

Service Times

* Though we will not be meeting at the Shul for prayer, it is preferable to partake in prayer services as a community, even apart. Therefore, times will remain listed.

Friday, April 24 (Nisan 30)

15th Day of Omer

5:45pm - Pre-Shabbat Ruach via [Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 374-672-2612, Password: 085081

6:10pm - Mincha/ Kabbalat Shabbat/ Maariv *

6:34pm - Earliest Candle Lighting

7:39pm - Late Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 25 (Iyyar 1)

16th Day of Omer

9:00am - Shacharit *

9:58am - Latest Preferable Time to Say Shema

6:20pm - Weekly Parsha Shiur

Notes to be sent out before Shabbat.

7:05pm - Mincha *

8:37pm - Maariv/Havdallah *

8:45pm - Virtual Havdallah & Schmooze via [Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 374-672-2612, Password: 085081

Weekday Services

Mincha/Maariv, Monday & Wednesday 6:15pm

In lieu of Minyan at the synagogue, Rabbi Davies will be sending learning material through the [Minyan What's App Group](#).

Classes

- Daf Yomi with Rabbi Paul & Yoni Alon

Sunday-Thursday 8:30pm, [Phone Conference](#).

Contact Rabbi Elisha Paul elisha.paul@addlestone.org for more information.

- Torah Study: "The Avraham Stories" with Rabbi Davies

Sunday 7:30pm, [Available via Zoom](#)

- "Ketuvim with Kenny"

Monday 7:45pm, [Facebook Live & Zoom](#)

- "Lunchtime Talmud" with Rabbi Davies

Thursday 12pm, [Facebook Live & Zoom](#)

- "Cholent and Learn" with Kenny Abitbol

Thursday 8pm, [Facebook Live & Zoom](#)

Announcements

➤ Get this week's [Youth Parsha Activities](#) for [Tazria Metzora](#).

➤ Go to Dortikvah.org/covid19 for details and updates on how we are handling concerns over the [Coronavirus](#) pandemic.

➤ To [volunteer](#) to assist those who need help with grocery pickup and other errands, contact oradavies@gmail.com.

➤ [Our facilities are currently closed](#). You can still contact the Administrative Assistant at info@dortikvah.org.

Local Virtual Events

Israel Pride Initiative – until Apr. 30th

Join the [IsraelPride Facebook Group](#), and celebrate Israel Independence Day at home with pride! Hang an Israeli flag the week of April 29th, then post it to Facebook with #IsraelPride. Need a flag or don't have a Facebook - email us at info@dortikvah.org.

Flags, Food, & Facts – until Apr. 29th

Part of the [IsraelPride](#) Initiative and Addlestone Hebrew Academy's [Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration](#). Visit [Facebook](#) for details.

Charleston's Yom Hazikaron – Apr. 27th, 12pm

Israel supporters across the Lowcountry come together to remember fallen Israeli soldiers and victims of terrorism. [Pre-register](#) to receive the Zoom link and password. Visit [Facebook](#) for details.

Public Virtual Events

World Mizrahi Yom Hazikaron & Yom Ha'Atzmaut

– Apr. 28th-29th

Over ten hours of [programming](#) including ceremonies, lectures, and virtual Israel tours. Details [HERE](#). Go to RZA.org/Live to join, and register for the Global Siyum at lekedoshim.com.

Celebration for Israel's 72nd Birthday – Apr. 29th, 2pm

This Yom Ha'Atzmaut, the [Jewish Federations of North America](#) hosts a global, virtual celebration. Join on [Facebook](#).

Refuah Shelema

To add or remove a name, contact charlessteinert@gmail.com.

