

29 Av 5768/30th August 2008

Minister: Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Emeritus Chazan: Rev. Moshe Dubiner

**Parshat Re'eh Shabbat Mevorachim Hachodesh**

Hertz	Cohen	Stone	Gutnick		Shabbat	7.39pm
Sedra	799	1055	998	1198	Shabbat ends	8.41pm
Haftarah	818	1076	1199	1475		

**DID THE ANCIENT KINGDOM OF JUDAH INVENT SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE? - Part 1**

The separation of Church and State is a topic that comes up every few years. In his most recent book, "The Home we Build Together", the Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, Sir Jonathan Sacks, is a strong advocate of a liberal democracy which would be founded on such a separation. His predecessor, Lord Immanuel Jakobovitz, even suggested it would do wonders for Israel. Curiously enough, in the British Isles, the idea has always been brushed aside. Disestablishmentarianism (we learnt the word in school as the longest one in the English language) was never able to take root and separate the Head of State, the monarch, from the Church, of which he, or she, was the head.

In the United States, the First Amendment of 1791 to the Constitution, sets out a separation, though it was not ratified in practice by the Supreme Court until many years later. Similarly in France, the Napoleonic Concordat of 1801 laid down a strict separation but it was not put into practice in the schools until eighty years later. The idea of making the organs of State separate from any ruling Church is obviously one attractive to Jews living in the Diaspora, where they would not then be dominated by a state religion, be it Christianity or another.

Theodor Herzl advocated the separation of Church and State for Palestine in his ambitious blueprint, "The Jewish State", written in 1896. He was following the more liberal constitutions of the Europe of his time, but this part of his ideas was never implemented. Now we can ask, would the concept be right in modern Israel, which is called on to be a Jewish State?

In practice the connection between State and Religion in Israel is very close in some matters like the marriage ceremony, in burial rights and in most of the school system. The national airline is not supposed to fly on the Sabbath and the municipal bus services halt on Friday afternoons before sundown. The separation of Church and State, whether good or bad, and despite the advocacy of two major religious leaders of Great Britain, would cause tremendous upheaval in Israel. It has not taken place in modern times but it seems to have occurred at one period in the distant past.

King Jehoshaphat (Joash) came to the throne of Judah in the year 835 BCE. His reign should have started six or seven years earlier, but he was then only a baby, and the throne was usurped by his grandmother Athaliah. On the untimely murder of her son, King Ahaziah, she had taken the precaution, normal for the period, of wiping out all the royal family, but she had missed Jehoshaphat, the infant son of Ahaziah, who was taken into protection in the Temple by his aunt Jehoshabea, wife of the Priest Jehoyada.

Athaliah, daughter of the notorious Jezebel, imposed Baal worship on Judah, and appointed Mattan to be its High Priest. It became the State religion and was successfully enforced on an unwilling population. We say unwilling, because six years later, when Jehoyada thought the young Jehoshaphat was now old enough to be presented as the rightful heir, he is brought out of hiding and proclaimed king, to the cheers of the people and the army (Danny Kaye used this theme in *The Court Jester* of 1955), who go on to slaughter Athaliah and Mattan, outside the Temple precincts. This palace revolution is followed by a remarkable pair of national agreements.

"And Jehoyada made a covenant between the Lord and the king and the people, that they should be the Lord's people; and between the king and the people" (2 Kings 11:17). The intention of these two agreements is clear, the first one is the conventional religious covenant while the second one is secular and omits the Lord.

Who exactly the people were and who represented them is not clear as the literature of the Book of Kings is not a social history, only one of the kings and some of the prophets, but here the people were able to exercise their democratic rights and reach a separate covenant with the king. Why should this unusual arrangement happen just at this particular stage? - To be continued

*Stephen Gabriel Rosenberg,*

*Fellow of the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem.*

**Next Shabbat - Shoftim**

5th—6th September 2008

Commences 7.24pm Mincha &amp; Kabbalat Shabbat 6.00pm

**Announcements****Kiddush Sponsor**

Kiddush this week in the Bloomstein Hall is sponsored by the Honorary Officers and Board of Management in honour of Doris Appleton a long standing and highly respected member of Western Marble Arch

