



Carnegie Shul Chatter

July 25, 2023

Shabbat
Shalom



Light candles 8:21pm Shabbat Services 9:30am

Shabbat Services

Join us in the sanctuary, or attend virtually. Watch your email for a Zoom link or contact Rosalyn Hoffman at rjlynman@yahoo.com. The complete Torah reading, in Hebrew and English, can be found at https://www.chabad.org/parshah/torahreading_cdo/aid/2495794/jewish/Vaetchanan-Torah-Reading.htm

The Shema

The sixth aliyah of this week's parshah repeats the Shema prayer which, to me, is the very essence of our faith:

Hear, O Israel, The Lord is our God, the Lord is one.

Blessed be the name of his glorious majesty forever and ever.

You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

And these words which I command you today, shall be in your heart.

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and you shall speak of them when you are sitting at home and when you go on a journey, when you lie down and when you rise up.

You shall bind them for a sign on your hand, and they shall be for frontlets between your eyes.

You shall inscribe them upon the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

I say this prayer when I daven in the morning and when I go to bed every night. I say it any time I need God's support. I say it to let God know my love for him.

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When I was younger, I did not put on tefillin every day, but the Shema tells me as you can read in the verse above that I should do so, and so it seems to me that if I am going to utter this most important of all prayers, I should do what it tells me to do and so I now put on tefillin every day. And most Jews do, in fact, have mezuzahs on their doorposts. I live in a condo building with many Jewish families and I am very proud to see so many doorposts with mezuzahs.



If you do not already do so, try saying the Shema daily. If you are a man, try putting on tefillin. I spend about 20 minutes each morning putting on my tefillin and davening, but God is certainly worth 20 minutes. I find it inspiring and a great way to start my day. I hope you will find it inspiring too.

Va'etchanan in a Nutshell

From Chabad.org

Deuteronomy 3:23–7:11

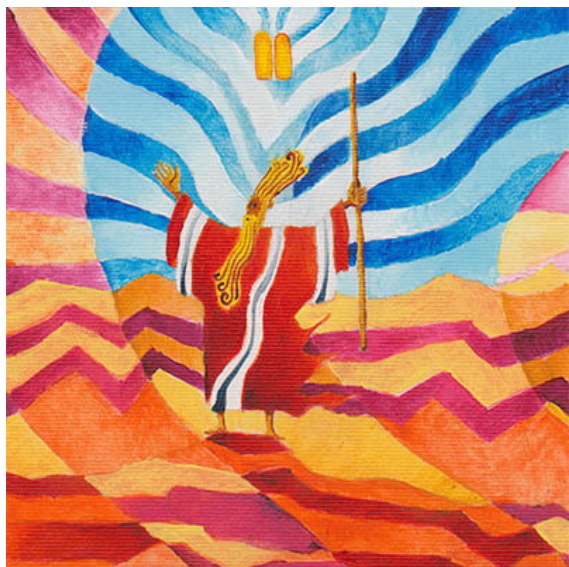
The name of the Parshah, “Va’etchanan,” means “I entreated,” and it is found in Deuteronomy 3:23.

Moses tells the people of Israel how he implored G-d to allow him to enter the Land of Israel, but G-d refused, instructing him instead to ascend a mountain and see the Promised Land.

Continuing his “review of the Torah,” Moses describes Exodus from Egypt and the Giving of the Torah, declaring them unprecedented events in human history. “Has there ever occurred this great thing, or has the likes of it ever been heard? Did ever a people hear the voice of G-d speaking out of the midst of the fire . . . and live? . . . You were shown, to know, that the L-rd is G-d . . . there is none else beside Him.”

Moses predicts that in future generations the people will turn away from G-d, worship idols, and be exiled from their land and scattered amongst the nations; but from there they will seek G-d, and return to obey His commandments.

Our Parshah also includes a repetition of the Ten Commandments, and the verses of the Shema, which declare the fundamentals of the Jewish faith: the unity of G-d (“Hear O Israel: the L-rd our G-d, the L-rd is one”); the mitzvot to love G-d, to study His Torah, and to bind “these words” as tefillin on our arms and heads, and inscribe them in the mezuzot affixed on the doorposts of our homes.



Haftorah in a Nutshell

Isaiah 40:1–26

This week's haftorah is the first of a series of seven "haftarot of Consolation." These seven haftarot commence on the Shabbat following Tisha B'Av and continue until Rosh Hashanah.

This section of Isaiah begins with G-d's exhortation to the prophets: "Console, O console My people Announce to Jerusalem that her period of exile has been fulfilled and that her sins have been forgiven."



Isaiah's prophecy describes some of the miraculous events that will unfold with the onset of the messianic era, such as the return of the exiles to Jerusalem, the revelation of G-d's glory, and the rewards and retribution that will then be meted out.

The prophet then goes on to comfort the people, describing G-d's power and might, and reassuring them of His care for His people.

Haftorah Commentary

Commentary from outorah.org

The weekly Haftarot recited between the 17th of Tammuz and Sukkot relate not to the weekly Torah reading, but instead to the workings of the covenant between God, His people, His Land, and humanity. Following the past "Three of Affliction" (Aramaic: *אתונערופד תלת*), the upcoming "Seven of Comfort" (Aramaic: *אתמחנד עבש*) are recited until Rosh Hashanah. Taken from the final third of the book of Isaiah, they powerfully describe the exiles' eventual redemptive return to God's covenant and Land.

Seven of Comfort #1 (Va'etchanan-Nachamu): Isaiah 40:1-26

The Haftarah opens with God's declaration that His harsh punishment of His exiled people is over: They are once again "My people." Their sins are no more, so all must now comfort them from their afflictions. The call of prophecy resumes, though not always clearly. From Jerusalem's peaks, it boldly proclaims that all must clear paths through varied landscapes so that God can powerfully and lovingly shepherd each and every one of the exiles home to Judah. Seeing this great redemption, even the most powerful individuals and nations will perceive God's glory, His promises' inviolability, and, by contrast, their own mortality.

The Haftarah then shows the folly of idolatry and, by contrast, God's transcendent greatness.

His power as Creator enables Him to fulfill His redemptive promise. From beyond, God created all without the slightest assistance. People neglect this basic truth, instead fabricating gilded idols. They forget God's power over even the mightiest earthly powers, whom He can destroy just as He made them. Contemplating the heavens God created can return people to Him.

Condolenses

The Carnegie Shul is sad to report two recent deaths among our Shul family.

Frances Anita Schiffman, the sister of member Carl (Roni) Schiffman passed away on July 14. Frances was the daughter of the late Samuel Schiffman and Ruth Rosenberg Schiffman. She is survived by her brothers Carl (Roni) and Frank (Adina) and many nieces and nephews.

Lois "Libby" Ash Metlika, who has been associated with our Shul for many years, passed away on July 20. Lois is predeceased by her parents William and Sadie Ash, her sisters, Esther, Ruth, Rebecca, Sarah and her brother Emanuel. She is survived by her children, Mark (Fran), Brian (Cindy), Jodi (Ira) and Andrea, her 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and her brother, Irv.

May their memories be for a blessing and may God console their Loved ones among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Yahrtzeits

This week the Carnegie Shul acknowledges the yahrtzeits of:

Laura Mae Elikan
Ida Match

Kerry Joel Perlman
Pearl Miller

May their memories be for a blessing.

