

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

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To:

Please help spread the word about this great CTN YJP event.

CTN YJP presents:

A Taste of Talmud

Join Rabbi Moshe Katz for a hands-on, dynamic, and interactive study of a section of the Talmud. You will have a chance to discover for yourself how a few lines of the Talmud can shed light on such diverse topics as spiritual and ethical growth, relationships, animal rights, and more.

We'll do what Jews have done for 1500 years: we'll go to the source and see for ourselves how the Talmud has always been the Jewish source of law, ethics, and self-improvement. This will be a unique learning experience and will not be one of those *"sit back and listen to what some scholar wants to say to you"* lectures.

Don't miss this special opportunity!



Monday, April 26, 2010

Refreshments 7:00 p.m.
Taste of Talmud 7:30 p.m.

The Pearson Condominium Hospitality Room (37th floor)
250 E. Pearson, Chicago, IL 60611
Take lobby elevator to the 36th floor, then take the other elevator to the 37th floor

Registration: www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm
For more information email info@torahnetwork.org or call 773.761.0400 x201



Home for the
Wondering Jew™

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

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

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 24 FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2010 / 25 NISSAN 5770 CANDLE LIGHTING: 7:04 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 8:15 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: SH'MINI (LEVITICUS 9:1 - 11:47)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by Jerry & Chumie Latinik, in honor of Chicago Torah Network and all the Jewish knowledge and inspiration it brings to so many people.

1. On the eighth day, Moshe called to the Children of Israel ... for today, G-d will appear to you (9:1-4)

The first Jewish Temple is being dedicated.

Moshe prepares for seven days. And then it's dedicated.

On the eighth day.

In Jewish tradition, certain numbers have special significance.

Take seven for example. It's a pretty famous 'Jewish number'. Found in many Jewish rituals.

... The number eight also shows up a lot. It's also a 'big Jewish number'.

Circumcision is on the eighth day. Chanukah is eight days.

And here at the dedication of the Temple. It's on the eighth day.

Jewish tradition says that this teaches us a very important – and very Jewish – idea.

Seven represents everything that exists. The whole universe. It's 'seven'.

Because G-d created the world in six days. And rested on the seventh.

So seven has to do with the idea of the complete picture. Of *everything* that G-d created.

Eight? It's all that, plus.

Think of an octave in music.

How you go through the notes, and then you're back at the note where you started.

But it's on a higher level.

... And that's the Jewish idea of eight. And the Jewish approach to life.

Live in this world. Take advantage of what it has to offer. G-d put it there for you. The physical world and its pleasures.

Use it. Enjoy it. That's why it's there.

... Live the whole 'seven'.

But do it on a higher level.

How? By adding holiness into everything we do.

So for example: Are you enjoying a delicious meal?

Great!

Don't forget to recite a blessing first.

Let the food bring you closer to G-d.

You have a beautiful home? Wonderful! Enjoy it!

... Make sure to bring guests into it. To always share what you have.

Live on the level of eight!

... You'll elevate everything you have.

And you'll elevate yourself.

▪ *A Rabbi was about to give an informal class on Jewish ethics and values to his students.*

The group met in his office. And as the students walked in carrying their chairs, he told them the following:

"... When you bring in a chair for yourself, what are you?

A 'shlepper'. A guy carrying something from one place to another.

... But what about, if each of you would bring in a chair for someone else?

It's the same amount of effort. And each of you still ends up with a chair.

But now, you're doing a chessed. An act of kindness."

... It's an interesting thought.

How sometimes we can take a 'simple' act.

And make it something special.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

There's something about *holy places* that we can all relate to.

... Think of the Western Wall. Or a Synagogue.

How when we're there, it's almost second nature to be a little more careful about what we do.

... What we say. And even what we think.

Well that should give us something to think about next time we're tempted to do something wrong.

... Say for example we're about to say something not nice about someone.

A little juicy bit of *lashon hara*. Gossip and slander.

In the Torah's way of looking at things, everywhere we are – our home, our office – is supposed to be holy.

Because we are supposed to be holy.

... Which means that before we speak, there's a question we can ask ourselves:

"Would I say that at the Western Wall?"



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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