

27th Ellul 1 5768/27th September 2008

Minister: Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Emeritus Chazan: Rev. Moshe Dubiner

Parshat Nitzavim

Hertz Cohen Stone Gutnick Shabbat 6.35pm

Sedra 878 1138 1086 1316 Shabbat ends 7.34pm

Haftarah 883 1145 1202 1480



Some of the most powerful and emotional language in the Bible is contained within this week's portion. Moses prophesies on the future of the Jewish nation and introduces his speech by declaring that the Torah is binding on both "those that are here, standing with us today before G-d, and on those that are not here with us today" (Deuteronomy 29:14). Is this not prophetic of a time when so many Jews will claim that the Torah is "no longer applicable"? Further, is it possible to overlook the fact that just a few verses later (in Ch. 30), Moses tells us that after we have been exiled all over the world, G-d will then return us to our land?

Yet even when the people of Israel were ruled by kings who went by the Torah, the *teshuvah* (repentance) movement was lacking. In one of the most telling prophecies delivered in the days of one of the most Torah-observant kings, King Josiah, the prophet Jeremiah still has to admonish the people. He warns them of overconfidence. As Jeremiah is describing the blessings which await them if they repent, he tells them: "plough for yourselves a furrow, and do not sow upon thorn bushes" (Jeremiah 4:3). The commentators explain that this refers to the fact that before a field is to be sown, it must be cleared out and ploughed through, and not merely sown upon as is.

The message of Jeremiah is clear: we cannot start afresh until we resolve to do away with the old. One needs to dig into one's heart and resolve to change in order to complete *teshuvah*.

The sages in the Talmud expand upon this theme, teaching that Josiah set up a police force whose job it was to ensure idolatry was eradicated from the land, but in response, many of the people constructed idols which were to be placed partially on the door and partially on the wall. When the "idolatry police" would come in, the door would be opened and the idol would become unrecognizable. However, as soon as the door was closed the idol was once again intact. In this way, they evaded detection and the idolatry was never fully eradicated. Our rabbis are thus indicating that the *teshuvah* was far more external than internal: sincere repentance requires internal resolve, not merely conforming to social trends.

We are just a few days away from the most important days of our calendar. It is no coincidence that the rabbis arranged the Torah readings and the calendar so that Nitzavim is read around the time of Rosh Hashanah, so that we study this portion, and become inspired by it: *I have set before you a choice.....Love G-d and observe His commandments so that you will live and prosperso choose life!*

May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life.

Shabbat Shalom. Based on a lecture given by Rabbi Menachem Leibtag at Yeshivat Har Etzion.

Next Shabbat Vayelech Shabbat Shuva

3rd—4th October 2008

Commences 6.19pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 6.00pm

Announcements

Kiddush Sponsor

The Honorary Officers and Board of Management invite the congregation to Kiddush in the Bloomstein Hall after the service and wish the whole Kehilla a healthy and happy New Year

Breakfast Sponsor

Breakfasts this week are kindly sponsored by David Kosky of our weekday Minyan to mark the Shloshim for his father z"l. We wish him long life

Birthdays—Mazal Tov to:

Aaron Khasidy	Jemima Cedar
Victoria Marks	Susie Joseph
Alexander Rouach	Adele Peters
Maximillian Steckelmacher	
Marie Pevovar	Laura Marks
Sharon Ognall	Elaine Barsotti
Barbara Diamond	Pearl Gordon
Lillian Sonenthal	Robert Davis

Refuah Shelemah

Raphael Etesami	Raphael ben Michal
Stewart Cohen	Shimmon Shaul Ben Rifka
Seymour Freed	Shmuel Zeev ben Sara Rivka
B.A	Baruch Pinchas Ben Zissel
Sidney Jaque	Shlomo Ben Sarah

Arba Minim

Order your Arba Minim NOW.

Contact Jennie Raperport in the Synagogue Office

Succot Meals

We invite you to join our communal Succah meals on Monday evening 13th October and/or lunch on Tuesday 14th October. The cost per meal £25.00

Please advise the office by this Sunday 28th September as space is limited.

We must request such notice being given in order to avoid financial losses resulting from over preparation, or by those who indicate informal compliance but alas, fail to honour their financial commitment !

Friday 26th September—Selichot

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

Shabbat 27th September

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

Sunday 28th September

- 8.10 am Selichot & 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
5.20 pm Mincha & Maariv

Monday 29th September —Erev Rosh Hashanah

- 6.45am Selichot & Shacharit followed by breakfast & D'var Torah by Michael Milston
6.30 pm Mincha & Choral Maariv

Tuesday 30th September — First Day Rosh Hashanah

- 8.00am Shacharit
10.30am Children's Service
12.30pm Sermon by the Chief Rabbi after Musaf
5.00 pm Tashlich at Regents Park
6.45 pm Mincha & Choral Maariv
7.27 pm First day ends. Candlelighting Second day

Wednesday 1st October—Second Day Rosh Hashanah

- 8.00 am Shacharit
10.30am Children's Service
12.30 pm Sermon by the Chief Rabbi after Musaf
6.45 pm Mincha
7.25 pm Maariv & Havdalah

Thursday 2nd October—Fast of Gedaliah

- 5.24 am **Fast begins**
7.00 am Selichot followed by Shacharit
1.30 pm First Mincha
5.15 pm Second Mincha followed by Maariv
7.17 pm **Fast ends**

Friday 3rd October

- 7.00 am Selichot & Shacharit followed by breakfast & Haftarah Shiur by Ervin Landau

We thank all ladies and gentlemen who have helped with the Kiddush and Security Rotas during the past year and look forward to your ongoing support

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

ראש השנה 5769

A warm welcome to Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan & Lady Sacks and Family and to the High Holyday Choir who will be with us this Rosh Hashanah

The Honorary Officers and Board of Management wish the whole Kehilla Shanah Tovah

A Sweet New Year Recollection from Elaine Barsotti—Every year while making honey cake together her mother, Malka Batia bat Yehuda Leib Hacoen, told her the following:

“The eggs are for life, the oil is for plenty, the honey is for sweetness, the spices are for Am Yisrael with all its different colours and flavours, and the flour binds it all together”

Temporary Seats

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

Bat Mitzvah Classes

Rabbi Rosenfeld teaches a Bat Mitzvah every Monday at 5.00pm (except on erev Chag).

GCSE Classes

Rabbi Rosenfeld has offered to teach a GCSE course in Judaism for post Bar and Bat Mitzvah teenagers, to be held after school one day a week. To date he has received only 3 applications to join this class. To make this viable he would like more interest to be shown.

Please contact him at rabbilr@marblearch.org.uk or by phone

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

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