

Rabbi's Column – March 4, 2019

Our religious calendar is focused on Spring, and the weather outside is not quite sure that Spring is the right season to focus upon. As I write this, it is still dropping those white flakes upon the ground, and the temperature is dropping along with it. This is not unusual for the United States, and reminds us quite forcefully that our religious calendar is synchronized with the seasons as they normally occur in Israel.

One can hope that this is the last lengthy winter storm. It probably won't be. However, it did bring up the concept of "Do we still hold services when travel is treacherous?" My answer this past Shabbat was "no". Based on a tweet by Mayor Orr that I read after Shabbat was over, my answer was correct.

Like much of Judaism, each incident is decided upon separately, based on timing and potential severity.

This week, in Torah Portion land, the Tabernacle's existence is summarized. How much was used to make it and what was made (just in case you missed any of the prior mentions of these items). Next week we begin going over the instructions that the Levites and Kohanim will need to follow in making use of this Tabernacle. One of the implications of the instructions coming up includes the presumption that the leadership can mess up, big time. The Torah comes with instructions for what to do when that happens, many of which are no longer applicable.

Think Purim! Think Passover! Keep safe and warm during these next days!