

2nd May '15 / 13 Iyar 5775

Minister: Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Rabbi Sam Taylor

Chazan Emeritus: Moshe Dubiner

Parashat Acharei-Kodoshim

	Hertz	Cohen	Stone	Gutnick		
Sedra	480	705	636	736		Shabbat begins 8.09pm
Haftarah	494	721	1173	1435		Shabbat ends 9.19pm

Parashat Acharei-Kodoshim

The pasuk [verse] says, "You should keep My statutes and My laws, which if a man obeys, 'v'chai bahem' [he shall live through them], I am Hashem." [Vayikra 18:5] The Gemara learns from this source that if a person is faced with the choice of committing a sin or being murdered [or alternatively, neglecting a mitzva or being murdered], the halacha requires the person to commit the aveira [sin] or neglect the mitzva, and not die. However, there are three exceptions: avoda zarah [idol worship], shfichas damim [murder], and giluy arayus [illicit relations].

Barring these three exceptions, the halacha says that one should eat pork, violate the Shabbos, eat bread on Pesach, and do not die. Why? Because we learn from this pasuk: these are the mitzvos that I gave you, "v'chai bahem," and you should live by them. The Gemara interprets this to mean that "you should live by them, and not die by them." [Sanhedren 74a]

A cursory examination of this pasuk would seem to indicate that the Torah is telling us that human life is more precious than keeping the mitzvos. Therefore, if you have a choice between observing Shabbos or staying alive, your life is more valuable than the mitzva. We would conclude that there is a general rule: life is more important than the mitzvos, with just three exceptions.

Rav Moshe Feinstein Z"l, in his sefer [book] "Igros Moshe," writes (in the course of answering a query on a different subject) that this common understanding of the pasuk is incorrect. That is not what the pasuk is saying. The true explanation is as basic as a Targum Onkelos. [The Targum Onkelos is a nearly-literal translation to Aramaic of the words in the Torah, with a minimum of interpolated commentary.]

The Targum Onkelos translates this pasuk as: "and you should live through them in the World to Come." In other words, the pasuk is not telling us to stay alive and neglect the mitzvos, because life is more precious than mitzvos. The pasuk is telling us that the most precious thing in life is keeping mitzvos, because they bring us to olam haba, the World to Come.

Therefore, if I have a choice between observing the Shabbos or being murdered, the Torah says, "live!" Why? Not because life, for its own sake, is more precious than G-d's Commandments. Rather, life is precious because you can do those Commandments! Therefore, perform work on this Shabbos so you can keep so many more Shabbosos in the future. Eat chometz on Pesach. Why? So you can go on and do more mitzvos, and be worthy of life in the world to come.

This is an entirely different perspective. Life is not valuable just for the sake of life itself, without a purpose. Life is not valuable simply in order for a person to work, do errands and go to ball games. That is not what makes life worth living! What does make life worth living? "V'chai bahem" - "I'chayei alma" [in the world to come]. Life that leads to this goal is worth living. The Torah is instructing us to violate the Shabbos and to eat chometz [leaven] on Pesach. Why? The reason is because a human life is valuable because it can do so many more mitzvos in this world. Therefore, violate the Shabbos once so that you can observe Shabbos many more times.

Rabbi Yissachar Frand

Announcements

Lag B'omer



This Thursday 7th May, we will be celebrating Lag B'omer. Please join Rabbi Sam Taylor, who will be hosting a BBQ Lunch & Learn here at WMA starting at 1pm. Donation in advance £10pp. Please contact the office to reserve your place. All welcome.

Breakfasts:

We thank Stuart Marks, a regular visitor to our synagogue, for sponsoring breakfasts for this week.

