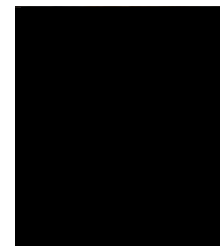




Jews have always been a community drawn together by virtue of Torah. No matter where you may be, we welcome you to the Ziegler community through Today's Torah e-mail.

Shabbat Rosh Hodesh/Shabbat Parashat Re'eh
August 11, 2018 – 30 Av 5778



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It Isn't In My Blood

Torah Reading: Deuteronomy 11:26 - 16:17

Haftarah Reading: Isaiah 66:1 - 24, 23

Maftir: Numbers 28:9-15

As this week's Torah portion opens, Moses continues what is his second speech or sermon to the people, beginning "See, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse." As the Torah continues, Moses appeals to the people to choose a life of blessing, a life in the service of God. The narrative then shifts to the actual laws detailing how we are to live in all facets of life: personal, private, public, legal, social, moral and ritual. Eventually, the portion comes to the recapping of the holidays of the year. But, first the Torah revisits the laws of sacred eating through the commandment of kashrut – which animals can be eaten, which cannot; the parts of an animal that can be eaten and the parts that cannot.

It is in this discussion that we find a reminder of a law that appears no less than half a dozen times in the Torah: a stern warning not to eat blood. This certainly seems logical enough, especially for those who don't identify as vampires. Echoing the prohibition that was first stated to Noah (who, you will remember, wasn't even Jewish), the Torah demands that blood must be spilt on the ground and sometimes it must even be covered by sand.



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