



The sorts of tidbits

my father, Rav Meir Zlotowitz zt"l, made sure his family was up to date on from the mundane, to the profound, to the 'thanks for reminding me!'



Parashas Mattos - Masei 5783 July 14th • 25 Tamuz

Shabbos Mevarchim

This week is Shabbos Mevorchim Chodesh Av. Rosh Chodesh is on Wednesday, July 19th. The molad is Tuesday early morning 4:20 AM and 16 chalakim.

The Nine Days

The Nine Days begin on the evening of Rosh Chodesh Av, Tuesday, July 18th at shekiya. The restrictions of the Three Weeks remain in effect as well (see Tidbits on Parashas Pinchas - The Three weeks). The following are restricted:

Consuming Meat and Wine. Eating meat or chicken is prohibited. Wine is prohibited, however, alcoholic beverages not from grapes are permitted. There are no restrictions on Shabbos or at a Seudas Mitzvah. There is room for leniency for health reasons. A children above the age of 3 should preferably not be fed meat unless the child refuses other foods. One who customarily uses wine for Havdalah may drink the wine. However, many have the minhag to give it to a boy who is a minor of chinuch age 6 or 7 (but preferably a child who does not understand the concept of mourning). There are those who use beer instead.

Purchasing Clothing and Expensive Items. The prohibition includes all types of clothing. There is room for leniency for newborns and young children, an uncommon sale, an item that will be unavailable after Tishah B'Av, exchanging an item for a similar item and footwear for Tishah B'av.

Fashioning & Alterations of New Garments.

Laundering and Dry Cleaning. There is room for leniency for: young children, spot cleaning, laundering to prevent permanent stains, laundry needed for a mitzvah, picking up previously cleaned clothes from dry cleaners, washing cloths used for cleaning, ironing Shabbos clothes and tablecloths.

Wearing New or Freshly Laundered Clothes and Linen. One should briefly wear freshly laundered clothing and briefly utilize any fresh towels or linen before the Nine Days to remove its freshness. A newly arrived guest may use fresh linens.

Home Decorating and Moving.

Swimming and Showering. Washing hands, face and feet with cool water is permissible. The purpose of the prohibition is to feel some level of discomfort and should not be regarded lightly. Nevertheless, if one feels very uncomfortable or is very sensitive then one may take a quick cool shower. Soap should be used only if necessary. There is a dispute among the Poskim if one may take a regular shower on Erev Shabbos.

Wearing Shabbos Clothing on a Weekday. There may be room for leniency for select baalei simchah in the case of a Bris, Pidyon Haben or Bar Mitzvah, as well as for a date or an engagement party. Brand new clothes however, may not be worn.

Dangerous Activities. One should be extra careful not to engage in hazardous activities during this period as it is an inauspicious time.

Many Sefardim observe these restrictions only during the week in which Tisha B'av falls.

Reminders

The haftarah for Parashas Masei is read. This haftarah is the second in the series of the Shalosh D'Puranusa (the Three Haftarahs of Chastisement).

The prevalent minhag is to wait until Motza'ei Tisha B'av to recite Kiddush Levana. The first opportunity for Kiddush Levana is Thursday night, July 20th at 9:59 PM EDT. The final opportunity is Monday night, July 31st.

Pirkei Avos: Chapter 1.

Daf Yomi - Friday: Bavli: Gittin 59 • Yerushalmi: Demai 69 • Mishnah Yomis: Succah 4:6-7.

Make sure to call your parents, in-laws, grandparents and Rabbi to wish them a good Shabbos. If you didn't speak to your kids today, make sure to connect with them as well!

Next on the Calendar

The Nine Days begin this Tuesd. evening, July 18th. Tisha B'av begins Wednesday evening, July 26th. Shabbos Nachamu is Parashas Va'eschanan, July 29th.

Parshah in a Paragraph

Mattos: The laws of vows • Attacking Midian, including their women • Purifying the spoils of war • Laws of Hagalah and Tevilah • Division of the spoils between hekdesh, the soldiers and the nation • Bnei Gad and Bnei Reuven request to settle the land across the Jordan River • Moshe is angered at first • Moshe accepts their proposition on the condition that they first assist the rest of the Nation in conquering the entire land.

