

# KMS Family Parsha Sheet

בס"ד

By Rabbi Aaron & Elisheva Levitt

Behar - בְּהָר

## Parsha Questions

(Answers on the back)

- 1) How often and where do we observe Shmittah and Yovel?
- 2) What are the two main halachot during Shmittah?
- 3) What are the two main halachot during Yovel?
- 4) What happens to produce that grow on their own during Shmittah?
- 5) If one possesses Shemitta food after it is no longer available in the field, what must he do with it?
- 6) How does the idea of Shemitta and Yovel fit into the theme of Sefer Vayikra?
- 7) What is the meaning of Mitzvat Shmittah?
- 8) What is the punishment for not keeping Shmittah?
- 9) From where do we learn that one should always try to first buy from or sell to a Jewish person if possible?
- 10) What do we learn from the words 25:35) "(והחזקת בו)"?

I've been working all day.  
When do I get a break?

That's what shmita is for...



## Words of Wisdom

Pirkei Avot 4:18

אַל תִּרְצֶה אֶת חֲבֵרְךָ בְּשַׁעַת כָּעָסוֹ

Do not try to appease your friend  
during his hour of anger

## Did You Know?

Why Don't We Observe Yovel Anymore?  
(chabad.org)

According to biblical law, the Jubilee is only observed when all twelve tribes of the Jewish nation are living in Israel, as is derived from the verse,<sup>1</sup> "And you shall sanctify the fiftieth year, and proclaim freedom throughout the land for all who live on it," which implies that the Jubilee is only sanctified when "all who live on it"—meaning, all who are meant to be living there—are in the Land of Israel. Furthermore, the Jubilee is only observed when every tribe is living in the specific part of the land which it was allotted when the Land of Israel was divided. However, some are of the opinion that the Jubilee is observed as long as there is a partial representation of each tribe, even if most of the tribe is not in Israel. In the 6th century BCE, the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel and sent the majority of its population into exile. Those who were deported are historically known as the Ten Lost Tribes... With the exile of the Northern Kingdom the required condition for the Jubilee to be sanctified was lost. Thus, the last time there was a biblical requirement to observe the Jubilee was about 150 years before the destruction of the First Temple.



## Parsha Answers:

- 1) Shmittah is every 7th year and Yovel is every 50th. These only apply in Eretz Yisrael.
- 2) The land must rest and debts are cancelled.
- 3) Slaves go free and land goes back to its original owners.
- 4) They are Hefker (ownerless). Anyone may pick and eat them.
- 5) Rashi 25:7 - Remove it from his property and declare it ownerless.
- 6) R' Shimshon Rafael Hirsch - Sefer Vayikra deals with all aspects of Kedusha. Until Parshat Emor it deals with Kedushat HaMakom (space). Then the Moadim (holidays) are discussed, introducing the Kedushat HaZman (time). Shemitta has both elements - Kedushat HaMakom (Eretz Yisrael) and Kedushat HaZman (7th year).
- 7) Sefer HaChinuch Mitzva 84 - Shemitta is like Shabbat - cessation from creative work. It testifies that there is a G-d who is directing everything. Understanding that it is not our physical exertion that brings success. To demonstrate this, the farmer makes Hefker all his produce and fields. All loans are cancelled. This testifies that a person believes that all comes from Hashem.
- 8) Rashi 25:18 - Exile from Israel
- 9) Rashi 25:14 - We learn this from the words "וְכִי תִמְכְּרוּ מִמֶּכָר" וְלֹא לְעַמִּיתְךָ" - When you sell property to your neighbor.
- 10) Rashi 25:35 - If you see someone in need give them Chizuk and help before they fall apart.



## This Week In Jewish History

### May 26

(idf.il)

On May 26, 1948, the Israel Defense Forces officially began acting as Israel's sole, unified military organization charged with protecting the territory and citizens of the two-week-old state. The birth of the IDF came at a time when the entire country was at war for its very survival. Drawing its forces and weapons from the various Jewish paramilitary organizations that were active at the time, the IDF began as a hastily cobbled together, ill-equipped army. By the end of the War of Independence in 1949, the IDF had defeated five invading Arab armies to become the decisive, powerful, spirited fighting force that it is known as today.




## Tefilla Insights

### Preparing For Tefilla

(torah.org)

The Mishnah writes that "The original chassidim would wait one hour and then pray, in order for them to be able to have the right intentions in their tefillah" (Berachos 30b). An hour is a long time, and it is not easy to fill it up with activity that will aid our prayers. What is one meant to do during this time prior to tefillah? The main goal of this interlude before tefillah is to prepare one's heart and mind for the experience of standing before Hashem. One can accomplish this through quiet introspection, reciting Tehillim or other prayers beforehand, learning Torah, or a number of other ways. Thus most authorities rule that the time we spend reciting Berachos, Korbanos, Pesukei D'zimra, Krias Shema and the berachos before and after Krias Shema are included in this hour (Pri Megadim, Eshel Avraham 93,1; Aruch Hashulchan 93,4).



## Key Number or Word In The Parsha

### Deror - דֶּרוֹר

(kodeshpress.com)

In the verse "Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Lev. 25:10), which adorns the Liberty Bell, the Hebrew word used for "liberty" is deror. While the exact meaning is uncertain, Jacob Milgrom suggests three possibilities: (1) "release" (Ixx, Josephus, Antiquities 12.3, Ibn Ezra); (2) "flow" as in mor deror, "free flowing myrrh" (Exod. 30:23; Cant. 5:5); and (3) "freedom" (Targumim, Betzah 24a, Rosh Hashanah 9b). Milgrom concludes, "One can easily see that the three meanings are related: whatever is released, flows and gains freedom... Onkelos translates deror as herut. The Talmud concurs, teaching, ein deror ella herut, "deror means 'freedom'" (Rosh Hashanah 9b).