

the SHABBAT Talk

MAKE A NOTE OF IT

Shabbat 25th February
 Ben Sanders' Bar Mitzvah

Wednesday 7 March
 Purim Megilla Reading and Party 6:30pm

Thursday 8 March
 Purim Shacharit and Megilla Reading and Party 7:00am and Kosher English Breakfast

There is No Cheder this week

PARSHAT "MISHPOTIM"
 25 SHEVAT 5772 - 18 FEBRUARY 2012
 FRIDAY EVENING: 7:00PM - SHABBAT MORNING: 9:00AM
 SHABBAT MEVARCHIM ADAR * PARSHAT SHEKALIM

THIS WEEKS' SEDRAH

Soncino Chumash: p445 Hertz Chumash: p288 Living Torah: p344 ArtScroll: p394 Shekalim

Soncino Chumash: p540 Hertz Chumash: p352 Living Torah: p440 ArtScroll:p484 Haftarah:

Soncino Chumash: p1191 Hertz Chumash: p992 Living Torah: p1271 ArtScroll: p1212

Mishpotim: This week's Torah reading lists many of the damage and interpersonal laws. Some of the laws given are those concerning manslaughter and murder, kidnapping and stealing, injuring or cursing a parent, personal injury or damages, and killing or injuring slaves. The nation are also given laws concerning animals, damage by grazing, or by fire, the laws of custodians, and money lending. Other laws include those dealing with a man who seduces a woman, occult practices, and idolatry. We are commanded not to oppress widows or orphans and are obligated to lend money to the poor. We must accept the authority of the judges, bring the first of our produce and animals to G-d, and not pervert the system of justice. We



are instructed to return lost objects and help unload an animal that is unable to carry its burden. We are given the laws of Sh'mita, when we let the land lie fallow every seventh year. We are instructed not to oppress converts, and are told the laws of Shabbat and the three agricultural festivals. G-d tells us that He will send an angel before us to lead us into Israel, and warns us of the dangers and temptations that will face us once we enter the land. G-d promises to bless us and our children, and to help us conquer the Land of Israel.

Moshe relates all of these laws to the rest of the nation, and they unconditionally accept them. Moshe and the people offer sacrifices as a sign that they have entered into a covenant with G-d to accept the Torah.

The Parsha ends with the conclusion of the Receiving of the Torah. G-d calls Moshe to ascend Mount Sinai. The nation watch as he ascends into the clouds and smoke which cover the mountain top. Moshe remains there for forty days and nights.

Shabbat Shekalim

Ancient Half-Shekel -Phoenicia, Tyre. Year 40 (87/86 BCE). AR Didrachm or Half-Shekel

Resh Lakish said "On the first of Adar, an announcement is made concerning the Shekalim." (Tractate Megillah) The first of the Four Special Shabbatot is **Shabbat Parshat Shekalim**. It occurs either on the last Shabbat of the month of Shevat, or on the Shabbat which in that year coincides with Rosh Chodesh Adar, or on a Shabbat early in Adar. A special reading, taken from Parshat Ki-Tissah (Shemot 30:11-16) is



Shabbat Times

Shabbat Begins:

5:04 p.m.

Shabbat Ends:

6:08 p.m.

Next Week:

Shabbat Begins: 5:17 p.m.

Shabbat Ends: 6:20 p.m.

appended to the regular Torah reading. The reading describes a census of the Jewish People which was taken while the Jews were in the Wilderness, after their Exodus from Egypt. The Torah, here and in other places, teaches that it is forbidden to count Jews in the ordinary manner; rather, the People should be called upon to contribute items, which would then be counted. In the case of this census, the item which was contributed, by rich and poor alike, was a half shekel, the "shekel" being the coin in use at the time, roughly equivalent to our Fifty Pence piece. The collected shekels, or "shekalim, in Hebrew, were then used for the construction and upkeep of the Mishkan, the portable Temple, which was used until the Temple found its permanent residence (despite its destruction twice, the place retains its holiness) in Jerusalem.

The equal participation of all the People symbolises that all Jews must share in achieving national goals, by giving up his selfish, personal interests for the sake of the nation. One who does so gains infinite benefit, because the mission of Israel is dependent upon the unity of the whole.

This week's Haftarah read in conjunction with Parshas Sh'kalim, deals with the collection of funds for the Bais Hamikdash. Before King Yehoash's reign, the Bais Hamikdash was seriously neglected and much repair work was necessary to restore it to its original splendor. When the righteous King Yehoash came into power, he immediately instructed the kohanim to collect the necessary funds. After their unsuccessful attempt in achieving this goal he personally spearheaded the collection and received an overwhelming response.

Jewish Law in Society Today by Rabbi Berel Wein

Jewish civil law is a most complicated subject. The subjects that are most discussed, argued over and analysed in Talmudic and rabbinic literature concern themselves with Jewish civil law – torts, contracts, evidence, real estate, inheritance, civil procedure, etc.

Almost every Jewish child will cut his first tooth in Talmudic studies in matters related to Jewish civil law. As important as observance and knowledge of ritual is in Jewish life and continuity, it is the understanding of Jewish civil law that forms the basic structure of the value system and lifestyle of Judaism. Therefore there is a strong admonition that Jews should not allow themselves to judge their civil disputes in non-Jewish courts or on the basis of non-Jewish law and ordinances.