Masei: The journeys through the desert are listed • Instructions for conquering and occupying the land • The Land's borders • Yehoshua, Elazar and the Nesiim are named as leaders • Cities for the Leviim and the Migrash surrounding them • Ir Miklat • Bnos Tzelafchad • To keep the integrity of the tribes' initial borders, women who inherit ancestral land must marry within their tribe • Chazak Chazak V'nischazeik!

Haftarah: The haftarah for Parashas Masei is read. Yirmiyah (2:4-28, [3:4, 4:1-2]) chastises the

nation for abandoning Hashem despite all the material good they were given and the spiritual opportunities He has provided.

613 Taryag Weekly

Mattos: 112 Pesukim • 1 Obligation • 1 Prohibition
1) Abide by the laws of vows and their annulment.
2) Do not violate a vow.

Masei: 132 Pesukim • 2 Obligations • 4 Prohibitions
1) Provide dwellings for Kohanim and Leviim in Eretz Yisrael. 2) Do not kill a murderer without a trial in Beis Din. 3) Exile an accidental killer. 4) A witness may only state testimony and not his legal opinion. 5-6) Do not substitute the punishment for a murderer or an accidental killer.

Mitzvah Highlight: The power of a neder is to prohibit items as if they are holy like a korban. Thus, one who violates the neder is stating that he does not believe in the holiness of korbanos (Sefer HaChinuch).

For the Shabbos Table

כי הדם הוא יתגיר את הארץ

For the blood will bring guilt upon the land (Bamidbar 35:33)

In condemning acts of murder the Torah describes it as "chanifa" - flattering of the land. In what sense is murder considered to be flattery?

Rav Moshe Feinstein zt"l explains that although murder is considered immoral by every nation, this is not in all instances. Especially in more recent times, the tolerance for assisted suicide, unrestricted late-term abortion, etc. demonstrate that the difficulty they associate with murder is merely the threat it poses to society. Following this thought process, when other factors are considered and depict murder as being better for society, killing becomes acceptable. The Torah however values life itself, in any form, and we violate almost any mitzvah even to save the life of an elderly person, etc.. The Torah describes these acts of murder as pandering to the land and to society instead of recognizing the value of each moment of the life of a Jew.

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זמנים לשבת



Parshas Matos/Masei | July 14-15

	ר"ת	שקיעה שבת	סקש גר"א שבת	סקש מ"א שבת	שקיעה Friday Night	הדלקה עש"ק	פגמנה עש"ק
Atlanta	10:00	8:48	10:10	9:26	8:49	8:31	7:20
Baltimore	9:44	8:32	9:32	8:42	8:32	8:14	7:00
Boston	9:31	8:19	9:05	8:10	8:19	8:01	6:46
Catskills	9:43	8:31	9:20	8:26	8:32	8:14	6:58
Chicago	9:36	8:24	9:12	8:18	8:24	8:04	6:51
Cleveland	10:11	8:59	9:49	8:55	8:59	8:41	7:26
Detroit	10:19	9:07	9:53	8:58	9:07	8:49	7:34
Lakewood	9:37	8:25	9:21	8:30	8:5	8:07	6:53
Los Angeles	9:16	8:04	9:25	8:41	8:05	7:47	6:36
Miami	9:26	8:14	10:02	9:23	8:14	7:56	6:49
Monsey	9:39	8:27	9:19	8:26	8:28	8:10	6:55
Montreal	9:52	8:40	9:10	8:08	8:40	8:22	7:04
New York	9:38	8:26	9:19	8:27	8:26	8:08	6:53
Orlando	9:36	8:24	10:04	9:24	8:25	8:07	6:59
Passaic	9:38	8:26	9:19	8:26	8:27	8:09	6:54
Philadelphia	9:40	8:28	9:25	8:34	8:28	8:10	6:56
Toronto	10:09	8:57	9:36	8:39	8:57	8:39	7:22
Yerushalayim	9:02	7:45	9:14	8:31	7:45	7:11	6:18

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