



Parshas Lech Lecha

13 Cheshvan | October 31, 2020

Candle Lighting
5:49p

Havdalah
6:48p

Torah Reading
Bereishis 12:1 - 17:27

Hafhorah
Yishayah 40:27 - 41:16

Candle Lighting 11/6
4:41p



SHABBOS SCHEDULE

Shabbos Night

5:49p Candle Lighting

5:50p Mincha followed by Kabbolas Shabbos (outdoors)

Shabbos Day

All minyanim both indoor/outdoor

9:00a Shacharis (10:12a Krias Shema)

5:35p Mincha

6:00p Daf Yomi (Yehuda Neuberger)

6:45p Maariv

6:48p Havdalah

Clocks change Motzei Shabbos



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday 11/1– 14th of Cheshvan

7:15a Shacharis (indoor/outdoor)

9:00a Shacharis (indoors)

4:50p Mincha/Maariv (outdoors)

Mon-Fri a.m.

6:45, 9:00a Shacharis (indoor/outdoor)

9:00a Shacharis (indoors)

4:50p Mincha/Maariv (outdoors)



WEEKLY SHIURIM

Sun 8:00a Daf Yomi

Mon - Fri

5:45a Tzikkas HaTzadik

5:55a Daf Yomi

Mon-Wed

Online Emunah Minute

Mon

8:30p Semichas Chaver Program

suburbanorthodox.org/event/scp

Online Perek Shira

Wed

Online Tehillim & Perek Shira

The 7 Habits of Highly Spiritual People

Thurs

Online Virtual Shabbos Drasha



REMINDER

Masks are required at all minyanim, both indoor and outdoor. Please ensure that your mask is worn properly covering the nose and mouth.



SHUL HAPPENINGS

SOTC Book Club

Tues 11/27 | 2:00p, via Zoom

Moloka'i' by Alan Brennert

Meeting ID: 865 2441 4787

Passcode: 7504



LIVING WITH GOD

RABBI SHMUEL SILBER

"And the Lord said to Abram, "Go forth (Lech Lecha) from your land and from your birthplace and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you (Genesis 12:1)."

It is in this week's Parsha that we are introduced to our first patriarch, Avraham. The life of a patriarch is filled with much challenge and sacrifice. The life of a patriarch is far from idyllic and serene. The life of a patriarch is filled with upheaval and turbulence and yet, it is meaningful, fulfilling, and impactful. Avraham's journey began with two words, "*Lech Lecha* (go forth)", *you must leave what you know and venture into the great unknown*. Avraham's journey is our journey; the journey of the Jew throughout the ages; the journey of the Jew into the vast unknown. But this great test was but one of ten. The Mishna in Pirkei Avos (5:3) states: *Avraham was given ten tests and he passed them all ...* "We often assume that *Lech Lecha* was the first. However, the Bartenura (Rabbi Ovadiah Bartenura, 1445-1515) explains that the first test was "*Ur Kasdim*." What happened in *Ur Kasdim*? Rashi (11:28) quotes the Midrash that tells the story of Avraham being handed over to Nimrod for judgement. Avraham had smashed idols and repudiated idolatry and was given an ultimatum – give up your monotheistic beliefs or be thrown into a fiery furnace. Avraham chose death over renouncing his faith and as a result was thrown into the fiery furnace. Miraculously, Avraham was saved. This, explains the Bartenura, was Avraham's first test. But this begs an obvious question: Why isn't this test mentioned in the text? The episode of *Ur Kasdim* is only mentioned in the Midrash. It is never once mentioned in the Genesis narrative. The test of *Lech Lecha* is told to us in great detail, yet there is no scriptural coverage of the test of *Ur Kasdim*. How are we to understand this glaring omission?

Rav Yisrael Meir Lau (current Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv, former Chief Rabbi of Israel) suggests a beautiful explanation. Throughout the ages, we have given our lives "*Al Kiddush Hashem*, (to sanctify the name of God)." Brave Jewish men, women, and children have given their lives rather than renounce their faith or give up their Torah. This ability to make the ultimate sacrifice for God is part of our religious and spiritual DNA. But there is something greater than *dying Al Kiddush Hashem*, and that is - *living Al Kiddush Hashem*. The greatest accomplishment for the Jew is to live each and every day in a way that is a credit to my Creator, my Torah, and my people. Dying for God is an incredible act of heroism, but you only have to summon the courage once. A greater accomplishment is Living for God as it requires me to summon the courage, optimism, and strength every day.

Avraham's willingness to give his life at *Ur Kasdim* was an incredible display of spiritual heroism, but this is not the lesson God wants us to take from the life of Avraham or how we are meant to emulate him. Instead, our first exposure to Avraham is *Lech Lecha*. *Lech Lecha* was the test of living *Al Kiddush Hashem*. *Lech Lecha* was not a one-time command. *Lech Lecha* was God telling Avraham, "If you want to be great, you have to be willing to separate yourself from those things that hold you back. If you want to self-actualize, you need to be willing to stand alone. If you want to be holy, you must be ready to venture into the unknown." *Lech Lecha* was the greatest test – the challenge of *living Al Kiddush Hashem*.

We find ourselves in the midst of challenging times. If a global pandemic weren't enough, we are in the midst of a contentious election season. One of the greatest privileges we have as citizens of this great country is the right to vote. We each have a say in who the next leader of this great nation will be. This is a privilege we must exercise and take seriously. We also have the right to express our personal views and affiliations, but we must be careful to do so in a manner befitting a Jew. Our mandate is that everything we do and say must be a *Kiddush Hashem*. It is important for us to be involved in the political process, but we must articulate our views and positions without demeaning or belittling the other. We have seen people literally beating each other up over their differing political views. We have seen a profound erosion of basic human decency and behavior. We must be better. We must model the correct behavior as we are charged with being a light unto the nations. We must pray, learn, work, and vote *Al Kiddush Hashem*.

