulletin board to sign up.

Women's Tehillim Group:

The Tehillim Group meets Mondays at **10:45am** at 8 Concord Circle.

Women's Chovos haLevovos Group:

The Chovos haLevovos Group meets Tuesdays at 9:30am at 8 Concord Circle.

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`

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D'VAR TORAH by Rabbi Berel Wein

The Jewish people go to war against Midian in this week's parsha. This war can be described as a preventive war—striking before the enemy strikes again against you—and even as a war of revenge and punishment over the culpability of Midian in the death of twenty four thousand Jews due to their willful planned seduction by the women of Midian.

In this war the leading chieftains of Midian are killed as is the arch foe and cunning enemy of Israel, Bilaam. None of this makes for pleasant reading according to our current pacific and humanitarian correctness system. Yet the Torah teaches us here an important lesson about pacifism and misplaced humanitarian considerations.

The Talmud teaches us that someone who intends to kill you should be subject to a preemptive strike so that you can save yourself. Waiting to be attacked is not a safe or even sane defensive policy. In fact it invites attack for the enemy always sees it as a sign of weakness that can be exploited.

Thus the instructions given to Moshe in this week's parsha are based on the clear premise that the Midianites are schemers and seducers who are attempting to destroy Israel. Stop them before they are able to execute their nefarious plans against the Jewish people. Moshe's actions in mobilizing a Jewish army to oppose Midian immediately and not wait until Midian executes its own warlike intentions are not only God given commandments but pure human common sense as well.

Revenge also plays a role in human life. Even though the Torah commands Jews not to take revenge against individuals who may have harmed us, nevertheless on a national level it is impossible to overlook crimes perpetrated against the Jewish people.

The tragedy of the aftermath of World War II is that most of the people who committed the atrocities of the Holocaust somehow have escaped proper human judgment and retribution. In a world of unfortunate moral equivalency judgment against criminals is now tempered with sociological wooliness that prevents justice from being done.

The Torah expressly states that the action taken by Moshe and Israel against Midian, aside from its preemptive quality and nature, is also a form of repayment for the sins of Midian against the Jews and their responsibility in the deaths of so many Jews.

Every action begets a reaction. The war against Midian is the reaction to the previous war of Midian against the Jews. Evil that goes unpunished, if not even rewarded by inaction, only perpetuates and strengthens itself. Even a cursory reading of Tanach will reveal that this policy of preemptive strikes and punishing evil behavior from outside nations was always the policy of Jewish leadership.

Harsh realism always should trump wishful thinking and pious hopes and policies. I am not in a position to draw policy conclusions in regard to current national and international events. Nevertheless the Torah's emphasis in this week's parsha on the necessity for strong reaction to protect the innocent and punish the guilty should certainly be taken to heart.

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