

No matter what kind of Jew you are ...



The Proud Jew ...
*who would like to
be even more proud ...*



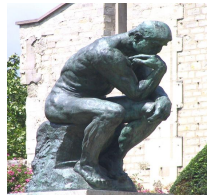
The Skeptical Jew ...
*who's not sure Torah is
really the word of G-d ...*



The Curious Jew ...
*who wonders what being
Jewish really means ...*



The Mystical Jew ...
*who is intrigued by the idea
of Torah prophecies ...*



The Thinking Jew ...
*who likes a good, solid
intellectual challenge ...*



The Hebrew School Jew ...
*who never thought Torah
study could be fun ...*

... this program is for you!

“The Seven Wonders of Jewish History”

Join CTN's Rabbi Moshe Katz for an amazing journey through 3000 years of Jewish history.
Explore seven unique Torah prophecies. And decide whether they've come true.

WHEN Tuesday, June 16, 7 pm

WHERE The CTN Center, 2832 West Touhy, Chicago.

INFO: info@torahnetwork.org or 773.761.0400 x208

REGISTRATION: www.torahnetwork.org/htm/register.htm



Home for the
Wondering Jew.™

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

A WEEKLY PRESENTATION OF JEWISH THOUGHT PUBLISHED IN MEMORY OF RAE DANIEL

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 27 FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2009 / 28 IYAR 5769 CANDLE LIGHTING: 7:50 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 9:01 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: BAMIDBAR (NUMBERS 1:1 - 3:51)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by the CTN Rabbis, expressing heartfelt thanks to the amazing members of the 'Evening of Inspiration' Event Committee, whose hard work and dedication helped make our special evening with Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis, such a tremendous success. Because of you, over 400 Jewish men and women of all backgrounds and levels of observance were treated to a true 'Evening of Inspiration'!

Thank you to Helena Cohen, Bella Feldman, Sue Dimbert, Vivian Finkelstein, Marni Gordon, Laura Greer, Erin Grossman, Devorah Hagggar, Sandy Hasson, Dana Hunter, Rachel Kontorovich, Robin Loeb, Chava Maslin, Amy Rose, Vicki Ross, Debbie Schmikler, Stacy Spielman, Olga Shudra, Amy Turik, Kalilah Chaya Watson and Mindi Zissman. A special thank you to CTN's Program Coordinator, Elisheva Vladimirovskiy for pulling it all together!

1. The Israelites shall camp ... around the Tent of Meeting (containing the Holy Ark) (2:2)

The Jewish People are traveling through the desert. And in the middle – surrounded by the whole nation – is the Torah.

It's a little surprising. We would have expected the Torah to be in a place of honor.

... Up front.

Why in the middle?

... It is a very important message for us.

The Torah was placed in the center. *To remind us that the Torah is directed to each of us.*

That it is not just for the Rabbis. The scholars.

... *It has a lot to say to each and every one of us.*

About our attitudes. Our priorities. And our responsibilities.

Suppose I'm a dentist. And someone asks me how I spend my day.

I could say: *'I take x-rays. Drill teeth. And fill them.'*

... And that may be true. But there's another way of looking at it:

Something like: *'I help people feel better about themselves.*

Help them enjoy their food. And improve their smiles.'

Either way I'm doing the same thing.

... But in one, it's just a way to earn a living.

In the other, my everyday life is connected to Torah values.

Of helping people. Relieving their pain. And improving their quality of life.

... And it's true no matter how we spend our day.

Lawyer. Doctor. Businessman. And parent.

... The Torah presents each of us with a challenge.

To elevate what we are doing.

And to elevate ourselves.

- *There was a legendary doctor in Jerusalem. Known for his special acts of kindness. Taking care of the poor free of charge. And treating each of his patients with amazing respect and dignity.*

Once a leading Rabbi came to see him. After a wait of almost an hour he was called into the doctor.

"Rabbi, I feel terrible that you had to wait. Your time is so precious. You spend your whole day teaching Torah.

I would have asked the woman ahead of you if I could see you first. I knew that you would only take a few minutes.

But Rabbi, that patient is very poor. She can't pay for her medical care.

... And I didn't want her to think that I was treating her any differently than my other patients."

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"A number of years ago, I prayed at the Western Wall ... I thought that my prayer was pretty good. Then I saw a blind man being led to the Wall. I watched as he touched the rippled stone with his hands ... He gently bestowed a kiss upon the Wall and began his prayer.

It was not a psalm, not a hymn, and not anything of the established liturgy. It was an intimate communication.

I watched and listened as he spoke informally to G-d, relating things that had happened, and asking G-d to bestow true peace upon mankind.

At one point he stopped abruptly and said: "Oh, I am sorry. I already told You about that yesterday." And then he continued on.

I then reflected that I had not even begun to pray."

Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski, MD

THE KIND OF TORAH STUDY YOU WISH THEY HAD BACK IN HEBREW SCHOOL!

Wednesday Evenings, 8:15 pm, at the CTN Center:



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words
come to
life!

Growth. Spirituality. Insight. And tradition. All in one amazing hour of Torah Study.

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Shabbat Shalom and have a wonderful week.

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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