



February 15, 2020
20 Shevat 5780



Shabbat Parsha Yitro

Torah Reading - pg. 394

Haftorah - pg. 1154

***This week's Shabbos sheet is sponsored by
Susan Katzman***

IN THE WEEK AHEAD

The Week of Learning The Week of Learning is being sponsored by Jenny & Matt Cohen for the yahrzeit of Matt's father, Bud Cohen, Hezkiahu ben Yitzchak, and for the merit of a complete recovery for those who are ill and need a recovery in our community and in the entire nation of Israel.

Saturday, February 15

Open Beit Midrash	8:30 a.m.
Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
Torah Class with Rebbe Howie.....	10:15 a.m.
Torah Class with Rebbe Leon.....	10:30 a.m.
Daven & Learn with Rebbe Donald.....	10:30 a.m.
Torah with Rabbi Moshe	10:45 a.m.
Torah Tot Shabbat.....	10:50 a.m.
Kiddush	11:15 a.m.
Insights into the Weekly Torah Portion	4:40 p.m.
Teen-led Children's Activity	5:20 p.m.
Mincha/Seudah Shlishit.....	5:25 p.m.
Havdalah.....	6:41 p.m.

Sunday, February 16

Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
Works of the Maimonides	9:45 a.m.
JYE BI Jr	10:15 a.m.
Mincha/Daf Yomi/Ma'ariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home.....	5:50 p.m.

Monday - Friday

Laws of Shabbos	6:45 a.m.
Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
Nach Yomi: Daily Prophets.....	7:40 a.m.
<i>Lights of Teshuva</i> with Rabbi Moshe.....	8:00 a.m.
Mincha/Daf Yomi/Ma'ariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home.....	5:50 p.m.

Monday, February 17

Tasty Torah with Rabbi Yoni.....	12:00 p.m.
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Thursday, February 20

<i>Character Development</i> with Rabbi Ari.....	9:30 a.m.
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Friday, February 21

Mincha/Candle Lighting.....	5:48 p.m.
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*Tuesday's Tasty Torah class with Rabbi Yoni is canceled this week.

KC  KoshersCoop.com

PASSOVER ORDER DEADLINE

Your KC Koshers Co-op order must be placed **before midnight on February 26**, for **delivery on March 26**. View your account at KcKoshersCoOp.com



Celebrate



Mazel Tov to Those Celebrating Next Week

Birthdays (English)

Marina Sadofsky	February 17
Joe Kirshenbaum	February 17
Mark Marshall	February 19
Kaye Giller	February 19
Esther Cohen	February 20
Richard Gurevich	February 20
Jane Fishkin	February 20
Sara Kohen	February 21
David Kay	February 21

Birthdays (Hebrew)

Scherry Linsman	20 Shevat
Darby Smith	20 Shevat
David Adler	21 Shevat
Richard Gurevich	25 Shevat

Anniversaries

Yoni & Liora Herskovitz	February 15
Isaac & Helena Davidson	February 18
Phil & Nancy Wolf	February 19

*Celebrating a special simcha?
Contact Bette Kozlen or the office to be a part of
the next Simcha Kiddush.*



... Susan Katzman for sponsoring this week's Shabbos sheet.

... Matt & Jenny Cohen for sponsoring the Week of Learning for the yearzeit of Matt's father, Bud Cohen, Hezkiahu ben Yitzchak.

... Sid Zacharia, Ethan Cohen, and Alex Shyken for providing this week's parsha questions.

Reminder: We encourage all of our families that receive subsidies to Friedel Jewish Academy to apply for funding from the Jewish Federation of Omaha. Information about scholarships and grants can be found at JewishOmaha.org.

The application deadline for JFO Scholarships is **Monday, March 2, 2020.**

You can find information regarding changes to Beth Israel's subsidy for the 2020-2021 school year, at OrthodoxOmaha.org under Membership.

BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

MEZUZAH CHECKING

A trained scribe will be checking and selling Mezuzahs. Drop off in the morning 8:30-10:30 and pick up that same night. Checking is FREE and new scrolls are available for sale if needed

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
8:30-10:30 AM

TO WRITE THE WORDS OF GOD ON THE
GATES AND DOORPOSTS OF YOUR HOUSE
(DETERONOMY 6:9)

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP PLEASE
EMAIL OR CALL RABBI YONI AT 402-401-8184
OR YDREYER@ORTHODOXOMAHA.ORG

THE OMAHA
MEZUZAH PROJECT



MasterChef
Beth Israel Teens

Thursday 3/5/2020 • 7:00 pm
7th-12th graders

For More information- Rabbi Yoni (402) 401-8184



special for Purim!!!

PURIM IN THE JUNGLE

MEGILLA READING

MONDAY, MARCH 9TH

8:00 P.M. MEGILLA & ICE CREAM AT BETH ISRAEL

TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH

6:40 A.M. SHACHARIT & MEGILLA AT BETH ISRAEL

11:00 A.M. MEGILLA AT ROSE BLUMKIN JEWISH HOME

1:00 P.M. MEGILLA AT STERLING RIDGE

PURIM PARTY

\$10 PER PERSON \$36 FOR FAMILY OF 4 OR MORE

TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH

5:45 P.M. MINCHA

6:00 P.M. MEGILLAH READING

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. FACE PAINTING AND BALLOON MAGIC

6:30 P.M. PURIM SEUDAH

7:00 P.M. PURIM SPIEL

8:30 P.M. WINE & SECRETS OF THE TORAH WITH RABBI ARI

PLAY AT PURIM:

BOARD GAMES

AND BEER



THURSDAY, MARCH 12

7:30 P.M. PLAY AT PURIM

SPIELBOUND BOARD GAME CAFE

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

\$10 PER PERSON

FIRST DRINK IS FREE.

REGISTER FOR PRUIM PARY OR PLAY AT PURIM

AT ORTHODOXOMAHA.ORG OR

BY CONTACTING THE OFFICE. (402)556.6288



**In honor of the upcoming
Mezuzah Checking program:**
(talk to Rabbi Yoni for more info)

Knowledge Vs. Faith



The first of the Ten Commandments is, "I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt..." The Sages ask: What exactly is this commanding us to do? Surely, it is a statement, not a commandment.

As a result, some commentaries answer that there are in fact only nine commandments; but who ever said there were 10? The Hebrew is aseret hadibrot - the ten "statements," not "commandments."

Most commentators, however, do consider this first line to be a commandment. They say that it is an obligation to "know" that God exists.

The Malbim, a 19th century commentator asks a famous question on this. It is absolutely impossible that anyone should command you to know that they exist. Follow this reasoning: If you know that they exist already, then there is no need for a command. And if you do not know that they exist, then who is commanding you?! In other words, why should you take seriously the command of someone you don't think exists? And if you think he does exist, then the command to know that he exists becomes superfluous!

The Malbim answers very simply: Many people have faith that God exists. They feel it, but are unsure exactly why. The first of the Ten Commandments is to know that God exists - not to believe, to have faith, or to sort of "think it to be the case." The Torah says you must examine the evidence and come to a rational and logical conclusion. Now there's a religion with self-confidence. Don't have faith, says the first of the Ten Commandments. Rather, examine the evidence and decide for yourself. We're confident of the conclusion you will come to. But why all the fuss? Whether a person with faith or one with knowledge, don't both equally accept the existence of God?

The difference is quite significant. Firstly, knowledge, by nature, is more reliable than faith. Faith is an emotion. When stronger emotions come along - such as love or pain - you might just change your mind about what you believe in.

But more importantly, faith and knowledge produce very different relationships. Knowledge means there is a God even when you don't feel like dealing with Him. Faith is much more flexible. It's as strong, or as weak, as you feel the need for it to be. Knowledge is God in control of the human being. Faith is the human being in control of God.

Parsha Yitro

Source: By Rabbi Aron Tendler
www.torah.org

1st Aliya: Yisro brings Moshe's wife and two sons to join him in the desert. In 18:10, Yisro proclaims his belief in Hashem (G-d) and identifies His manifest justice as the primary motive for his belief and conversion.

