

18th July '15 /2 Av 5775

Ministers: Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld Rabbi Sam Taylor Chazan Emeritus: Moshe Dubiner

Parashot Matot—Masei (Chazak)

	Hertz	Cohen	Stone	Gutnick		
Sedra	702	955	900	1074		Shabbat begins 8.55pm
Haftarah	710	968	1192	1463		Shabbat ends 10.09pm

[Note: The Parashot of Matot- Masei almost always fall in the 'Nine Days' of great sadness ending with Tisha B'Av, commemorating the destruction of the Temples, and the Exile from Jerusalem.]

With regard to a society where murderers can evade punishment through bribery, the Torah admonishes, "Do not defile the land in which you live and in which I live". (Num. 35:34). But in what way does allowing murderers go unpunished 'defile the land'? And why does the Torah emphasize that this is the land where both you and G-d dwell?

The Sages taught in Talmud *Shabbat* 33a: "For the crime of bloodshed, the Temple is destroyed and the *Shechinah* [G-d's Presence] departs from Israel. As it says, "Do not defile the land in which you live and in which I live." If you do defile it, you will not dwell in it, nor will I dwell in it." Why is the appropriate punishment for such corruption the destruction of the *Beit HaMikdash*, the loss of the *Shechinah*, and exile?

The Impact of Murder

Clearly, a nation that suffers from rampant violence and unchecked bloodshed is not fulfilling its basic obligation to provide security for its citizens. But from an ethical-spiritual perspective, murder reflects a far more tragic phenomenon.

The Torah describes the Divine aspect of the human soul with the term 'Tzelem Elokim'. What is this 'Image of God'? The Torah is teaching that the Divine attributes of goodness, of seeking to help others, of giving and nurturing, are inherent to the human soul. One who sheds blood has corrupted his soul to such an extent that he has completely reversed his innate Tzelem Elokim. Instead of promoting life, such an individual causes its loss and destruction.

Destruction of the Temple

The *Beit HaMikdash* was not meant solely for the benefit of the Jewish people. When King Solomon built the Temple, he announced that it was "also for the stranger who is not from your people Israel, but will come from a far country for the sake of Your Name" (I Kings 8:41). The Temple is meant to be a "house of prayer for all peoples" (Isaiah 56:7), a focal point spreading enlightenment and ethical teachings throughout the world. However, in order to influence and better humanity, the ethical state of the Jewish people must be healthy and strong; when Israel has fallen to the lowest levels of cruelty and violence, what kind of moral influence can the *Beit HaMikdash* provide to the world? How can the Temple service inspire other nations, when they see that its values have not even succeeded in reaching the Jewish people, correcting social injustice and eradicating bloodshed? Unable to serve its universal purpose, the Temple was destroyed.

Loss of Divine Presence

This explains the connection between a corrupt society and the destruction of the *Beit HaMikdash*. What about the second consequence, the departure of the *Shechinah*?

We must first understand the significance of G-d's Presence dwelling in Israel. The national soul of the Jewish people contains aspirations far greater than normal social ethics. Our objective is not just to create a smooth-running social order that provides safety and security for its members. What point is there in creating a selfish, materialistic society, even if its citizens are protected from violence and instability?

This is where the *Shechinah* comes in. The Jewish nation has an inner holiness that elevates the value of life itself. Through the Divine Presence, the nation's soul aspires to the highest and loftiest good possible. It strives to live according to the most elevated, Godly values.

But spiritual goals are like building blocks, attained step by step. The nation must first acquire a basic moral level, those common mores appreciated by all peoples. Only then is it possible to aspire to special levels of holiness. If the *Beit HaMikdash* is no longer standing due to a corrupt and immoral society, how can the soul of the nation attempt to elevate itself to its unique goals? In such a state the *Shechinah* departs from Israel.