Kiddush Sponsor:

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

Happy Birthday to:

Benjamin Sage Victoria Shields Ruth Adley
Benjamin Khalili Raphael Khalili Marc Grant
Giorgina Djanogly Edward Lee Marian Birnhak
Albert Benisty Stuart Caplan Eleanor Gordon
Nadia Moosah Jeremiah Harouni Julian Bloom
Barry Wiseman Marian Birnhak Iris Johnstone Manfred
Gorvy Doreen Kaye Ruben Cohanim Geraldine Offenbach
Valerie Balfour-Lynn

Happy Anniversary to:

Paul & Claire Rayden John & Pamela Davis

We wish a Refuah Shleimah to:

Shraga ben Feige
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

Condolence: We wish long life to Reuben Cohanim and his family on the passing of his sister, Sara Bassaleli z"l from New York.

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

Friday 1st May

- 7.30am Shacharit followed by breakfast and Haftarah
Shiur by Ervin Landau
7.15pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat followed by D'var
Torah by Rabbi Sam Taylor
8.09pm Candle lighting

Shabbat 2nd May

- 8:45am Shiur by Rev Ari Cohen
9.15am Shacharit
8.15pm Mincha, followed by Seudah Shlishit and D'var
Torah by Rabbi Taylor
9.19pm Ma'ariv & Havdalah

Sunday 3rd May

- 8.30am Shacharit followed by breakfast

Monday 4th May— Bank Holiday

- 8.00am Mishna Shiur by Rabbi Sam Taylor**
**8.30am Shacharit followed by breakfast and
D'var Torah**

**There will be no Shiur for Ladies or "Cheder for
Grown-Ups" with Rabbi Rosenfeld this week.**

Tuesday 5th May

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

Wednesday 6th May

- 7.00am Mishna Shiur by Rabbi Taylor
7.30am Shacharit followed by breakfast and D'var
Torah by Ervin Landau

Thursday 7th May—Lag Ba'Omer

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

Friday 8th May

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

**SUNDAY 3RD—THURSDAY 7TH MAY
WEEKDAY MINCHA & MA'ARIV 6.45PM**

Next Shabbat: Emor

8th May 2015

Commences—8.21pm

Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat - 7.15pm

**Please see our Website: For full details of times of
services and events by month go to**

www.marblearch.org.uk

You can contact Rabbi Lionel & Natalie Rosenfeld at:

rabbilr@marblearch.org.uk

Tel: 020 7535 0458 mobile: 07811 202244

Contact Rabbi Sam and Rebbetzen Emma Taylor at:

rabbittaylor@marblearch.org.uk / emma@marblearch.org.uk

Tel: 020 7723 9333

Forthcoming Events

Date for your Diary:
KRAV MAGA @ WMA ON
MONDAY NIGHTS
Starting THIS Monday
4th May

Krav Maga educates people in the subjects of self defence, self protection, fighting and combat skills, as well as the skills to defend others. £91 for 8 sessions. For more information Contact Rabbi Taylor—07557 780 658.



WMA AGM
WILL BE HELD ON
MONDAY 22ND JUNE AT 6:45PM

Date for the Diary:
May 28th, 7.30pm to 9.45pm

CONNECT , a new initiative created by the Central , New West End and Western Marble Arch Synagogues Each evening will have a particular theme and our inaugural theme is FASHION.

The Keynote speaker for the evening will be **John Galliano** in conversation with a panel.

The event will include a lecture being given by **Rabbi Sam Taylor** of Western Marble Arch on "Clothes Maketh the Man" and **Maureen Kendler** from the London School of Jewish Studies on "A Biblical What Not To Wear: How Clothes Deceive".

This will be followed by a **finger dinner** courtesy of **Adafina** giving participants a chance to eat and meet. Next event Wednesday 24th June.

Venue : **BDO LLP** offices in Baker Street.

Date : **May 28th, 7.30 to 9.45pm.**

Tickets from £20 including entrance and food (student concessions).

Please note, online booking will shortly be available where a booking fee will apply, or via Rabbi Taylor at rabbittaylor@marblearch.org.uk.

Due to the large interest, as well as security, TICKETS will sell out very quickly and early booking is essential.

Priority will be given to series

In conjunction with the Chief Rabbi's Centre for Rabbinic Excellence.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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 Shalom 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.