We stand in awe of those who have died *Al Kiddush Hashem*. We pay homage to those who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our faith, ideals, and way of life. But we are called upon to do something of even *greater* significance. We must fight the good fight each and every day. We must make sure that what we do, how we behave, the interactions we have, the aspirations we possess, the goals we set, and the dreams we dream are a source of *nachas* for God and for ourselves. We must strive to *live Al Kiddush Hashem*.

May we each be privileged to find the strength to embark on our *Lech Lecha* journey, and may we find the resolve to make it to our promised land.



MEMBER NEWS

BIRTHDAYS

Chana Artman, Malka Edinger, Jessi Franco, Gali Franco, Avigail Horwitz, Bernhard Kiewe, Shalom Kovacs, Rivki Lichter, Reese Myrowitz, Louis Rosen

Yahrzeits

Solomon Ruback, Lawrence Cane, Elsa Lowenstein Gold, Philip Kauffman, Baruch Kozlovsky, Chaya Leah Kozlovsky, Chaim Yosef Kozlovsky, Rabbi Alfred Fruchter, Lee Oppenheimer, Baruch Simcha, Gertrude Kramer Polokof, Joseph Sonnenschein, Harris Trestman

Condolences

Frank (Danielle) Storch on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Hannah Storch. Shiva concluded on 10/30



SPONSORSHIPS

TALMUD TORAH SPONSOR: All learning in the month of Cheshvan has been sponsored by **Yoel & Sarah Kelman** in appreciation of all the learning and Rabbi Silber's dedication to the kehilla and greater Baltimore community

WEEK OF LEARNING: Anonymous in the merit of a refuah sheleima for Rachel Yehudis bas Tova Gittel

DAY OF LEARNING:

Howie & Shevy Friedman in the merit of a refuah sheleima for Howie's uncle, Yosef Shmuel Moshe ben Chaya Rochel

Pesach Raczkowski in memory of his mother, Rachel bas Yehuda Tzvi z'l

DAF YOMI: Samuel Slomowitz in gratitude to his parents, Abraham & Rivka Slomowitz, for their guidance in Torah observance, values, and learning

Meir & Chava Weinheber in memory of Meir's grandmother, Malka Perel bas Henech Yosef z'l

Robert & Lisie Lillianfeld in honor of their anniversary

Moshe & Ann Ellen Gavant in memory of Moshe's father, Jack Milton Gavant, Yakov Meir ben Moshe Leib z'l

Richard & Lauren Simon in memory of Lauren's grandfather, Avraham Tzvi ben Moshe Zechariah Halevi z'l

Avron & Galie Elbaum in memory of Sheldon Berman, Shmuel Yoel ben Shalom Tuvia z'l (Shabbos 10/24)



DAVENING B'YICHIDUS GUIDELINES

COMPILED BY SOTC GABBAIM

General

Those davening without a minyan do not recite the *tefilos* of *Kaddish*, *Borchu* or *Kedusha* and include the verse of *Kel Melech Ne'eman* before reciting *Shema*.

Friday Mincha

Recite the same *Mincha* as recited in Shul.

Kabbalas Shabbos

Recite the same davening as recited in Shul.

After the completion of *Lecha Dodi*, no more *melacha* (prohibited work) may be performed.

Friday night Maariv

Recite the same *Maarivas* recited in shul.

If possible, recite the prayer of *Vayechulu* following the *Amidah* along with one other person. If not, the *tefila* may be said alone.

Those davening without a *minyan* omit the prayer of *Magen Avos* following the *Amidah*.

Repeat the three paragraphs of *Shema* after nightfall (6:48pm).

Shabbos Morning

Recite the same *Birchos Hashachar*, *Psukei D'Zimra* and *Shachris* as recited in shul

Those davening without a minyan do not recite any *tefilos* for taking out the *Torah*

Read the *Torah* portion of *Lech Lecha* and the *Haftarah* from *Yeshaya* (Isaiah)

40:27 – 41:16.

Recite *Yekum Purkan*. Those davening without a *minyan* only recite the first paragraph of *Yekum Purkan*.

Recite *Av Harachamim*, *Ashrei* and the *Mussaf Amidah*.

Complete the davening as usual. Those who are **not** davening with a minyan omit *Anim Zemiros*.

Shabbos Mincha

Recite *Ashrei* and *Uva Le'tzion*, the *Amidah*, *Tzidkascha* and *Aleinu*.

Seudas Shlishis

Seudas Shlishis should begin before *Shkia* (6:06pm).

Maariv – Motzai Shabbos

Maariv begins at 6:48pm.

The same davening as recited in shul, which includes the supplemental *tefila* of *Atah Chanantanu* within the *bracha* of *Atah Chonen*. After completing the *Amidah*, recite *Vihy Noam*, *Ve'atah kadosh* and *Vayiten Lecha*, followed by *Aleinu*.

The last opportunity to recite *Kiddush Levana*, if the moon is visible, is anytime until 9:45pm on Motzai Shabbos (Saturday night).



KIDDUSH PACKAGE SPONSOR

Josh & Malkie Rosenbloom, annual kiddush sponsors

DONATIONS

Bernhard & Marlene Kiewe in memory of Dr. Paul Weinberg

Barbara Freedlander in memory of her mother, Freda Silverstein, Fraide bas Benzion HaKohen z'l

Melvin & Evelyn Getz and **Jerry & Abby Appelbaum** in memory of Mrs. Hannah Storch

Fran Hisler in memory of her mother, Dorothy Hisler, Devorah bas Avraham z'l