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בס"ד

Family Parsha Sheet

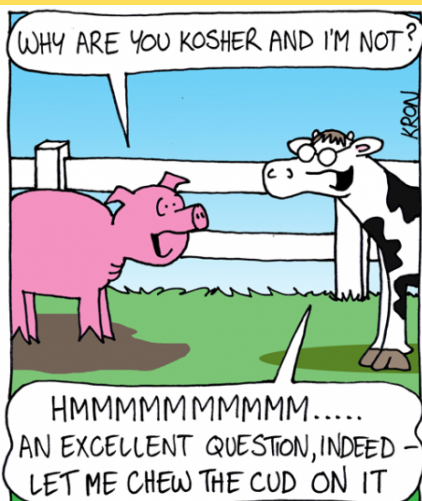
By Rabbi Aaron & Elisheva Levitt

Re'eh - ראה

Parsha Questions

(Answers on the back!)

- 1) What is the difference between a Mizbeiach and a Matzeivah?
- 2) Where is the only place one may bring Korbanot?
- 3) What does Rashi (12:28) learn from the words "שֹׁמֵר וְשֹׂמֵרָה?"
- 4) How do we know if a Navi is a false prophet if he makes a prediction which comes true?
- 5) What do Chazal learn from the words (14:1) "לֹא תִגְדְּדוּ?"
- 6) What hidden hint in 14:1 supports the answer to Question 5?
- 7) What is Maaser Sheni? (14:26)
- 8) When and where does the Mitzvah of Shmittah occur?
- 9) Aside from not working the land, what other laws apply during Shmittah?
- 10) What does Rashi (15:10) learn from the word "דָּבָר?"



The CARTOON KRONICLES



Words of Wisdom

Rebbe Nachman of Breslov

(Likutei Maharan Chelek Bet 24)

מִצְוָה גְּדוֹלָה לִהְיוֹת בְּשִׂמְחָה תָּמִיד

It's a great mitzvah to always be happy

Did You Know?

Shabbat Mevarchim (Peninei Halakha)

On the Shabbat before Rosh Chodesh, the custom is to announce the day or days on which the new month will fall, and to pray that "HaKadosh Baruch Hu renew it for us and all of Israel for goodness and blessing." In a certain way, this also commemorates the sanctification of the new moon that the Beit Din used to perform. Therefore, the custom is to announce the exact time at which the new moon will appear (the molad). This is also why we stand during the ceremony, because the people used to stand before the Beit Din when it performed the mitzvah of Kiddush HaChodesh. There is only one Rosh Chodesh before which we do not bless the new month - Tishrei, because Rosh Chodesh Tishrei is also the holiday of Rosh HaShanah, and everyone knows that it's coming. We announce the coming of the new month specifically on Shabbat because that is when the entire congregation is gathered in the synagogue, and everyone will hear when Rosh Chodesh is slated to fall. Furthermore, all the days of the week receive blessing from Shabbat, and even the sanctity of Rosh Chodesh flows from the Shabbat that precedes it. Therefore, we bless the new month on that day. This is why we begin to feel on that Shabbat the festiveness of the forthcoming Rosh Chodesh.



Parsha Answers:

- 1) Rashi 12:3 - A Mizbeiach is made of many stones. A Matzeivah is made of one big stone.
- 2) Rashi 12:11 - In the Mishkan or Beit HaMikdash. [Private Bamot were allowed only when there was no Mishkan].
- 3) Rashi 12:28 - We are commanded to study the Mitzvot (Mishna) so we can perform them (Maaseh).
- 4) Even if his sign comes true, he is false if he tells you to worship another God. Hashem is testing us. (13:1-4)
- 5) Yevamot 14a - Do not make divisions among the Jewish People (לֹא תַעֲשׂוּ אִגּוּדֹת אִגּוּדֹת).
- 6) Baal HaTurim 14:1 - This pasuk has 12 words, hinting that we should stick together because we are all His children (12 tribes).
- 7) Unlike Maaser Rishon, which is given to the Levi, Maaser Sheni is a mitzvah (in years 1,2,4,5 of Shmittah) to eat 10% of one's produce in Yerushalayim.
- 8) Every 7th year in Eretz Yisrael [this coming year is Shmittah].
- 9) All loans are cancelled and slaves go free.
- 10) Rashi 15:10 - Even if you intend to give but do not in the end, you still get credit for the thought.



This Week In Jewish History

30 Av (Aish.com)

In 1903, the 6th Zionist Congress met in Basle, Switzerland. Herzl presented a British proposal for a temporary Jewish homeland in Uganda, as a refuge for Russian Jews in immediate danger. This settlement would be politically independent, with a Jewish governor and a Jewish administration. Herzl believed that the plan conferred an important stamp of legitimacy upon Zionism. The Zionist Congress approved the plan, and decided to dispatch an exploratory expedition to Africa. However, the idea was met with stiff opposition, and it split the Zionist movement. The Uganda Program was rejected two years later, but later exploratory missions were sent to Iraq, Libya and Angola. One project that gained traction was the Galveston plan which sent 9,300 Jews to Texas. In the end, it was understood that only the Land of Israel, with its deep historical and spiritual connections, would succeed as the Jewish homeland.



Tefilla Insights

Birchat HaChodesh (ou.org)

In the opening lines of the prayer it says: Yehi Ratzon...Shetechadesh HaChdoesh HaZeh Letovah Vilevracha - May it be your will G-d the G-d of my fathers to provide for us a New Month that is good and blessed. The commentators discuss the implication of the words good and blessed. If it is good isn't it blessed? And if it is blessed isn't it good?

Perhaps we can understand the prayer based on something that Rav Simcha Zissel zt"l taught regarding a verse in Tehillim. The verse states, "Hineh Mah Tov Umah naim shevet achim gam yachad - Behold what is good and sweet is when brothers come together." The Alter (Rav Simcha Zissel) remarks that there are many things in this world that are good for us e.g. medicines, but may not be sweet. So too there are many things in this world that are sweet e.g. like candy but may not be good for you. The one thing that is both intrinsically good and sweet is when brothers come together. We pray at the outset of the month that G-d should bless us with a palpably good month that appears to us like a blessing.



Key Number or Word In The Parsha

Simcha

The word Simcha (happiness) appears only once in each of the other books of the Torah but 12x in Devarim, including 7x in Parshat Re'eh:

- Simcha at the Beit HaMikdash (12:7, 12:12, 12:18)
- Simcha with Maaser Sheni (14:26)
- Simcha of Shavuot (16:11)
- Simcha of Sukkot (16:14, 16:15)

Notice how almost every time Simcha is described it is meant to be shared with others. There is no Simcha without Inclusion. The key is serving Hashem together with others.