

Only two mitzvahs in the Torah come with the promise of a long life: Kibud Av V'em - Honoring our parents and Shliach Hakan - sending off the mother bird before taking the fledgling children.

These mitzvahs seem totally dissimilar and unrelated. In fact, the Midrash tells us that the two mitzvahs are the easiest of the easy, and the most difficult of the difficult, yet they should have the same reward. Why does the Torah designate the exact same reward? And why did the Torah designate these particular two mitzvahs? For the reward of a long life?

The commentaries explain that these two mitzvahs span the spectrum of human nature. The Torah wants us to perform the merciful act of sending away the mother bird before taking the children. Mercy is a common, human emotion. We instinctively feel a search of mercy and compassion when we see an animal in distress. This is because the animal poses no threat to us. Our base goodness emerges when there are no complications and prejudice that come into play. The Torah tells us to reinforce our mercy and compassion through the mitzvah of Shliach Hakan.

Honoring our parents, however, is one of the most difficult of all mitzvahs. It requires us to acknowledge what they have done for us, and forces us to admit how much we need them, and we could not have done it ourselves. It tests our egocentricity to the ambit. We would like to be independent, self sufficient, and invincible. Recognizing our parents forces us to say "I owe it all to you" This then is the most difficult of the mitzvahs.

The Torah, however, does not designate the reward simply on the basis of what is easy and what is not. The infinite reward of mitzvahs is dependant on the spirit in which they were performed, and the love with which they were dispensed. Long life in the world to come can be secured by good deeds regardless of whether our body propels us to do it or creates obstacles. It's how much in a fuel we are contributing to the act that determines its true value. Thus the Torah designates the identical reward for when we are following our base instinct in the easiest of all mitzvahs, or we are countering it in the most difficult. It is the spirit that truly counts.

A king was being paraded along the highway. Jubilant cheers accompanied the row pageantry pomp and splendor. Nearby a fellow was swimming in the river when he heard news of the king's imminent passage. Jumping out the water he saw the king's chariot from the far. In a surge of passion and excitement, he ran up the riverbank and wildly waved and cheered the king in his bathing gear. People were taken aback at his lack of basic. The king noticed him from the far and to the sheer dismay and aghast crowds he welcomed him into his plush carriage. This fellow truly loves him. "He is not thinking of his honor, he is only thinking of mine."

In our own lives let us be conscious of emphasizing the spirit of the mitzvah as much as the details. The details of the rituals are important, but it is the spirit that enables us to lift off the ground and connect to the heavenly spheres ensuring a life of infinite bliss.

Adapted from "The Secrets Of Longevity" by Rabbi Naftali Reich
<http://www.torah.org/learning/legacy/5770/netzavim.html>

בס"ד

Young Israel of the Main Line

273 Montgomery Ave
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
www.yiml.org
www.chaseplanet.us/yiml

Rabbi Avraham Steinberg
610-667-3255
rabbi@yiml.org



Sherman Frager, President
610-667-7063

Parshas Nitzavim-Vayeilech
September 3-4

פרשת נצבים-וילך
כ"ה אלול



Shabbos Schedule



Candle lighting:	7:12pm
Mincha - Friday:	7:00pm
Parsha Chaburah given by Richie Fine:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:46am
Kiddush is being co-sponsored by Rabbi and Dini Steinberg and Ira and Julia Strassman in honor of Rabbi Steinberg receiving Chasson Torah and Ira receiving Chasson Bereishit last Simchas Torah	
Mincha:	6:55pm
Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Howard Okrent to commemorate his father's (Don ben Pinchas) Yahrzeit this Motzaei Shabbos.	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.	
Maariv:	8:13pm

Next Week's Davening Times

Slichos:	Sunday	1:05am
	Monday	7:30am
	Tuesday	6:20am
	Wednesday	6:50am
Shacharis:	Sunday and Monday (Labor Day):	8:00am
	Tuesday and Wednesday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv:	Sunday through Tuesday:	7:10pm

Rosh haShana Davening Times

Wednesday Candle Lighting/Mincha:	7:04pm
Shacharit First and Second Day Rosh haShana	8:00am
Shofar First and Second Day Rosh haShana	10:30am
Thursday Mincha First Day Rosh haShana	7:00pm
Thursday Candle Lighting/Maariv Second Day	8:05pm
Friday Candle lighting:	7:00pm
Friday night Mincha:	6:55pm

Bnos of Bala Cynwyd will iy"H meet this Shabbos from 3:30 to 4:30pm at LMS. Girls 3 years through 6th grade welcome - yearly membership is \$36/girl. Call Meira Friedman 610-617-9529 for information.

Women's Learning Experience

The Women's Learning Experience will be on break until after the Yomim Noraim. Be on the lookout for the fall sessions to be announced. For information, call Janis Fine 610-617-0913

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

Questions? Comments! Sponsorships\$ weeklyupdate@yiml.org

Rosh Hashana Shiurim

On Rosh Hashana, between Mincha and Maariv, first and second nights (Sept 8th and 9th), Rabbi Steinberg will give a shiur entitled: What is Olam Habah? A Discussion of the Rambam's Hilchos Teshuvah - Chapter Eight. On Rosh Hashana, as we contemplate serious matters of ultimate reward and punishment, it behooves us to study about Gan Eden, Olam Habah, and Techiyas Hameisim. We will cite works of Rambam, Ramban, Sefer Halkkarim, Ramchal, Gesher HaChaim, Pachad Yitchak, etc.

Shabbos, Sept 11th, following 6:55 Mincha, Shabbos Shuva Drasha: The Centrality of Bain Adam Lachavairo. The careful reading of a Mishna, according to many great Commentators, could leave us with a whole new perspective on the interpersonal side of Mitzvos...

Kivrei Tzadikim Trip - Sunday, September 5th

First day of Selichos, departing from YIML at approximately 9:00am, men of the community are invited to visit the graves of many of the great Gaonim buried in Queens, NY. Rabbi Steinberg will speak about each of the figures, and the group will recite Tehillim and tefillos at their graves.

A Father-Son Shiur with Rabbi Steinberg (recommended age of 5th grade and up) studying Sefer Melachim Aleph (Kings I) Monday nights at 8:00pm. Class will meet Sept 13th and then weekly Oct 4th. E-mail Rabbi Steinberg to join.

The Halacha Shiur with Rabbi Steinberg will be learning "classic" Yoreh Deah (Hilchos Basar v'Chalav, Taaruvos, etc.) Tuesday nights at 8:30pm. Shiur will meet Sept 14th and resume weekly Oct 5th. Visit the yiml website for instructions to join the online group for mareh mekomos and other updates and to be part of the massa umattan between shiurim.