



SUMMER
5779/2019

G E S H E R

Washington Heights Congregation

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A Message From The Rabbi ...

Engaging with the Torah

by Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman


If I asked you to summarize the Great Rebuke that concludes the book of Vayikra, you would probably say: “God threatens us with punishment if we fail to observe the commandments.” If we look more closely, however, we find that the spiritual decline addressed by the *Tochacha* is much more nuanced.

God states that we will incur the punishments of the *Tochacha* if the Jewish people will “not listen to me, and will not do all these commandments.” The Sifra points out that this seems redundant. If we don’t do the *mitzvot*, isn’t it obvious that we fail to listen to God?

Chazal answer that not “listening” to God is actually an independent infraction--a failure to toil in Torah study. In other words, simply performing the commandments is insufficient. We must work to understand and think about the commandments.

Neglecting to study, understand, and apply the Torah constitutes a failure to **listen** to God. The way God speaks to us and instructs us on how to live our lives and connect with Him is through the Torah. Thoughtless, study-less observance will necessarily result in our failure to hear what God has to say at critical junctures. If we treat halacha as something we do because we’re used to it, we will not be able to truly connect to it as an all-encompassing system for life.

One of the ways that we can assess our own level of engagement with the Torah is where we place our emphasis and values. If we place a greater value on fashion than modesty, on attending an Ivy League school than succeeding in Torah study, and on secular values rather than being light to the nations, we need to step back and re-engage, re-toil in the Torah, put our own biases aside and really listen to what it has to say.

Failure to heed the *Tochacha*’s exhortation to engage can only result, **וְיָרַד**, in lengthening the exile it foretells. As we think about our recent re-acceptance of the Torah on Shavuot, let us truly internalize the fact that in order to fully live a Jewish life, we need to put (figurative) sweat and tears into applying the Torah to all facets of our lives. 

Shul Events:

Pesach: Thanks to **Rabbi & Rebbetzin Hoffman** and **Sarah Klinger**, with a special contribution from **Morris Whitcup**, we once again had delicious kiddushes throughout Pesach.

Our annual Aaron Bulman Memorial lecture took place on **Yom Yerushalayim, Sunday, June 2**. This year we chose to celebrate Aaron as a poet, and had three speakers on the subject of modern Hebrew poetry. **Pinny Bulman** introduced the event with a poem by his father as well as a discussion of one by Yehuda Amichai, **Ada Maccabee** spoke about a poem by Hayim Nachman Bialik, and **Rabbi Neil Fleischmann** one by Rabbi Menachem Froman. It was a wonderful afternoon.

Shavuot: This year we had fascinating shiurim given by **Rabbi Schwartz, Rabbi Simon, Rabbi Wiederblank**, and our own **Rabbi Hoffman** on a range of subjects – contemporary issues as well as historical topics. They were well-attended by people from our shul as well as the larger community. Many thanks to Rabbi Hoffman for having organized this. And we all enjoyed the cheesecake at the kiddushes!

מזל טוב / Congratulations

To **Shelley Bulman** and to **Ada Maccabee** on the birth of a grandson, and to the parents, **Rena & Yoni Maccabee**

To **Ira & Sarah Saiger** on the b'nai mitzah of their sons, **Amitai and Uriel**

To **Ina Sondheim** on the birth of a great granddaughter, and to the grandparents, **Carol & David Sondheim**, and to the parents, **Shelley & Shmulie Sondheim**

Kiddush Sponsors:

May 4, Achrei Mot: **Alma Schatten** on the yahrzeits of her husband, **Ira Schatten**, and her brother, **Nicholas Attias**

May 25, Behar: **Bob Wolf** on the yahrzeit of his father, **Marvyn Wolf**

June 1, Bechukotai: **Morris & Laura Whitcup** in celebration of Yom Yerushalayim

June 8, Bamidbar: **Elaine Manning**, in honor of **Rabbi & Rebbetzin Hoffman**

June 15, Nasso: **Morris & Laura Whitcup** on the yahrzeit of his father, **Jacob Whitcup**

If you are interested in sponsoring a Kiddush,
please call the Shul office **(212) 923-4407**



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This year, we expanded our program to include a Wellness Project, offering weekly yoga classes and monthly massage therapy sessions.

