

Congregation Etz Chaim



74 Billings Street, Sharon, Massachusetts 02067
www.etzchaimsharon.com
(781) 784-7204

Treasurer: George Monat
Secretary: Janis Monat
Member at Large: Robert Dell
Member at Large: Michael Ferber
Member at Large: Rabbi Chuni Rappoport

Synagogue
Member



Parasha Devarim

July 18, 2026 / 4th Av

"Shabbos Chazon"

Shabbos lik ner 7:59 PM

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest Shema 9:07 AM

Latest Tefilla 10:22 AM

Mincha 8:00 PM

Shabbos ends 9:06/9:28 PM

****Wed, erev Tisha B'Av** fast begins 8:14 p.m.**

****Fast concludes Thursday: 8:53 p.m.**

Shabbos Day at Young Israel

Mincha 8:00 PM

Ma'ariv 9:02 PM

Havdalah 9:07 PM

Weekday at YI

Mincha/Ma'ariv 7:54 PM

Shabbos Day at Chabad

Mincha 7:50 PM

Maariv 9:07 PM

Weekdays at Chabad

Mincha/Maariv 7:55 PM

TORAH LEARNING

Rabbi Hartman's class is **this Sunday**.

Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170 smain

SHMIRAS HALASHON class is **Monday at 9:15 a.m.**

Please contact Janis Monat: jbmonat@aol.com for the link.

DAF YOMI WEEKDAY ZOOM SCHEDULE

Via Zoom: Mon - Th 7:00 pm and Tu & Th 7:30 a.m.

Meeting ID: 822 979 966

Password: 727190

DAF YOMI LIVE SCHEDULE:

Shabbos mornings at shul, 8:00 a.m., one hour before shacharis;

Sunday mornings at shul, 7:00 a.m., one hour before shacharis.

Contact Melvyn Huff

(781) 784-6608) or

melvynhuff@comcast.net for more informati

SHABBOS KIDDUSH

Thank you to Daniel & Freeda Ronkin for sponsoring a special meat cholent and kugel kiddush in memory of Yaakov Yosef Ronkin and his corresponding birthday.

A SIP OF TORAH

Please join Etz Chaim's monthly "**A Sip of Torah**". The title is "**Perspectives for Tisha B'Av**", given by **Reb Yoni Monat** this **Sunday, July 19th**, via Zoom at **2:00 p.m.** Please RSVP to jbmonat@aol.com for link.

RABBI MENDY ROSENFELD

Rabbi Rosenfeld will be giving his Sunday evening parasha talk at 7:00 p.m. It's the same link as last time. If needed please contact Chaim Stramer, Stramer@aol.com.

ETZ CHAIM BOARD MEETING

Our next monthly **board meeting** will be **Sunday, August 9 at 5:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Please RSVP to Janis at jbmonat@aol.com if the **link** is needed.

REFUAH SHELAIMA

Our prayers are for the healing of the wounded soldiers of the IDF, those who have been hurt in terrorist attacks, the Israeli survivors from 10/7/23 **and this Iran/Lebanon/Gaza War**. We pray for the healing of our congregation members: Heidi Goldblatt, Rachel Chana bas Menucha; Robert Dell, Chana Reuven ben Leah; Tzila Pass, Tzila Chava bas Rachel; Marve Rudenstein, Menachem Yitzchak ben Raitza; Burton Cusner, and Janis'sister, Chana Davida bas Rivka Petal, Ann Denise. May they all heal soon and completely!

ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB

We are reading the historical fiction book, **The Teacher of Lost Orphans**, by M.Z. Daskal and the author will be joining us for the book discussion **THIS MONDAY via Zoom, July 20 at 7:00 p.m.** The books were purchased by Larry and Susan Cable **to honor the memory of their daughter, Michelle Cable, Michal Freidal a"h bas Eliezer**, whose yartzeit will be the day of the book talk, **the 6th of Av**. May her memory be for a blessing. Contact Merilee with any thoughts or questions at melmaeir@gmail.com. All are welcome!