**Breakfast Sponsor**

Breakfasts this week are sponsored by Shirley Doltis to commemorate the Yahrzeit of her husband Gerald Doltis z"l

**Birthdays—Mazal Tov to:**

Stefan Rouach	James Miller
Toby Weinberg	Natasha Adley
Toby Goldblatt	Alex Brecker
Danielle Salem	Maurice Salem
Caroline Buchler	Melanie Davis
Alan Lee	Rita Woolf
Judith Levey	Leon Magar
Colin Jaque	Elissa Isaacs
David Fobel	Philip David
Helen Lee	Lewis Clein
Carole Geiger	Arnold Lee
Mildred Greenman	Nancy Britz

**Wedding Anniversaries—Mazal****Tov to:**

Jane & Peter Shasha  
Marion & Peter Reichwald  
Lesley & Denis Aaronson  
Valerie & Michael Lewis  
Jaqueline & Graham Colover  
Salome & Stanley Bloom

**Refuah Shelemah**

Seymour Freed	Shmuel Zeev ben Sara Rifka
B.A	Baruch Pinchas Ben Zissel
Sidney Jaque	Shlomo Ben Sarah

## Diary Notes

### Friday 29th August

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Haftarah Shiur by Alan Goldberg  
6.15pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat & D'var Torah by Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

### Shabbat 30th August

- 8.45 am Shiur with Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld  
9.15 am Shacharit

### Luncheon Club after Kiddush

- 7.30 pm Mincha, followed by Seudah Shlishit, & D'var Torah by Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld  
8.41 pm Maariv & Havdalah

### Sunday 31st August—First day Rosh Chodesh Elul

- 8.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast and Thought for the Day by Alan Goldberg

### Monday 1st September—Second day Rosh Chodesh Elul

- 7.15 am Shacharit followed by a festive breakfast & D'var Torah by Michael Milston  
10.30 am Rabbi Rosenfeld's Parsha Shiur for Ladies

### Tuesday 2nd September

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Shiur by Rabbi Yosef Vogel

### Wednesday 3rd September

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast and Parsha Shiur by Ervin Landau

### Thursday 4th September

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & D'var Torah

### Friday 5th August

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Haftarah Shiur by Ervin Landau

**Mincha & Ma'ariv through the week  
Sun 31st August - Thurs 4th September 6.15pm**

### Security Rota

Alexander Gold. Nigel Peters

### Our Rabbi

You can contact Rabbi Lionel & Natalie Rosenfeld at  
rabbilr@marblearch.org.uk  
Phone: 020 7535 0458 mob: 07811202244

### Our Website:

[www.marblearch.org.uk](http://www.marblearch.org.uk)

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### High Holy Days Security

**ALL SECURITY VOLUNTEERS PLEASE NOTE  
CST Security Awareness training session to be held in the Bloomstein Hall**

### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 7:00 – 8:00 pm

With the high holy days coming up it is imperative that we remain vigilant and non complacent about our security.

I therefore urge all members who normally undertake security duty to come to this CST training session.

No need to book - just be there!

Thank you

**Steven Truman**

### Luncheon Club—30th August for Members & Visitors.

Everyone welcome. Please advise the Office if you wish to attend

### GCSE Classes

Rabbi Rosenfeld is offering to teach a GCSE course in Judaism for post Bar and Bat Mitzvah teenagers, to be held after school one day a week. He is also offering a similar course for adults, one evening a week.

Anyone who is interested should contact Rabbi LR email: rabbilr@marblearch.org.uk

### JACS

### Jewish Adult Cultural Society

As part of our programme, we are setting up a JACS group at Marble Arch.

Are you.....Interested.....55 plus...

Call or email the office for further details, office@marblearch.org.uk or 020 7723 9333

### Yizkor Book 2008/5769

Please remember to return your form to the Synagogue office before going on holiday. Closing date Monday 1st September 2008.

### Temporary Seats

Please contact the Synagogue Office to order your extra seats for family and friends for the Chagim

### Volunteers Required

If you have some spare time, please call the office as we have a number of programmes which require voluntary assistance, office@marblearch.org.uk or 020 7723 9333

### Yadgaroff Library

The Yadgaroff Library is open every day for those wishing to study or browse the fine selection of books.