Exile from the Land

The third punishment for national corruption is exile. The dwelling of the Jewish people in *Eretz Yisrael* is tightly bound to its positive influence as a nation. Certainly much holiness and enlightenment can be gained from righteous individuals. But the impact of a holy nation, expressing holiness in all aspects of its national life, is of a far greater magnitude.

When the Jewish people ceases to have a positive influence on other nations, as indicated by the destruction of the Temple and the departure of the *Shechinah*, then even their continued dwelling in the land of Israel is called into question. "If you defile the land, you will not dwell in it and I will not dwell in it."

Adapted from a D'var Torah by Rabbi Abraham Isaac HaKohen Kook (1865-1935),
First Chief Rabbi of Palestine.

Announcements

Shabbat Morning Kiddush:

We thank Lesley & Denis Aaronson and the Ziff family for sponsoring this week's Kiddush to commemorate the Yahrzeits of Denis's mother Fraida bat Mordechai—Freda Aaronson z"l, and Michael Ziff's father, Yisrael Abba ben Moshe—Israel Arnold Ziff z"l.

Sedudah Shlishit:

We thank Mary Regnier-Leigh for sponsoring the Sedudah this week in memory of her grandmother Faygy Rifka bat Mortki Lipa—Rebecca Harrison z"l & her mother Pesh bat Joseph—Bessie Leigh z"l.

Breakfasts:

We do not have a sponsor for this week's breakfasts. If you wish to sponsor a week to celebrate an occasion or to commemorate a loved one please contact the office.

Happy Birthday to:

Daniel Feldman Olivia Lindsay Mark Pasha Sara Kibel
Julia Kaye Daniel Lyons Paul Cohen Sheilagh Ross
Michael Lyons Yana Aintabi Benedict Price Albere Rouach
Miriam Lyons Norma Midgen Wendy Kremen Gila Rose
Geoffrey Lewis Leonard Carson Sonia Sanitt Edna Kaye
Charlotte Balcombe

Happy Anniversary to:

Sheilagh & Tony Ross
Louise & Jerry Harouni
Wendy & Henry Brecher

We wish a Refuah Shleimah to:

Feiga bat Ruth
Yaakov ben Ruth
Esther bat Mordechai HaCohen
Eliyahu ben Devorah
Zelig ben Etta Rasha
Avraham Mordechai ben Chaya Basha Sarah
Emily bat Sarah
Gita Chaya bat Chanah
Habachur Yaakov Gavriel Yehudah ben Dina Chanah—Jacob Ziff
Zorach ben Sarah
Harav Pinchas Shmuel ben Pesya — Paul Laderman
Dalia bat Patricia, Shulamit bat Tamar, Sultana bat Tamar,
Evelyn bat Sarah Devorah
Devorah bat Avraham

**SERVICES ON FRIDAY EVENING, SHABBAT MINCHA AND
WEEKDAYS TAKE PLACE IN THE
MINTZ BETH HAMIDRASH**

Friday 17th July—Rosh Chodesh Av

7.15am Shacharit followed by breakfast and Haftarah
Shiur by Ervin Landau
7.15pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat
8.55pm Candle lighting

Shabbat 18th July

8:45am Shiur by Alan Goldberg
9.15am Shacharit
8.15pm Shiur in Pirkei Avot with Rabbi Sam Taylor
9.00pm Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit &
D'var Torah by Mary Regnier-Leigh
10.09pm Ma'ariv and Havdalah

Sunday 19th July

8.30am Shacharit followed by breakfast and D'var Torah
by Alan Goldberg

Monday 20th July

7.30am Shacharit followed by breakfast and
D'var Torah
6.40pm "Cheder for Grown-Ups" with Rabbi Rosenfeld
8.00pm Krav Maga @ WMA

Tuesday 21st July

7.30am Shacharit followed by breakfast and D'var Torah
By Rabbi Yosef Vogel
8.00pm Gemara Shiur with Rabbi Taylor