THOUGHTS on Devarim 1:1-3:22

By Janis Monat

Devarim means **words**. It also means, "**things**". Words and things are what **we leave behind**. Moshe is facing what he will leave behind as he enters his last month of life. It is the first of Shevat, 37 days before he will pass. In this gift of time, Moshe is reinforcing to the Jewish people the importance of not losing hope when they might feel discouraged. The example he offered was the change of heart their parents had 38 years earlier hearing the scouts' report on the Promised Land's lack of conquerability. Because they gave up the desert journey lasted a total of 40 years with that generation dying out.

Now Moshe is talking to adults who were children at the time or had not yet been born. He reviews the lifechanging moments when gold was donated to create the Golden Calf, the report given by the spies, the assignment of the judges, and the people's rebellions erupting from their fears.

The goal of this powerful revisiting was Moshe's desire for this new generation to inherit the Land by the wisdom learned through the prior generations' challenges. He recounted his message to Yehoshua, who would take the Land and lead them in the battles for its conquest. "Fear them not in these battles, for the L-rd your G-d, shall fight for you", ch. 3:22

I experienced a dose of "**devarim**" – **things (not to) leave behind**" this week when I misplaced my phone for 17 hours. I felt like a part of me was missing. In the morning I woke up and reoriented my thinking with, "Most

of your life you've lived without a cell phone. You can now, also." I took a deep breath and felt more grounded.

Yet I made a list of where I was the day before and phoned the places. On the last attempt I was delighted to hear, "Oh, I was just going to call you!" I picked my cell up at the bank and felt a sigh of relief.

For a brief moment I allowed myself to feel back in time. Courageously I asked myself if I could live like that now. "YES, I COULD" I decided...as I still have a land line...(but don't ask me to go back much further!)

Today's haftarah is known as "Chazon," vision. Yeshayahu saw the destruction of the Holy Temple and warned the Jewish people to do teshuva and change their idolatrous ways or terrible results would follow. G-d's anger was so intense that it could have wiped out the Jewish nation...yet instead it was directed toward the Beis Hamikdash and the Holy Temple was destroyed. The Jewish nation, however, remained.

Rabbi Chaim Palaggi, 1788-1868, in his writing, Nefesh Chayim, asks, "How could G-d burn down the Temple and even dispatch flames from the heavens? Halacha states that we may not demolish even one stone from the altar on pain of lashes... How did G-d justify the destruction of the Temple?"

Maimonides points out in Mishne Torah, "One who demolishes a single stone from the altar.....in a destructive manner should be lashed."

The key is in the words, "destructive manner". In the writing, **Megillah**, by Rabbi Mordechai ben Hillel, 1240-1298, he states, "If one destroys a synagogue for the express purpose of rebuilding it, it is permissible. This is because demolition of this type is a form of building."

The Zohar explains, "A Temple, O G-d, Your hands established". Both the First and Second Temples were intended to be the product of Hashem's hands. But after the B'nai Yisrael children entered the Land the Temple was built by human hands. Therefore, they did not last. King Solomon knew that the work of mortals could not last. In the days of Ezra, when the Second Temple was built, the people sinned again. And that did not last either.

Until today, God's original home has not yet entered the world. Regarding the future it is written in tehillim 147:2, "G-d builds Jerusalem." He will build it and no other.

Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson in Likutei Sichot shares, "This provides a fascinating insight into the destruction of the Temples. The only reason G-d destroyed the Temples was to fulfill His desire for an improved, G-d made, eternal Temple instead of a human-made, temporal temple.

This means that the destruction of the first 2 Temples was for the sole purpose of building a better Temple: The Third Temple, which G-d will build. It follows that what occurred to the first two Temples was not destruction. Instead, it was the first phase of the bigger and better rebuilding project."

The destruction of the old and the building of the new are the same. The first step toward building the New Temple is to clear the space by demolishing the existing Temple.

Wow, what a thought!

Next week we have a shabbos "Nachamu", **comfort**, for the displacement and killing of the Jews by the Babylonians and Romans. Yet we as a Jewish nation survived those centuries of persecution and continue to live and thrive. As we learn from our history what words and things are we holding onto?

May we improve our faith in Hashem in this wonderful G-d given life by hearing Moshe's words: remember history, live wisely and walk faithfully into the future Hashem has prepared for us.

An inspiring shabbat shalom!