

Class for Cheshvan – Lesson 1

Back to Reality

A month of absolutely no holidays comes after a month full of amazing holidays and celebrations, reconnecting with our community and our Source during the Jewish new year in Tishrei. It sometimes feels like we were on vacation for a month and now we have to come back to our mundane lives and face “reality”. It can be a real let down.

Scorpio – deeper reality

In the month of Scorpio, we’re being asked to look deep within and behind the outer surface of our day-to-day. It’s a time when the energy has us recommitting to the plan we had during the High Holy Days – to make this world a better place through our own effort. The individual lives that we have and the people who we interact with is the very place where we do the work of repairing the world.



Read Beginning of Torah – the plan

We begin reading the Torah from the opening lines of the Creation of the world during the month of Cheshvan. This seems to me to give us a reminder of why this world was created. What’s fascinating about the first stories of the Bible is that they lay out the plan of the roles that the different nations have for making this world a better place. We are given a family photo-album of sorts to uncover what each individual’s genealogy is and what their purpose is in bringing the Geula and Moshiach.

Noah – Shem, Ham, Japheth & the land

We all are children of Noah. We are descendants from one family but each member of that family went down a different path. In the Stone edition of the Torah, <https://www.amazon.com/Tanach-Stone-Student-Hebrew-English/dp/1578191122>, they give the genealogies from Adam to Abraham. Noah’s children divided into different tribes and we can see that Abraham’s descendants came through Noah’s son, “Shem” which is where we get the term,

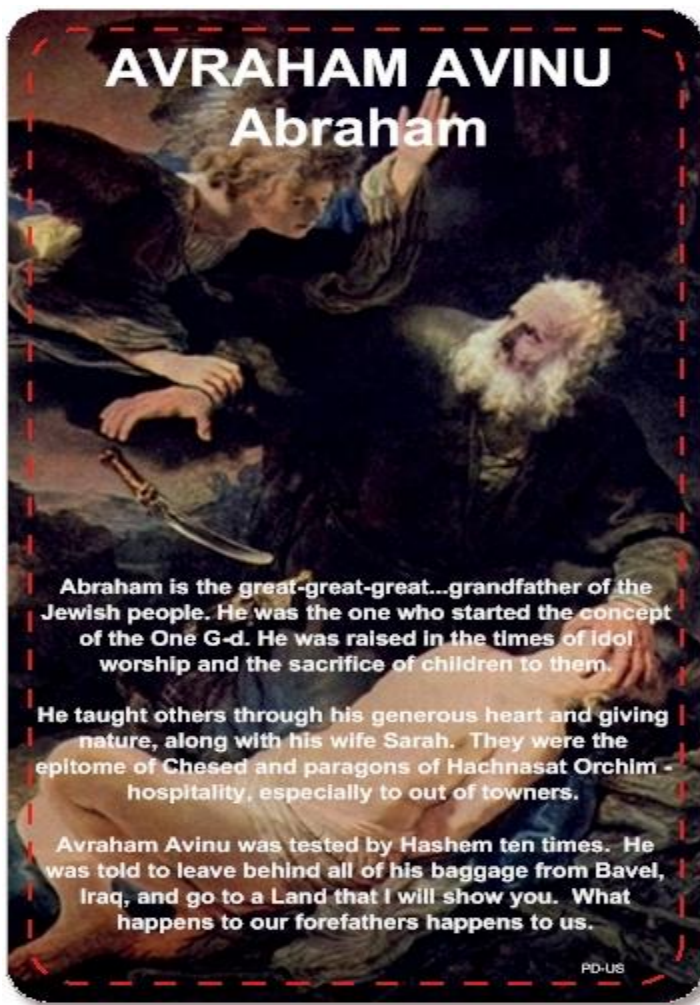
“Semites”. And what is spelled out many times is the promise that was given to Abraham about the land and which blood line out of all of his sons will inherit the land. Check out the PDF attached to this course called, “Family of Man”.

Abraham – Ishmael & Isaac, Jacob & Esau

We are told that Abraham’s first son, Ishmael will be an ass of a man who will go against the other brothers and that his progeny will be numerous and will become the Arab nations we know of today. His son Isaac will be the father of the Israelites through his son, Jacob and will become slaves but will one day inherit the land of Canaan_– which is occupied by the other son of Noah, named Canaan who goes down the wrong path. Lastly, we get a glimpse of what is to later become the nation of Rome (present-day Christians) – from the descendants of Jacob’s twin, Esau_.

Noah = physical, Abraham thru Jacob = spiritual

So, the plot is laid out for us to remember during Cheshvan what our own purpose is among the family of man_ Just like we all are able to access both the spiritual and the physical, specifically the sons of Noah are given the task of making the physical world habitable, civilized and welcoming to spirit. In contrast, the children of Abraham following the line of Jacob, are singled out for the spiritual task of bringing the awareness of the Divine into the world.



Assignment: Write down your new year’s intentions and begin taking a small step forward.

There is a video class attached below: It is an overview of my class on Cheshvan.