It is not the laws alone that may differ – it is the moral underpinning of the legal decisions that are different. People are naturally very zealous about protecting their property rights. But seen in isolation from a general moral code of behaviour and its important relationship to the welfare of the society as a whole, the primacy of property rights alone can destroy a nation and its society.

Jewish civil law is predicated on the idea that there must always be a balance between the welfare of society generally and the property rights of the individual personally. All of Jewish civil law and its attendant values attempt to strike this balance in a fair and practical manner. This is the skeleton of understanding that lies beneath the surface of all the detailed decisions and opinions that form Jewish Talmudic and rabbinic legal decisions.

The Torah provides the necessary wiggle room to decide exceptional cases and disputes on a more moral and correct basis than the strict interpretation of the law itself would indicate. This concept is called "lifnim meshurat hadin" – an almost extra-legal mechanism that goes "beyond the measure of the law itself" and empowers the Jewish court to decide matters with ultimate justice without being restricted by the pure letter of the law itself.

Naturally, such an extraordinary legal mechanism can only be used sparingly and most wisely, for otherwise it presages the destruction of the entire stability of the law and the legal system of Judaism itself. Nevertheless, the existence of such a mechanism itself is testimony to the balance and general considerations of society that are required in Jewish judicial decisions.

Therefore such difficult decisions regarding the right of governmental eminent domain, the displacement of human workers by advancing new technology and sophisticated money and investment schemes are all part of the scope of Jewish law. Jewish law is equipped to deal with all possible questions and problems of human society.

I think that is what Justice Minister Yaakov Neeman meant when he stated that the basic principles of Israeli law should be based on the principles of Jewish law as derived from the Torah, the Talmud and the millennia-long challenges met by the rabbis of Israel to create a just legal system for the Jewish people. This is inherent in the opening words of this week's parsha: "And these are the laws that you shall place before them" – these laws and not other laws and legal systems.

Something to think about.... Shabbat Shalom



PURIM IN LOUGHTON

Wednesday, 7 March 2012 6:30pm
Purim Megillah Reading, Fancy Dress, Buffet Party
Fun for all the family and your friends too!

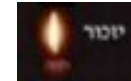
Thursday, 8 March 2012
7:00am - Shacharit (Bring Tefillin)
8:00am - Megillah reading followed by
Kosher English Breakfast £5 p.p.

R.S.V.P. to The Synagogue Office
admin@loughtonsynagogue.com
0208 508 0303

THOSE OBSERVING YAHRZEIT IN THE COMING WEEK:

26 Shevat [19 February] Mr Barry Capal for his mother ה"ע Chayah Sarah bas Binyamin
27 Shevat [20 February] Mr Jack Tancer for his father ה"ע
Mr Phillip Leigh for his father ה"ע Yosef ben Zaylig
29 Shevat [22 February] Mr Barry Capal for his father ה"ע Nachman ben Beryl HaLevi
Mr Nigel Raine for his sister ה"ע Lieba bas Yisrael
30 Shevat [23 February] Mr Michael Dias for his mother ה"ע Rachel bas Yitzchak

PLEASE HELP PERPETUATE AND RESPECT THE MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES BY ENSURING THAT KADDISH IS SAID FOR THEM ON THE APPROPRIATE DATE AND ON THE SHABBAT PRECEDING THE YAHRZEIT.



Children's Service @ Loughton!

on the first Shabbat of each month, there is a children's service on Shabbat Morning
10:30am - 11:30am.
Followed by a sweets kiddush (and Cholent for the adults!)

KIDDIES DAVENING - FUN - GAMES - ACTIVITIES

Mazel Tov!

Rabbi Aronovitz, the Honorary Officers and the Board of Management wish a hearty Mazel Tov to **Deborah & Lewis Jacobs** on the occasion of the birth of their grandson to Douglas and Andrea.

May your grandson be a constant source of simcha and grow up to give you all much nachas.



Join us for an in depth parsha shiur

Every Thursday evening at 8:00pm
Rabbi Aronovitz gives a 45 minute interactive, contemporary and in-depth study on the week's parsha.
3 Alderton Mews
No experience necessary!

Have you visited the new up-to-date website?
www.loughtonsynagogue.com

Save the Date!

On **Sunday 20th May** Loughton Synagogue will be visiting The Holocaust Centre in Laxton. There will be a charge of £22.50 per person (includes coach and entrance fee) Full details on the shul website.



Shiurim Discuss - Learn - Grow @ 8 p.m.

@ Dennis & Shelley Posner 67 Church Lane
Zionism and the rabbis
why were some pro and others anti?
27 February 2012



See you there **BRING A FRIEND**

Security Rota:

FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY AUSTIN POSNER SIMON KLEIN	FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY SIMON KLEIN HARRY REUBEN
SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY DANIEL LADERMAN IAN BERMANGE	SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY IAN BERMANGE EDWARD COHEN

The new format **Shalom Magazine** has proven to be very popular. Once again we are requesting that members contribute articles of Jewish, Zionist or other themes featuring interesting experiences, reflections or trips for the Pesach edition. Please forward your proposed article to: Michael Newman michaelhnewman49@aol.com

This Pesach send a "Chag Sameach" message to the whole community!

Personal Yomtov Greetings £10 - 1/4 page, £25 - 1/2 page and £40 for a full page. Commercial Adverts £25 - 1/2 page and £40 for a full page. Please submit your advert or message to:
Michael Newman michaelhnewman49@aol.com

We need your article/advert by Thursday March 15th to ensure it gets into this edition.