

KMS Family Parsha Sheet

בס"ד

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בַּמִּדְבָּר/שָׁבוּעוֹת - BaMidbar/Shavuot

Parsha Questions

(Answers on the back)

- 1) Why count Bnei Yisroel if Hashem already knows their number?
- 2) What was the signal for the camp to travel in the Midbar?
- 3) Why are Aharon's sons called "sons of Aharon & Moshe"?
- 4) Why did the Leviyim receive Maaser Rishon?
- 5) The firstborn males of the Jewish People were redeemed for 5 shekalim. Why 5 shekalim?
- 6) Why do we almost always read Parshat Bamidbar before Shavuot (Shulchan Aruch O.C. 428:4)?
- 7) What is the meaning behind the name Shavuot?
- 8) Why does Shavuot not have a fixed date in the year, like all the other festivals?
- 9) What Megillah is read on Shavuot? When did the story take place and who wrote it?
- 10) What was Rut's relationship to David HaMelech?



Words of Wisdom

Kiddushin 30b

בְּרַאתִי יֵצֶר הָרָע וּבְרַאתִי לוֹ תוֹרָה תְּבַלִּין

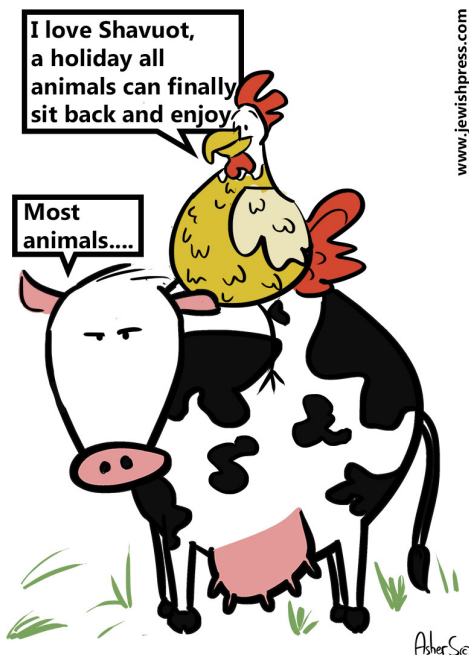
I created an evil inclination and
I created Torah as its antidote.

Did You Know?

Laws of Counting Jews

(Chabad.org)

To actually count Jews directly is forbidden (Yoma 22b), as the prophet (Hoshea 2:1) says: "And the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which shall neither be measured nor counted." What is the reason for this prohibition? The commentaries say that counting Jews directly can bring a judgment on the individuals who, if not deemed worthy, may be punished. Although the prohibition against counting Jews is not included in the Code of Jewish Law, it is discussed by the later Halachic authorities. Some of the details of this law are: When counting for a minyan, it is customary to use a Torah verse that contains ten words instead of using numbers. The verse usually used is: "וְשָׁמַרְתָּ אֶת עַמְּךָ וּבִרְךָ אֶת נַחֲלֶתְךָ וְיָרַעַם וְנִשְׁאַם עַד - הָעוֹלָם - Save Your people and bless Your inheritance, and tend them and elevate them forever." Another common method is to say: "Not one, not two, etc." Some permit counting if it is done in one's mind and not audibly. Others forbid this kind of counting as well.



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AsherSo



Parsha Answers:

- 1) Rashi 1:1 - It comes to show how they are beloved and each one counts.
- 2) Rashi 2:9 - The cloud over the Ohel Moed departed and the Kohanim sounded the trumpets.
- 3) Rashi 3:1 - Since Moshe taught them Torah, it's as if he gave birth to them.
- 4) Rashi 3:8 - Since the Leviyim served in the Mishkan in place of everyone else, they received tithes as "payment."
- 5) Rashi 3:46 - To atone for the sale of Yosef, Rachel's firstborn, who was sold by his brothers for five shekalim (20 pieces of silver.)
- 6) Rabbeinu Bechayeh - Before receiving the Torah one needs to make oneself like a desert.
- 7) Shavuot means "weeks." It is the climax of the work and preparation of the 7 weeks of the Sefira. Shavuot also means "oaths," referring to 2 oaths that take place on Shavuot (the oath by Hashem that He will not chose another nation and the oath by the Jews not to follow any other god.
- 8) Kli Yakar - To remind us that Torah learning is central not just once a year, but every day.
- 9) Megillat Rut, written by Shmuel HaNavi, is read on the 2nd day of Shavuot. It took place during the period of the Shoftim (Judges).
- 10) She was his great-grandmother: Ruth, Oved, Yishai, David (4:22).



This Week In Jewish History

Sivan 6

(Aish.com)

The yahrtzeit of King David (ca. 907-837 BCE), a humble shepherd who became the second king of Israel. David was famous as a warrior, scholar and psalmist. He courageously battled the Philistine giant Goliath, killing him with a slingshot. David reigned for 40 years, during which he made Jerusalem the Jewish capital, purchased the future site of the Holy Temple, and made preparations for the Temple's construction. David composed the biblical Book of Psalms, songs of praise to God and poetic expressions of love, fear, triumph and disaster. David was promised an eternal dynasty of Jewish kingship; he was succeeded by his son Solomon, and according to tradition, the Messiah will ultimately be descended from David. His life story is recorded in the Book of Samuel.



Tefilla Insights

Akdamot

(Chabad.org)

"Akdamot" means "introduction." In many Ashkenzai communities it is customary to recite this Piyut on the first day of Shavuot as an introduction to the assigned Torah reading. The poem was composed in Aramaic some 900 years ago by the righteous and famous liturgist Rabbi Meir ben Yitzchak who was... Rashi's teacher. Akdamot consists of ninety verses. The first forty-four are a double acrostic of the twenty two letters of the Hebrew Alef-beit. The first letters of the opening words of the remaining forty six verses spell the author's name and a blessing: **מֵאִיר בֵּיר רַבִּי יִצְחָק יִגְדֵּל** "Meir, the son of Rabbi Yitzchak, may he grow in Torah and in good deeds, Amen. Be strong and fortified." Each verse concludes with the suffix ta — **תָּא**, the first and last letter of the Hebrew alef-beit to signify that Torah is endless, and that as soon as one completes the Torah, he should begin anew.

Key Number or Word

In The Parsha

600,000



The word "Israel" can be read as an acronym for **"ישׁ ששים רבוא אותיות לתורה"**, meaning: "There are 600,000 letters in the Torah." The truth is, there are only 304,800-plus letters in the Torah. But this includes only those that we see, black ink against white parchment.

There are also the letters in white against black. The heavenly, non-physical version of the Torah is described as black fire on white fire, and both the black and white are equally meaningful. The black are the letters we see, while the white, the inverse space between the black, are the letters we don't see. The count of 600,000 includes both the black and the white letters.

The ZOHAR CHADASH (Shir ha'Shirim, p. 74) states that the 600,000 letters in the Sefer Torah correspond to the 600,000 souls of the twelve tribes of the Jewish people. Similarly, the MEGALEH AMUKOS (Va'etchanan #186:1) writes that the soul of every Jew stems from one of the 600,000 letters in the Torah. Just as a Torah scroll is invalid if even a single letter is missing, so too the Jewish people need everyone working together.