



Traditional Congregation

Affiliated with the
Union for Traditional Judaism
Rabbi Seth D Gordon
Rabbi Ephraim I Zimand, Emeritus

August 13, 2011

יגאב תשע"א

שבת נחמו

Parashat Va-etchanan - Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11 (ואתחנן)

Hertz - p 755

Stone - p 958

Haftarah - Isaiah 40:1-26 (ישיעהו)

Hertz - p 776

Stone - p 1196

Kiddush sponsored by

Liz & David Holden and Lori & Paul Tesser

Special cake provided by Ken & Annabelle Chapel
in honor of their 57th anniversary

Minchah - 6:45 PM

Shabbat Ends - 8:41 PM

On This Week's Torah Portion

ואתחנן

This week's *parasha* includes a repeat of the Decalogue, which was previously read in *parashat Yitro* in the book of Exodus. However, if you compare the two versions, there are several differences that become apparent. The obvious explanation for these differences is that the Exodus version is recording the actual event of Revelation when the Decalogue was given to the Israelites. In this week's *parasha*, it is Moses' retelling of the Revelation almost 40 years later. Even though Moses is 120 years old, we can probably assume that if it was his intention to repeat the Decalogue word for word, he would have been able to do so. Since it is not repeated word for word, what might we learn from these differences?

The major difference between the two versions is regarding the commandment of *Shabbat*. In Exodus, the commandment of *Shabbat* opens with the word *Zachor*, which is usually translated as "remember." In Deuteronomy, the commandment of *Shabbat* opens with the word *Shamor*, which is usually translated as "guard" or "observe." *Zachor* seems to imply that we must acknowledge *Shabbat*, and remember not to treat it

like the other days of the week. The command of *Shamor* would appear to be an instruction to be more proactive. It is not enough just to remember the Sabbath, but we must also be careful to safeguard its precepts.

The more significant difference is the reason that is given for *Shabbat*. In Exodus, the story of creation is given as the reason for *Shabbat*. G-d created the world in six days, and on the seventh day, He rested. Therefore, G-d blessed and sanctified the *Shabbat*. This reason would seem to apply to every nation, not just the Israelites. Perhaps that is why the reason given for *Shabbat* in Deuteronomy is that we should remember we were slaves in Egypt, and G-d took us out of Egypt from slavery to Freedom. This explanation of *Shabbat* would apply only to the Israelites, therefore making *Shabbat* specifically for the Israelites.

As the Israelites were about to enter the Promised Land, Moses wanted to ensure that the Israelites would continue to observe *Shabbat*. While the Exodus was the historical event that founded the Israelite nation, *Shabbat* would ensure that the nation would survive. As Achad Ha'am, an early Zionist thinker stated "More than the Jewish People have kept *Shabbat*, it is *Shabbat* that has kept the Jewish People."

*Shabbat shalom,
Zumi Brody*

Inside the Parashah: V-et'chanan - פרשת ואתחנן

Rabbi Seth D Gordon - Traditional Congregation, Creve Coeur, MO

Aliyah 1

What is Moshe's request? How does Hashem respond?

Having primarily reviewed the past until now, what path is B'nai Yisrael to follow in this **aliyah**?

Aliyah 2

What argument is made in the opening of this **aliyah** as to why B'nai Yisrael should accept Hashem's **mitzvot**?

Of all the **mitzvot** of Sinai, upon which ones does Moshe focus now? Why?

Why does Moshe again speak about Hashem's "anger" at him now?

What ultimately may happen to B'nai Yisrael according to this **aliyah**?

What additional arguments are mustered for B'nai Yisrael to keep Hashem's **mitzvot**?

Aliyah 3

What is the main point of this **aliyah**? What are the important details?

Aliyah 4

How is the Decalogue introduced? How is this introduction different from that in Sh'mot 20? Why?

Compare 5:6-18 here and the Decalogue in Sh'mot 20:1-14. What is exactly the same, what is somewhat different? Why?

Aliyah 5

What is new in this **aliyah**?