2nd & 3rd Aliyot: Yisro observes Moshe's daily schedule as chief administrator, judge, and teacher. He advises his son-in-law to delegate some responsibilities to a hierarchy of worthy judges and administrators. This would allow Moshe to focus his attention on those issues that demand his specific attention. Moshe listens to Yisro's advice.

4th Aliya: This begins the preparation for Revelation. It is the 1st day of Sivan, and the Bnai Yisroel have been in the desert for 43 days. Moshe is told by Hashem to explain to the nation that they are a "kingdom of priests..."

5th Aliya: Moshe tells the nation of G-d's expectations and they respond, "all that Hashem will command we will do." Moshe is further instructed to tell the people to prepare themselves by immersing themselves and their clothing in a Mikveh, and to remain apart from their spouses for 3 days. Mt. Sinai is to be fenced off so that no person or animal could ascend the mountain until the shofar sounded the conclusion of Revelation. On the 3rd day, Revelation began with lightning, thunder, the sounding of a Shofar, and Mt. Sinai completely engulfed in clouds, smoke, and fire. Moshe led the nation to assemble at the foot of a trembling Mt. Sinai.

6th Aliya: Hashem summoned Moshe to ascend the mountain and instructed him to re-emphasize the prohibition against anyone ascending the mountain during Revelation. Moshe descends and discharges G-d's wishes. With Moshe standing among the people at the foot of the mountain, Hashem spoke the Ten Commandments to the entire people.

7th Aliya: This last Aliya describes the reaction of the nation to Revelation. In 20:19, the Pasuk factually states that the Bnai Yisroel (Jewish Nation) collectively heard G-d speak. It is among the most fundamentally important statements in the entire Torah. The Parsha concludes with the three commandments regarding the Mizbeach (Altar).

Parsha Questions

This weeks questions written by Sid Zacharia, Ethan Cohen, Alex Shyken

1. What was the idea that Yitro gave Moshe?
2. How many days did Moshe tell the Hebrews to prepare to get the Torah?
3. Who said the 10 commandments?
4. What is the reward for respecting your parents?
5. What was the reaction of the Hebrews when they heard the 10 commandments from Hashem's voice?
6. How does parshat Yitro relate to this Beth Israel building?



WELCOME TO BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

We are delighted to welcome you to Beth Israel Synagogue. A passage from Deuteronomy 30:11-14 inspired the art work in the sanctuary. "For this commandment that I command you today - it is not hidden from you and it is not distant. It is not in heaven, [for you] to say, 'Who can go to the heaven and take it for us so that we can listen to it and perform it? Nor is it across the seas, [for you] to say, 'Who can cross to the other side of the sea for us and take it for us, so that we can listen to it and perform it?' Rather, the matter is very near to you - in your mouth and your heart - to perform it." Mitzvot are obtainable.

- ◆ The focal point of the sanctuary is the Menorah Window, which frames the Ark and is shaped in the form of the six branched candelabrum. To the right, brilliantly colored windows have forms that reflect the heavens, while the left side depicts the seas.
- ◆ The message is completed in a frieze, the horizontal painting on wood mounted on the wall. The background of the frieze symbolically and abstractly represents the relationship between G-d and the people of Israel through the Covenant. The perochet, or curtain over the Ark, completes the symbolic composition, with an expression that intertwines the Torah and the letter Aleph, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, of the Ten Commandments, and of G-d's name in Hebrew.
- ◆ As is traditional, the sanctuary has 12 windows, representing the 12 tribes of Israel. These windows contain the name of each tribe in flowing, organic letters. The windows are located above the continued frieze, which includes two central texts of the revelation at Sinai - "If you will keep my Covenant, you shall be precious to me," and "You shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." This composition expresses the unity of Israel as the people stood together at Sinai and accepted the Torah.

Beth Israel Synagogue strives to perpetuate the legacy of Torah Judaism in the modern world. Beth Israel welcomes all persons of the Jewish faith to join and accepts the diversity of practice and thought among its members.

Rabbi Ari Dembitzer, Head Rabbi
Toba Cohen-Dunning, President
Nate Shapiro, Executive Director
Rabbi Yoni Dreyer, Assistant Rabbi
Leo Fettman, Cantor Emeritus

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