

Thought of the Week

Why is Avraham so special? The Torah does not grant him the complimentary adjectives that it lavished upon Noach at the beginning of last week's parsha. His willingness to die on behalf of his belief in one God at the test of the furnace of Ur Casdim is not even mentioned in the Torah text. It was only inferred by the rabbis from tradition and a reference to one word – Ur – in the text itself.

So why is Avraham the father of many nations and generations and the spiritual ancestor and guide to so many millions in the world, even thirty five centuries after his death? The rabbis of Mishna Avot have long ago provided the answer to these questions. They stated that our father Avraham was sorely tested by life and the Creator ten times and he rose greater each time from the experience.

I have often thought that the most remarkable quality of the Jewish people is not necessarily or even mainly its scholarship and its contributions to the betterment of humanity, as much as it is its resilience. This resilience is personified in the life and vicissitudes of our father Avraham. To a great extent we all pray that we not be tested too often or too severely in our lives. Yet simply being a Jew and not deserting the cause of the Jewish people at the time of its need is a significant test.

Many are the critics and enemies of Avraham. Yet he never loses his faith. His hopes for humanity and his loyalty to the values that have guided his way in life survive all of his experiences in life. That is the Jewish definition of the quality of resilience that has become the hallmark of Jewish life throughout the ages.

I have also often thought that the most difficult tests in Avraham's life concerned members of his immediate family. Throwing one's self into a fire for an ideal or a closely held belief is not unique to the Jewish people. Even though we may be the leader in continuous world martyrdom we are not the only ones with such a history and value.

Perhaps that is why the Torah did not choose to stress the test of Ur Casdim in its text. But, it does tell us, in painful detail, of ...

[...continued inside]

בס"ד

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Parshas Lech-Lecha
October 15-16

פרשת לך-לך
ח' חשוון



Shabbos Schedule



Candle lighting: 6:03pm

Mincha - Friday: 6:03pm

Parsha Chaburah given by Barry Weiss: 7:55am

Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur: 8:15am

Shacharis: 8:45am

Sof Zman Krias Shema: 9:59am

Kiddush this Shabbos is community sponsored.

Mincha: 6:00pm

Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.

Chabura by Ethan Halpern on Tosefes Shabbos.

Sid Laytin will be making a siyum during Shalosh Seudos at the Kollel for the shloshim of his mother, z"l. The Kollel will daven mincha at 5:40pm and the siyum will follow.

Maariv: 7:04pm

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

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis:	Sunday:	8:00am
	Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
	Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv:	Sunday through Thursday:	6:00pm
Candle Lighting and Mincha	Friday:	5:53pm

Weekday Shiurim

Daily Mussar Shiur:	15 minutes before Shacharis
Mishna Brura:	Mon and Wed after Maariv
Father-Son 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.	

Women's Learning Experience - Fall Session

Mon at 9:00am: Tehillim for Cholim.

Mon at 9:30am: Steven Goldman teaches Parsha HaShavua.

Tues at 9:30am: Rabbi Shmidman teaches Tehillim at LMS.

Wed at 9:00am: Rachael Biberfeld teaches Michtav M'Eliyahu.

Thurs at 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg teaches The Chozen Ish-Faith and Trust.

All classes at 8 Concord Circle, unless otherwise noted. Free babysitting provided if you call in advance.

For information, call Janis Fine 610-888-0477 or 610-617-0913

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

To subscribe to the YIML email list, visit
<http://mail.chaseplanet.us/mailman/listinfo/yiml>

the betrayal of Avraham and his values and life style by his ungrateful nephew, Lot. How does one deal with such a disappointment? Yet Avraham goes to war to save Lot and his wealth and it is because of Avraham alone that Lot apparently undeservedly survives the destruction of Sdom.

Avraham's son Yishmael behaves like a wild beast in human guise. Parents may be helpless and even blameless regarding the behavior of their adult children, but the hurt that those adult children can inflict upon their parents with wrongful behavior is immeasurable. Yet Avraham does not waver, and at the end of his life he lived to see that Yishmael repented and returned.

It is the unwavering courage and tenacity of Avraham, in the face of all defeats, hurts, hostile enemies and false friends, that most impresses us about our father. This strength of constantly renewing resilience is the legacy that he has bestowed upon us, his generations and descendants.

Adapted from "Avraham's Legacy to his Descendants" by Rabbi Berel Wein
<http://www.torah.org/learning/rabbiwein/5771/lechlecha.html>

Bnos of Bala Cynwyd will iy"H meet from 3:30 to 4:30pm at LMS. Join Bnos for a Pre-Chanukah Zoo Adventure on Sunday, Nov 7th! Starting soon, the Bnos Motzai Shabbos crafts program, pre-registration required. Contact Meira Friedman 610-617-9529 for more information.

Pirchei of Bala Cynwyd will iy"H meet from 3:30 to 4:30pm on the Lower Level at LMS. Boys, grades K – 8th. Contact Rabbi Ari Silver at SilverDollar@verizon.net or 610-668-6833 for more information.

We regret to inform you of the passing of Mrs. Edith Fine z"l, beloved mother of Richie Fine. May the family be comforted among the aveilei Tzion veYerushalayim.

Shacharis on Sunday will be at 8:00am.