Aliyah 6

When are these words (6:4-9) recited more commonly? Why is this paragraph regarded with special esteem? What details are noteworthy?

According to this **aliyah**, what conditions may especially lead B'nai Yisrael to idolatry? According to this **aliyah**, what should B'nai Yisrael do to avoid this sin?

Where is the question in 6:20 also found? How is the answer different here than in that other place?

Aliyah 7

What prohibition is imposed upon B'nai Yisrael in this **aliyah**? What explanations are given? What do you think of the prohibition and the reasons given? How is this different from reasons we might see here today?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Motzei Shabbat, August 13 **Teen Lounge Clean-up & Pizza Party.** We're clearing out rooms for our new, permanent Teen Lounge. Help us move stuff to make way for the new lounge. You supply the muscle power, we'll supply the pizza, snacks and sodas. When the work's done, hang out and play ping pong, etc., etc. Help us out and have a last-blast-before-school-starts great time.

Sunday, August 14 **Traditional Family Values vs. Traditional Tikkunim**, 10:20 AM for the semi-finals in the Intercongregational League. The winner advances to play for the Championship at 12:00 noon. Come out and support our teams!

Wednesday, August 17 **Deadline for receipt of articles, notices, etc. for September Newsletter.** We welcome your contributions to our publication--please submit to Marian at tradcong@sbcglobal.net

Wednesday, August 17 "Facing Arthur," film followed by discussion with Bob Cohn, Jewish Light editor-in-chief emeritus. Award-winning film of the friendship that develops between a Holocaust survivor and a German exchange student. 1:30 PM, Kopolow Building. \$7/person, snacks and drinks will be served. RSVP required by 8/16, 314-442-3720.

Monday, August 29 **"The Making of a Leader," Lunch & Learn with Esther Zimand.** 11:30 AM at Traditional, \$10/person, RSVP to Cyndee Levy @ CAJE, 314-442-3754. Please bring a Tanach.

Tuesday, August 30 **"Get Thee a Master"** with Rabbi Ephraim Zimand. 7:00 PM at Traditional, \$10/person, RSVP to Cyndee Levy @ CAJE, 314-442-3754.

Wednesday, August 31 **Last day to be included in our 5772 Rosh Hashanah Greetings**, please submit your name and contribution by 8/31.

Thursday, September 1 **Last day to receive 10% discount on lulav & etrog for Sukkot.** Paid orders must be received by 9/1 to qualify for the discount, other orders taken until 9/14.

Refuah Sh'leimah to...Janice Pinkus

DAILY SERVICE TIMES

Sunday morning - 9:00 AM

Monday - Friday morning - 7:00 AM

Monday - Friday evening - 6:30 PM

PRAYER

I woke up early today, excited over all I get to do before the clock strikes midnight. I have responsibilities to fulfill today. I am important. My job is to choose what kind of day I am going to have.

Today I can complain because the weather is rainy or I can be thankful that the grass is getting watered for free.

Today I can feel sad that I don't have more money or I can be glad that my finances encourage me to plan my purchases wisely and guide me away from waste.

Today I can grumble about my health or I can rejoice that I am alive.

Today I can lament over all that my parents didn't give me when I was growing up or I can feel grateful that they allowed me to be born.

Today I can cry because roses have thorns or I can celebrate that thorns have roses.

Today I can mourn my lack of friends or I can excitedly embark upon a quest to discover new relationships.

Today I can whine because I have to go to work or I can shout for joy because I have a job to do.

Today I can complain because I have to go to school or eagerly open my mind and fill it with rich new tidbits of knowledge.

Today I can murmur dejectedly because I have to do housework or I can appreciate that I have a place to call home.

Today stretches ahead of me, waiting to be shaped. And here I am, the sculptor who gets to do the shaping.

What today will be like is up to me. I get to choose what kind of day I will have!

Have a GREAT DAY...unless you have other plans.

Just remember, a smile will make the day go better.

Author Unknown

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

Life lived for tomorrow will always be just a day away from being realized.

Leo Buscaglia