Wednesday 22nd July

7.30am Shacharit followed by breakfast and D'var
Torah by Ervin Landau

Thursday 23rd July

7.30am Shacharit followed by breakfast and D'var Torah
1.00pm Rabbi Tali Lowenthal's lunchtime learning
session for men

Friday 24th July

7.30am Shacharit followed by breakfast and
Haftarah Shiur by Ervin Landau

**SUNDAY 19TH JULY — THURSDAY 23RD JULY
WEEKDAY MINCHA & MA'ARIV 7.15PM**

**PLEASE HELP US TO ENSURE A MINYAN THIS
SUNDAY EVENING WHEN COMMUTERS ARE NOT IN TOWN**

**Next Shabbat: Devarim—Shabbat Chazon
25th July 2015**

Commences—8.47pm

Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat - 7.15pm

**For full details of service times and events please see our website:
www.marblearch.org.uk**

Ladies: we would like help with the Kiddush rota.

**If you are able to assist us, please contact Linda Sharpe directly on:
07914766255 or: lindamaxine@icloud.com**

This Sunday, 19th July—Jnetics Event:

"Take the test not the risk"

10.00am—1.00pm @ St John's Wood Synagogue.
A community screening for nine severe Jewish genetic
disorders, including Tay-Sachs—1 in 5 people of Ashkenazi
origin are carriers of a Jewish genetic disorder.

A simple blood test can identify if you are at risk.

To book a place please email: screening@jnetics.org
For more information visit www.jnetics.org

Saturday Night, 25th July—Tisha B'Av

Join WMA this year as we commemorate Tisha B'Av, the most
sombre day in the Jewish calendar. It is a time when we
remember the tragedies of our history, beginning with the
destruction of the two Temples and the exile from our Land,
and all the suffering since.

The fast begins at 8.59pm with Shabbat ending at 9.58pm.
**Maariv at WMA will begin at 10.15pm followed by the
reading of the Book of Lamentations - Eichah.**

**On Sunday morning 26th July, Shacharit will start at
8.30am** followed by Kinot, the poems of mourning we say on
this day.

This will be followed by first Mincha at 2.00pm.

**At 6.15pm Rabbi Taylor will teach a class entitled
"Laws of Mourning" - traditionally studied on Tisha B'av.**

A second Mincha will be held at 7.00pm.

At 7:45pm we will screen the film "Night Will Fall".

Using British, Soviet and American footage, the Ministry of
Information's Sidney Bernstein collaborated with
Alfred Hitchcock to make a film that would provide evidence of
the Nazis' unspoken crimes. Yet, despite initial support from
the British and US governments, the film was shelved. In this
compelling documentary by Andre Singer (executive producer,
The Act of Killing), the full story of the filming of the camps and
the fate of Bernstein's project, which has now been restored
and completed by The Imperial War Museum, can now be told.

Maariv will be at 9.15pm and the fast ends at 9.50pm

**Sunday, 2nd August
5.00pm-8.00pm**

**Come join WMA's Young Professionals for a
Summer Rooftop BBQ!**



There will be great food, freshly
cooked on our onsite BBQ, an
open bar and live entertainment
from students of the
Royal College of Music.
Early Bird Ticket – £20
Regular Ticket – £25

For more information contact

Rabbi Sam Taylor on: rabbittaylor@marblearch.org.uk

Yadgaroff Library

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

Monday Mornings—Healing at WMA:

Sonia Shalam continues with her healing sessions on Monday mornings. Please
phone her on 07770 903783 to book a session or for further information.

Memorial Plaques:

For those members with permanent seats, plaques can be made in memory of loved
ones. Please contact Gina Drew-Davis in the Office.

Sponsoring an Event:

If you are celebrating a Simcha or commemorating a family Yahrzeit or if you are
just feeling generous please consider contacting the office about sponsoring a
Shabbat Morning Kiddush or breakfasts for the morning Minyan.