

6th Ellul 1 5768/6th September 2008

Minister: Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Emeritus Chazan: Rev. Moshe Dubiner

Parshat Shoftim

Hertz Cohen Stone Gutnick Shabbat 7.24pm

Sedra 820 1078 1024 1236 Shabbat ends 8.24pm

Haftarah 835 1094 1199 1476



DID THE ANCIENT KINGDOM OF JUDAH INVENT SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE? - Part 2 (continued from Shabbat Re'eh)

It must have been a reaction to the Baal worship imposed by Athaliah. Although such worship had often been adopted by the Judahites on a personal basis, in this case it was imposed from above and became mighty unpopular. We suggest that the people, who seem to have had a democratic voice in this matter, decided that there should be a separate covenant with the king, that did not include any imposed religion, and this was agreed by Jehoyada, the priest and guardian of Jehoash.

A later passage confirms that Jehoash "did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord all his days....however the people still sacrificed in the high places" so the secular covenant was not criticised and the people continued to worship as they pleased. Jehoash, who reigned for another 33 years, did not particularly favour the priests and insisted that the moneys given to the Temple should be used for upkeep of the House and not for the personal ornaments and vessels of the priests.

But though Jehoash did what was right, his rule ended in revolution and tragedy. Perhaps his anti-clerical views went too far, for he was denounced by Zechariah, the son of his mentor Jehoyada, and the king had him killed for inciting the people against him. Thus when Jehoash fell ill, his courtiers, in revenge, took the opportunity to kill him on his sick bed (2 Chronicles 24:25).

During all this period the kingdoms of Israel and Judah were under the domination of Aram (Syria) and it may well be that the details of Jehoash's demise were more a product of the policies of Hazael, king of Aram, and his son Ben-Hadad III, than the internal machinations of the court as described in our literature.

Be that as it may, the experiment of a secular society continued under Amaziah, Jehoash's son, who reigned for another twenty-nine years, and then under that of his very successful son Azariah (Uzziah) who ruled for over fifty years. It carried on under his son Jotham who became regent, when his father was struck by leprosy, and then ruled on until the accession of his own son Ahaz in about 742 BCE.

All these kings "did right in the eyes of the Lordhowever the people still sacrificed and offered in the high places", which seems to mean that the kings did not impose any formal paganism, and so were acceptable to the Lord, and the people worshipped as they had always done, without coercion. It was not until Ahaz that a state religion was again imposed, when Ahaz was narrowly saved, by the prophet Isaiah, from bowing to the threat from Aram.

Ahaz avoided that by allying himself with the greater regional power of Assyria, but for that the country paid a heavy price. To demonstrate his fealty to Assyria, Ahaz commanded the high priest Uriyah to install a copy of their heathen altar in the Jerusalem Temple (2 Kings 16:11) and thus another state religion was imposed.

So the separation of Church and State, that had started under the young Jehoash, had lasted for nearly a hundred years until it was snuffed out by his great-great-grandson Ahaz, who needed to defer to the over-arching power of the Assyrians. It saved Judah from Aram, though it was not long before the Assyrians were to eradicate the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and twenty years later they came close to conquering the southern Kingdom of Judah as well.

The experiment of a secular state of Judah had not failed, but it had been halted by events beyond the control of our little country and its people. In the time of Jehoash the people had had a mandate and they had exercised it with the agreement of the priests and the king. The idea of a monarchy, with separation of Church and State, did not surface again in later times but perhaps one day the people will be able to exercise that mandate again.

Stephen Gabriel Rosenberg,
Fellow of the W.F. Albright Institute of Archeological Research, Jerusalem.

Next Shabbat - Ki Tetzei

12th—13th September 2008

Commences 7.08pm Mincha & 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 Bertha Harrison, a long standing and highly respected member of the Kiddush Rota

Breakfast Sponsor

Breakfasts this week are sponsored by the Honorary Officers and Board of Management in recognition of the efforts and the hard work of all our Staff, especially at this very busy time of year.

Birth Announcement

Mazal Tov to Nicole (nee Ronson) & Yo-Yo Allalouf on the birth of a son and to Gail and Gerald Ronson on the birth of a grandson

Birthdays—Mazal Tov to:

Anouska Levy	Jennifer Pasha
Camilla Yadgaroff	Natasha Rayden
Liane Green	Daniel Bloom
Iris Laurenti Levi	Lydia Gorvy
Michael Goldman	Michael Rapp
Godfrey Bradman	Colette Wilson
Marilyn Burns	Cyril Auerbach
Gertrude Ashley	Rachel Epseley

Wedding Anniversaries

Mazal Tov to:

Zelma & Gerald Bloomberg
Carolyn & Mark Mishon
Gail & Gerald Ronson
Esther & Lawrence Drizen

Refuah Shelemah

Albert Lieberman	Areya Leib ben Gitel
Seymour Freed	Shmuel Zeev ben Sara Rivka
B.A	Baruch Pinchas Ben Zissel
Sidney Jaque	Shlomo Ben Sarah

Please note

Due to electrical testing, there will be no communication with the office between 11am & 1pm and 3pm & 4pm on Tuesday 9th September, either by telephone or email

Diary Notes

Friday 5th September

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Haftarah Shiur by Ervin Landau
6.00pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat & D'var Torah by Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Shabbat 6th September

- 8.45 am Shiur with Ervin Landau
9.15 am Shacharit
7.15 pm Mincha, followed by Seudah Shlishit, & D'var Torah by Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld
8.24 pm Maariv & Havdalah

Sunday 7th September

- 8.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast and Thought for the Day by Alan Goldberg
10.00 am **Cheder Age 4 – 12 years.** Contact Batsheva Burns for further information on 0796 88 555 96 or email cheder.marblearch@gmail.com

Monday 8th September

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by a festive breakfast & D'var Torah by Michael Milston

Tuesday 9th September

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

Wednesday 10th September

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

Thursday 11th September

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

Friday 12th September

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

**Mincha & Ma'ariv through the week
Sun 7th - Thurs 11th September 6.00pm**

Security Rota

Andrew Newton. Steven Truman.

Our Rabbi

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

Our Website:

www.marblearch.org.uk

Yadgaroff Library

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

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 17th 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

Sunday 14th September Consecration

The consecration of the stone in memory of Renee West Samuels z"l (mother of Graham West and Jackie Cohen) will take place on Sunday 14th September at 11.00am at Willesden.

B'Hatzlachah

With the opening of our new Cheder Term this Sunday, we want to wish much success to our new Headmistress Batsheva Burns.

This is also a good time to say thank you to Debra Corney who has worked so hard for our Cheder over the past few years. We wish her much success in the future.

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

Temporary Seats

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

Haftarah

Would anyone wishing to read the Haftarah on Shabbat, eg on the anniversary of their Bar Mitzvah, to mark a special occasion or for any other reason, please contact the Honorary Officers as we wish to involve as many people as possible