



July 21, 2018

ט אב תשע"ח

***Parashat Devarim* – Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22 דברים**

Stone – p 938

Hertz – p 736

Etz Hayim – p 981

***Haftarah* – Isaiah 1:1-27 ישיעוהו**

(3rd of The Three Weeks)

Stone – p 1195

Hertz – p 750

Etz Hayim – p 1000

” Sweet Treats” kiddush is provided by:
the Frohman, Chervitz and Weinberg families
in honor of the birthdays of
Arlene Fox, Jerry Chervitz and Mel & Bettina Weinberg

***Talmud Class*—6:00 PM**

***Minchah* – 7:15 PM**

Seudah Sh'lishit

***Shabbat Ends* – 9:08 PM**

TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

Rabbi Seth D Gordon – Rabbi.Gordon@yahoo.com Rabbi Ephraim Zimand z"l, Emeritus
Marian S. Gordon, Executive Director – tradcong@sbcglobal.net

DAILY SERVICE TIMES

Friday—7:00 AM & 6:30 PM Shabbat—9:00 AM & 7:15 PM Sunday—8:30 AM
Monday—Thursday 7:00 AM & 6:45 PM

Board of Directors:

Elaine Farkas, President; Paul Tesser Executive VP; Ellis Frohman, Financial VP;
Marty Levy, Ritual VP; Florence Schachter, Education VP;
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Members at Large: Shelah Feldman; Bill Gold; Ari Levy; Carol Max; Steven Puro
Dina Rinder; Iris Salsman; Jerry Tullman; Jeff Weisman; Justin Zeid

*Traditional Congregation welcomes new members. If someone you know
would like to receive membership information, please contact Marian Gordon, 314-576-5230*

On This Week's Torah Portion—Devarim

The opening words of this week's *sedra*, which announces the last *sefer* in *Chumash*, also referred to as *Sefer Mishneh Torah* (The Book of Review), are "*eileh hadevarim*." "These are the words that Moses spoke to all of Israel on the other side of the Jordan..." For once, there is no letter "vav" ('and') attached to the beginning of the first word, by contrast with the opening words of the previous three books of the Pentateuch. This indicates that Devarim "is not tied to the past, although the past nonetheless belongs to it." (See the *Kol HaTorah* of Rabbi Elie Munk.)

In a real sense, *Sefer Devarim*, while representing a recapitulation of earlier experiences with Moshe and B'nai Yisrael, charts new territory. It is Moshe speaking frankly to the people about what they saw and experienced in the past, and what they will need to do and become in order to successfully enter into and take possession of the Promised Land. Moreover, there is a sign of Moshe's mature leadership in that he can now speak freely and confidently to the people of their time together. The same Moshe who, when first approached by God to lead the people out of Egypt and who responded by saying, "*lo ish devarim anokhi*"; the same Moshe who stammered and was tongue-tied and slow to speak, now freely, lovingly, unabashedly and emphatically shares his ethical will with the people he has led for what was nearing forty years.

I can recall when I was studying for the rabbinate with practical courses such as homiletics, that my teacher complimented me on a *drasha* outline but noted the absence of any kind of personal story or anecdote to better illustrate my major sermon theme. He offered with this a general lament of the situation of a young would-be rabbi who, while ostensibly possessing good *yediot* and "*sefer smarts*," suffers from a lack of life experience and real interactions upon which to draw to make a point while teaching or preaching.

It would not be long before those anecdotes and stories would cascade into my life when I assumed my first pulpit. They were stories of real events in the field that made one laugh and cry, sometimes even at the same time. I say this not as a negative statement on those early years of rabbinic leadership but as an observation of a lesser-known or -appreciated phenomenon in communal leadership. Indeed, so many of the career self-help books focus on managing one's stakeholders and the requisite qualities of an effective leader, and glaringly ignore an emphasis on developing an awareness of the fast and many events that occur around and accrue to the leader.

These real life stories and experiences give color and quality to one's leadership. They introduce and sustain the human dynamic that of necessity stands at the center of religious leadership. I look back now, after twenty-five years in the rabbinate, to the various human events that have added texture to the texts and messages I have endeavored to share with those I am blessed to lead and teach. My message, like Moshe's in his twilight period, is all the more enhanced by the sights and sounds I have seen and heard along the way. We move from reluctant speakers to able communicators. It is a process for which we should not deny development or the test of time. Eventually the words will come to us and when it happens, it will have been worth the wait.

Shabbat Shalom!

Rabbi Lawrence S. Zierler

(as posted on UTJ.org)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tisha B'Av

Shabbat, July 21: 7:15 PM *Minchah*; 7:45 PM *Seudah Sh'lishit*; 8:55 PM *Arvit*;
9:15 PM Chanting of *Eichah*

Sunday, July 22: 8:30 AM *Shacharit* (without *tallit & tefillin*); 7:15 *Minchah/Arvit with tallit & tefillin*
Fast ends 8:22 PM (sunset); 8:54 PM (3 stars)

Sunday, July 29 "An Afternoon of Jewish Song" with Meshorerim and the Shir Ami Singers, 2:30-4:00 PM at Central Reform Congregation. No charge, donations to benefit JCRC's support of The International Institute's programs for refugees and new Americans.

Wednesday, Aug 1 **Schmooze & Games and Rap with Rabbi**, 7:00 PM. Join us for a fun and relaxing evening of chess, Scrabble, bridge, mahj, etc. Have a burning question you'd like to ask Rabbi Gordon? He'll be there with answers or just to chat. No charge, light refreshments provided. For more info: dinarinder@icloud.com

Please support our Capital Campaign!! Please give generously and help us pave the way to our future!!

We're looking for...YOU—to sponsor a Kiddush! Call Marian, 314-576-5230 to reserve your date. Not ready to sponsor but would like to contribute to offset our Kiddush costs? It's easy —mail your donation to Traditional (note: Kiddush Fund in memo) or donate online at <https://www.traditional-congregation.org/donate> and select Kiddush Fund Donation. **July 28 and August 4 are available.** Thank you!

PRAYER

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, May my right hand forget its cunning.

May my tongue cleave to my mouth, if I remember you not, If I set not Jerusalem above my greatest joy.

God will arise and have compassion upon Zion, For it is time to be gracious unto her.

God builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the dispersed of Israel.

He will make her wilderness like Eden, And her desert like the garden of God.

Joy and gladness shall be found therein, Thanksgiving and the voice of melody.

The ransomed of God shall return, And come singing unto Zion.

They shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof.

They shall abide in peaceful habitations, In safe dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

Zion shall be redeemed through justice, And they that dwell there through integrity.

Then shall Zion be saved, And Jerusalem shall dwell in safety.

For out of Zion shall go forth Torah, And the word of God from Jerusalem.

Biblical Verses

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

Every generation thinks its problems are unique and potentially fatal. And yet every generation has survived to the next.

Carl Sagan