

KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks



Monday, November 9, 2020
22 Mar Cheshvan 5781

5781 began by Areyvut posting infographics of Rabbi Sacks Key Idea of the Week that he developed and highlighted in 5780 via his Covenant & Conversation series. The goal of this effort is to educate, engage, motivate and inspire others every parsha and week of the year.



We were deeply pained to hear that Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks (HaRav Ya'akov Zvi ben David Arie'el z"l) passed away early Shabbat morning, November 7, 2020/20 Mar Cheshvan 5781.

Rabbi Sacks was among the world's leading exponents of Judaism for a global audience. His sweet yet deeply reverberating voice taught Torah to millions. He brought a widespread understanding to the relevancy of Torah, religious values and God in our contemporary society. Rabbi Sacks's prolific writings and teachings offered Jewish wisdom to the masses. He had a tremendous impact on us, our work and people throughout the world as he was the most eloquent spokesperson for the core Jewish values of chesed, tzedakah and tikkun olam. We mourn his loss, but his grand voice of Torah will live on through all the lives elevated and inspired by his teaching.

We hope and pray that his family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem. We along with all Klal Yisrael (the Jewish people) join in their grief.

There is no statement or article that can adequately describe the void left by his loss. We can only commit ourselves - as individuals and as a community - to be guided by the example he set and the lessons he taught us.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Bereshit

It is by loving people
that we learn to love
God and feel His love
for us.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Noach

Our understanding
of Torah can be
illuminated by our
understanding
of the world.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Lech Lecha

Avraham models for us
that we must partner
with God to fight evil
through justice
and compassion.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Vayeira

Abraham taught us
that faith on certainty;
It is the courage to live
with uncertainty.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Chayei Sarah

Faith helps us to find
the “Why” that allow
us to bear almost
any “How.”



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Toldot

Love helps heal both
the lover and loved.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Vayetze

We can face the future without fear if we know we have been here before and we are not alone.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Vayishlach

Can we learn from
Jacob, and try to be
brave enough to be
ourselves?



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Vayshev

Sometimes God sends
people without their
knowledge to change
our lives.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Miketz

Political power can lead to harm - policies must be humane and politicians humble.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Vayigash

Our actions in the future can redeem much of the pain of the past.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Vayechi

Family is the birthplace of freedom. Caring for one another, we learn to care for the common good.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Shemot

We need to have faith
in the future and then,
with God's help,
we can build it.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Vaera

The Exodus story is
not just for Jews.
It is the world's
greatest story of hope.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Bo

To be a Jew is to see yourself as part of a story, with your own chapter to write.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Beshalach

If we realise we must
move forward, we can
make great changes
to our lives.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Yitro

We must be particular
in our identity,
but universal in our
commitment to the
human future.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Mishpatim

We need to space
to find our own way
to faith, and then
unite in action.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Terumah

The more of
ourselves that we
give, the greater
we become.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Tetzaveh

Beauty can help us
see the universe as
God's work of art.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Ki Tisa

When we forgive and are
worthy of being forgiven,
we are liberated from
a past we regret,
to build a better future.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Vayakel Pekudei

There are few things
in life more worthwhile
than community.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Vayikra

To love and honour
God is to love and
honour fellow humans.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Tzav

Combine Priestly detail
and Prophetic vision
to reach spiritual
greatness.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Shemini

To protect the planet
and the future
generations,
we need limits.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Tazria Metzorah

We need to be careful
how we use our words,
for they hold great
power within them.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Acharei Mot Kedoshim

The Torah's ethic of holiness guides us on how to treat both humanity and the world.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Emor

Be experiencing the
succah, we can find
the resilience we
need today.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Behar Bechukotai

Thinking about
consequences
helps us to make
good choices.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Bamidbar

Education should
be free and available
to all people.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Naso

A society whose members seek one another's welfare is holy and blessed.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Behaalotcha

Isolation contains
spiritual possibilities.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Shelach

The story we
tell affects the
decisions we make.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Korach

There is a lot to be learnt by listening to the other side of the argument.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Chukat Balak

Deep faith, and
friendship, can cure
our deepest fears.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Pinchas

For a nation
to flourish, policies
must be moral.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Matot Maasei

In Judaism,
the heroes
are teachers.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Devarim

Judaism encourages followers and leaders to form a partnership of mutual respect.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Vaetchanan

We need to
internalize the rules
of how we treat
each other, to develop
moral instinct.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Eikev

Chesed is the
highest achievement
of the moral life.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Re'eh

Freedom is sustained
only when a nation
becomes a moral
community.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Shoftim

Our Prophets' visions
survived when
translated from
utopian ideals into
practical policies.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Ki Teitze

Love is at the heart
of religious life,
but without justice,
love will not save us.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Ki Tavo

Praying is not just
about speaking.
It is also about
listening.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Nitzavim Vayelech

As a nation we must
strive to stay as
connected to the
Torah as we were
at our start.



KEY IDEA OF THE WEEK

Text by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Parshat Haazinu

Our struggles and setbacks can be a great opportunity to look at what we can do better.