For more information and/or to receive their e-mail news letter please go to

<http://www.moriahseniorcenter.org>

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Washington Heights Congregation Zmanim

Summer 2019 / 5779

Zmanim subject to change: please consult the website and weekly e-mails for the latest times

SHABBAT PARASHAT KORACH

JULY 5-6

Earliest Candles	6:57
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15*
Candle Lighting	8:13
Shacharit (note early start)	8:35
Mincha	8:10
Maariv/Havdalah	9:20

SHABBAT PARASHAT CHUKAT

JULY 12-13

Earliest Candles	6:55
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15*
Candle Lighting	8:10
Shacharit (note early start)	8:35
Mincha	8:10
Maariv/Havdalah	9:17

SHABBAT PARASHAT BALAK

JULY 19-20

Earliest Candles	6:52
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:10*
Candle Lighting	8:06
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	8:05
Maariv/Havdalah	9:11

FAST OF TAMMUZ SUNDAY, JULY 21

Fast begins	3:43
Fast ends	9:01

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARASHAT PINCHAS

JULY 26-27

Earliest Candles	6:48
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:05*
Candle Lighting	8:00
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:55
Maariv/Havdalah	9:04

SHABBAT PARASHAT MATOT-MASEI

AUGUST 2-3

Earliest Candles	6:42
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00*
Candle Lighting	7:53
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:50
Maariv/Havdalah	8:56

SHABBAT HAZON PARASHAT DEVARIM

AUGUST 9-10

Earliest Candles	6:35
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00*
Candle Lighting	7:44
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:25
Fast Begins	7:57
Shabbat Ends	8:46
Maariv	9:15

FAST OF TISHA B'AV AUGUST 10-11

Shacharit	8:20
Chatzot	1:01
Fast Ends/Havdalah	8:36

**SHABBAT NACHAMU
PARASHAT VAETCHANAN**

AUGUST 16-17

Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00*
Candle Lighting	7:35
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:30
Maariv/Havdalah	8:35

**SHABBAT MEVARCHIM
PARASHAT EIKEV**

AUGUST 23-24

Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00
Candle Lighting	7:25
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:20
Maariv/Havdalah	8:24

**ROSH CHODESH ELUL
SHABBAT PARASHAT RE'EH**

AUGUST 30-31

Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00
Candle Lighting	7:14
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:10
Maariv/Havdalah	8:12

**SHABBAT PARASHAT
SHOFTIM**

SEPTEMBER 6-7

Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00
Candle Lighting	7:02
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:00
Maariv/Havdalah	8:00

**SHABBAT PARASHAT KI
TEITZEI**

SEPTEMBER 13-14

Candle Lighting	6:51
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:45
Maariv/Havdalah	7:48

**SHABBAT PARASHAT
KI TAVO**

SEPTEMBER 20-21

Candle Lighting	6:39
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:45
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:35
Maariv/Havdalah	7:36

**SHABBAT PARASHAT
NITZAVIM**

SEPTEMBER 27-28

Candle Lighting	6:27
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:35
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:25
Maariv/Havdalah	7:24

**For those whose families daven with the shul's minyan, candles should be lit no later than 25 minutes after Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat starts*

If you have any questions or needs,
please call the Shul office at **(212) 923-4407**
The answering machine is checked frequently.
You may also consult our website at **www.bridgeshul.com**

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The Eruv

Information about the boundaries of the Washington Heights and YU Eruvin can be found at http://images.shulcloud.com/131/attachments/6279_DOC082112-003.pdf.

Note that the eruv does not extend into Fort Tryon Park or Gorman Park.

Find the CURRENT STATUS of both eruvim at <http://www.mtsinaishul.com/>, or call 646-450-ERUV, or send a text message (SMS) to 412-213-8991. If only the YU eruv is listed as unchecked, check www.yueruv.org closer to Shabbat, or listen to announcements in shul on Friday night.



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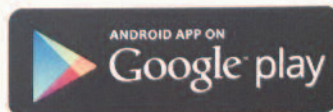
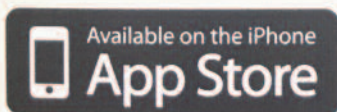
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