Yisrael Haynu ben Shimon Avraham
Noach Yoseph ben Shira Shaina
Yisroel Mordechai ben Fradel
Blooma bat Chaya Sara (Bertha Hoffman)
Tova bat Sarah (Katie Bielsky)
Yesuskah Levy ben Shosha Hannah
Eliezer Yitzchak ben Shifra
Refael Aharon ben Devorah
Jerry Polinski (Gershon Ben Sarah)
Arlene Polinski
Michele Perrick (Michal bat Cayla Mynda)
Nachum Eliezer ben Sarah Miriam
(Rabbi Nachum Rabinowitz)

Simcha ben Etlle
Hodel bat Raozel
Miriam bat Mazal
Talia bat Shoshana
Yehudit bat Sarah
Yocheved bat Sarah
Isabella Beaudoin
Yoseph ben Sara
David ben Malkah
Esther bat Alitza
Yisrael ben Chaya
Chaiah Leah bat Shier
Elijah Myer ben Malkah

Life Cycle

Yahrzeit

- Julius Moses Katzen, Father of Marvin Katzen (4/29)
- Isaac Solomon Oberman, Grandfather of Marvin Katzen (4/30)

Birthday

- Charles Steinert (4/30)

Contributions

➤ In memory of Rose Goldberg

- Lou & William Kennedy • Bama & Paul Saltzman • Andrew Hsu & Rongrong Chen • Martin Stuart Yaschik • Linda & David Gilston
- Gloria & Henry Goldberg • Sharon & Michael Stricker

We appreciate all contributions – those of \$10 or more will be acknowledged here. Contributions can be made at DorTikvah.org.



The book of Leviticus, perhaps more than any other book in the Torah, is about man's service to G-d. The book is packed with mitzvot and lessons, from how to bring an offering to G-d, to how to treat one's fellow neighbor. The word "adam" - "man" - is the first word following the opening statement of the book. It is therefore striking that when it comes to the laws of ritual purity, the Torah only addresses the laws pertaining to people after it addresses the purity of animals.

At the end of last week's portion, Shemini, the Torah addresses the laws of kosher meat and describes the instances in which an animal becomes a source of impurity, concluding with: This is the law regarding animals, birds, all living creatures that move in water and all creatures that creep on the ground, to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten. Only then, in this week's parshah, do we read about the laws of ritual purity for humans.

If the book is primarily addressed to humankind, why are the laws of human purity written only after the laws of animal purity? According to the Midrash, the order of the laws of purity follows the order of creation. Since man was created after the animals, the laws of his ritual purity were stated after the laws pertaining to animals. This, however, merely leads to another question: Why indeed were the animals created before humans?

The Talmud offers two possible explanations:

1. Human was created last so that, should he become too arrogant, he could be told "even a mosquito preceded you," implying that man is inferior to the rest of creation.
2. In order that humankind would benefit from a full world prepared just for him. As the Midrash puts it: "Man was invited to the banquet once the meal was already prepared."

These two reasons appear to be polar opposites. While the first reason indicates that the human is inferior to the animals, the second indicates that he is in fact superior to all animals, which is precisely why he was created at the final step of creation.

So which is it? Are we inferior to the mosquito or are we the crown jewel of creation?

Both are true.

Man alone, amongst all creations in the universe, is able to defy his Creator. All other creations must follow their G-d-given nature and instincts. In this, man is indeed inferior to all animals, as we read in Tanya:

For the lusty drive in his animal soul is capable of lusting also after forbidden things, which are contrary to G-d's will... In this he is inferior to and more loathsome and abominable than unclean animals and insects and reptiles.

Yet, there is more to the story of man. Man is also unique in his ability to choose to rise above his instincts. Man was given the intellectual power, the spiritual freedom and fortitude, to enlighten and improve himself. Man alone has the ability to take the spiritually lowest material—material capable of defying the Divine—and develop and elevate it. Man is able to transform himself and the world around him to a place hospitable to the Divine. Man was created last because he is inferior to the mosquito in his ability to choose evil. Yet this inferiority is the very source of his superiority! When man toils with himself, when he plows and plants the soil of his heart, he indeed becomes superior to all creatures. For he alone is able to choose. He alone has the ability to overcome his instincts and nature. He alone can plant the earth of his heart and cause holiness to grow. We must understand that G-d does not seek perfection, He seeks the transformative power of toil. Specifically because we were created spiritually inferior to the animals, when we choose the right path, we ascend to the greatest spiritual heights.