



# SHABBAT ZEST

Parshat Eikev 23<sup>rd</sup> Av 5776

Torah Reading / Haftara:

Artscroll – p.980/1197

Living Torah – p.904/1228

## SHABBAT TIMES:

Candle Lighting:  
7:35pm

Kabbalat Shabbat  
Davening: 7:00pm

Pre Shacharit Parsha  
Shiur: 9:00am

Shabbat Morning  
Davening: 9:15am

Mincha: 6pm

Shabbat Ends 8:50pm

NEXT SHABBAT  
RE'EH

CANDLE LIGHTING  
@ 7:35 PM

This week the  
Haftorah will be  
read ...

## Parsha In a Nutshell

Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

In the Parshah of Eikev (“Because”), Moses continues his closing address to the children of Israel, promising them that if they will fulfill the commandments (mitzvot) of the Torah, they will prosper in the Land they are about to conquer and settle in keeping with G-d’s promise to their forefathers.

Moses also rebukes them for their failings in their first generation as a people, recalling their worship of the Golden Calf, the rebellion of Korach, the sin of the spies, their angering of G-d at Taveirah, Massah and Kivrot Hataavah (“The Graves of Lust”). “You have been rebellious against G-d,” he says to them, “since the day I knew you.” But he also speaks of G-d’s forgiveness of their sins, and the Second Tablets which G-d inscribed and gave to them following their repentance.

Their forty years in the desert, says Moses to the people, during which G-d sustained them with daily manna from heaven, was to teach them “that man does not live on bread alone, but by the utterance of G-d’s mouth does man live.”

Moses describes the land they are about to enter as “flowing with milk and honey,” blessed with the “seven kinds” (wheat, barley, grapevines, figs, pomegranates, olive oil and dates), and as the place that is the focus of G-d’s providence of His world. He commands them to destroy the idols of the land’s former masters, and to beware lest they become haughty and begin to believe that “my power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.”

A key passage in our Parshah is the second chapter of the Shema, which repeats the fundamental mitzvot enumerated in the Shema’s first chapter, and describes the rewards of fulfilling G-d’s commandments and the adverse results (famine and exile) of their neglect. It is also the source of the precept of prayer, and includes a reference to the resurrection of the dead in the messianic age.

## Haftorah

Isaiah 40:1-26

This week's Haftorah is the second of a series of seven "Haftorot of Consolation." These seven Haftarot commence on the Shabbat following Tisha b'Av and continue until Rosh Hashanah.

The exiled Jewish people express their concern that G-d has abandoned them. G-d reassures them that it is not so, comparing His love and mercy for His people to that of a mother for her children, and even greater than that, too.

The prophet Isaiah then touchingly describes the ingathering of the exiles which will occur with the Messiah's arrival and returning to the initial subject matter of this Haftorah, that of the Jewish people's complaint of being abandoned by G-d, he reminds them of their rebellious behavior that brought about the exile and suffering. He concludes with encouraging words, reminding us of what had happened to our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah. Just as they were blessed with a child when they had all but given up hope, so too, G-d will send us the Messiah.

Please do not take this sheet to or from shul on Shabbat - Please discard this sheet appropriately as it contains the name of G-d

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**6<sup>th</sup> September - Leslie Kleinman Talk** - Reserve your place now by contacting the office with number of tickets to [admin@loughtonsynagogue.com](mailto:admin@loughtonsynagogue.com). £5 donation per ticket.

**27<sup>th</sup> September - Rabbi Dr Rafi Zarum Talk** - Reserve your place by contacting the office with number of tickets to [admin@loughtonsynagogue.com](mailto:admin@loughtonsynagogue.com). £5 donation per ticket.

**30th October – Quiz Night** - Prices TBC. Reserve Seats/Tables with the Office now.

**12th November - Shabbat UK.** Do not miss out!!! This is an extremely popular event so book fast!!! Reserve Seats/Tables with the Office now.

**29th January 2017** - The return of Shir. The fabulous klezmer band are coming back for an encore. Reserve Tickets with the Office now.

## Recurring Events

**Cheder Closed – Resumes 4<sup>th</sup> September**

**Yahrzeits for the coming week 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Av:**

**25. Carol Segal – Father**

**26. Beverly Reuben – Mother**

**26. Blanche Shaw – Husband**

**26. Phillip & Warren Shaw – Father**

**26. Warren Shaw – Wife**

**27. Gwen Bradman – Father**

# A Little Deeper – G-d As Our Loving Father

A famous Jewish phrase appears in this week's portion, "As a father chastises his son, so G-d chastises us" (Deut. 8:5). The idea of G-d as our "Father in Heaven" is one that we Jews shared with the world.

It was once pointed out to me that G-d is a Father in Heaven, not a grandfather in Heaven. Grandparents come bearing gifts and are happy to look after their grandchildren when the going is good. But as soon as the kids get tired or start misbehaving, they hand them back to the parents to sort out. Grandparents love their grandchildren, but do not take the same degree of responsibility as parents do.

And that's no small difference.

Taking responsibility for someone's success and happiness is consistent with the greatest levels of love. Marriage, in theory, is an example; we take responsibility for another person's happiness. If my wife is not happy, it's my problem just as much as it is hers. As a great rabbi once said when visiting the doctor with his wife, "My wife's foot is hurting us." The greatest level of love requires us to commit to the other person such that his pain is our pain and his problems are our problems.

Parents most often feel this with their children. Spouses sometimes feel this with each other. It is very difficult for unmarried people to feel this. But G-d? G-d feels this way unequivocally, unconditionally and without exception about each and every one of us - His children.

Judaism tells us that G-d is committed to not only the physical, but also the spiritual, wellbeing of his children. And if spiritual and physical priorities come into conflict, the spiritual will always take priority - because it is more valuable and more permanent. It is for all eternity, long after the body is no longer alive.

G-d is not a grandfather. He doesn't walk away frustrated when we are misbehaving. He stands by us and tries to guide us to a better way of living. His guidance might sometimes require us to endure hardship, but it is always done out of love. Parents sometimes put their children through painful experiences, it may be a medical operation, it may be a simple tooth extraction, it may be letting our child make a terrible mistake so that they learn not to repeat it in the future. All of these things will inevitably result in the child undergoing some form of pain, but from the parents' perspective it is being done out of love.

G-d too, always does what He does with love. It might not always be so easy to see, but our Father in Heaven guides our lives with a level of love and care that is far greater than even the greatest of parents.

Wishing you all a Good Shabbos