

KMS Family Parsha Sheet

בס"ד

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יתרו - Yitro

Parsha Questions

(Answers on the back)

- 1) Did Yitro come to Moshe before or after Matan Torah?
- 2) According to Chazal, Yitro was one of 3 famous advisors to Pharaoh. Who were the other 2?
- 3) Why was Tzipora with her father, Yitro, and not with Moshe when Bnei Yisrael left Egypt?
- 4) Why were the Mitzrim punished if Hashem has predicted in the Brit Bein HaBitarim that Bnei Yisrael would be subjugated?
- 5) Why are the Aseret HaDibbrot on 2 luchot (not 1 list of 10)?
- 6) If the first 5 Dibbrot are Bein Adam LaMakom (between man and Hashem) why is the 5th one Honoring Parents, which seems to be Bein Adam LaChaveiro (between man and his fellow)?
- 7) How many letters are there in the 10 Commandments and how is this significant?
- 8) The last of the Aseret HaDibbrot is Lo Tachmod, not to desire. How can it be a commandment when these feelings are so naturally ingrained in a person?
- 9) What was Hashem's original plan for Matan Torah? What was the response of the Jewish People?
- 10) How many Dibbrot did Bnei Yisrael end up hearing directly from Hashem?

Moshe! Is this like
a Chinese menu?

Pick one from column A,
and a second from
column B?



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Words of Wisdom

Mishna Menachot 13:11

אֶחָד הַמְרַבֵּה וְאֶחָד הַמִּמְעִיט וּבְלֵבָד שִׁכּוֹן אָדָם אֶת דַּעְתּוֹ לַשָּׁמַיִם

One who gives a lot and one who gives less have equal merit, provided that he directs his heart toward Heaven.

Did You Know?

Eishet Chayil (chabad.org)

While some say the "Woman of Valor" refers to a generic praiseworthy woman, according to one Midrash, Eshet Chayil was originally composed by our forefather Abraham as a eulogy to his wife, Sarah, and then later included in the book of Proverbs. According to others, it was written by King Solomon to honor his mother, Queen Batsheva, wife of King David. Midrash Shocher Tov on Proverbs explains how the 22 verses of Eshet Chayil correspond to 19 great Jewish women (the last four verses correspond to the same person) and the lessons we can learn from them. These explanations point to the simple reason for reciting Eshet Chayil on Friday night: as a way to express our deep gratitude to the lady of the house. But there are far deeper reasons as well, and one recites the hymn regardless of his marital status.

According to Rabbi Yeshayah ha-Levi Horowitz (the Shaloh), this hymn is a metaphor for the Shechinah (Divine Presence)... The Kabbalists explain that Shabbat night is referred to as a "queen," also called eshet chayil. Therefore, we sin Eshet Chayil to welcome the Shabbat Queen. The Midrash relates that every day of creation was created with a "mate." Sunday was paired with Monday, Tuesday with Wednesday, and Thursday with Friday. Only the Shabbat was left without a mate. In response to Shabbat's complaint, G-d replied that the Jewish people would be Shabbat's mate. Therefore, we sing the Eshet Chayil on Friday night to the Shabbat "bride."



Parsha Answers:

- 1) Rashi - Before. vs. Ibn Ezra - After.
- 2) Sotah 11a - Yitro, Iyov, and Bilam were advisers to Pharaoh. Bilam advised killing Jews and was later killed by Bnei Yisrael. Iyov was silent and he later suffered. Yitro defended Jews and was banished, but was later rewarded with being Moshe's father in law.
- 3) Rashi 18:3 - When Aharon met Moshe with his family on their way down to Egypt, Aharon said to Moshe: "We're pained over the Jews already in Egypt, and you're bringing more Jews to Egypt?" Moshe, hearing this, sent his wife and children back to Midian.
- 4) Ramban 18:11 - The Mitzrim still deserve to be punished because they went beyond what they had to and oppressed them maliciously.
- 5) The 1st 5 Dibbrot are Bein Adam LaChaveiro (between Man and God) and the next 5 are Bein Adam LaChaveiro (Between Humans).
- 6) Ramban - Since parents are partners with Hashem in a child's creation, showing honor to a parent is comparable to showing honor to one's Creator.
- 7) Baal Haturim (20:13) - They contain 620 letters alluding to the 613 Torah Mitzvot and the 7 Noachide Laws.
- 8) Ibn Ezra gives a mashal that a pauper would not even entertain the thought of marrying the princess since it is totally disconnected to him. The commandment is for a person to train himself to view other people's things as totally out of bounds.
- 9) Rashi 19:9 - Hashem offered to appear to Moshe and to give the Torah through him. The Jewish People responded that they wished to hear the Torah directly from Hashem.
- 10) Rashi 19:19 - They only heard 1st two Dibbrot directly from Hashem but after that they asked Moshe to be intermediary.



This Week In Jewish History

Shevat 23 (Aish.com)

On this date in 1918, the Jewish Legion left England to join the Allies in liberating Palestine from the Turks. Four years earlier, Zev Jabotinsky had proposed that a Jewish legion be formed, but the British resisted the idea of Jewish volunteers fighting on the Palestinian front; this led instead to the establishment of the Zion Mule Corps. Meanwhile, Jabotinsky pursued his project of a Jewish Legion, which was eventually designated as the 38th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers. It included British volunteers, members of the former Zion Mule Corps, a large number of Russian Jews, and later joined by a large number of American volunteers. A few years later, the Jewish Legion was demobilized by the anti-Zionist British Military Administration. Yet it would be remembered as the first organized Jewish fighting force since Roman times, and a precursor to the Israeli Defense Force (IDF).




Tefilla Insights

Asher Natan LaSechvi Vina (outorah.org)

As we begin our prayers every morning the chazzan leads us in "Birchot Hashachar - the morning blessings."

This set of 15 blessings allows us to focus on the daily gifts our Creator restores for us each morning. We thank G-d for our sight, our clothing, our ability to stand up straight, and for the feeling of being refreshed after a good night sleep (to name a few). At first glance, the opening blessing is a bit perplexing... What were the sages thinking when they established this as the lead blessing?? One approach towards understanding this is that we are appreciating the transition from night to day, which is symbolized by the crowing of the rooster.

Rabbeinu Asher (1250-1327) understands the word sechvi to mean human insight and not a rooster. This changes the entire meaning of the blessing. We now understand it as saying that we thank Hashem for instilling humanity with the capacity to discern between night and day. We can appreciate the usage of day and night because the brightness of day and the darkness of night are often utilized in our liturgy to represent good and evil. Now the blessing makes perfect sense. We wake up in the morning to start our day with an interest to make the world a better place. As we open the siddur and begin our prayers the first thing we acknowledge is our G-d given privilege to recognize what is day and what is night-what is good and worthy as opposed to what is frustrating and what is negative. With this in mind we praise and thank G-d for all of our rich blessings and request from Him success in all of our endeavors.



Key Number or Word In The Parsha

Sinai - סיני

Har Sinai, also known as Chorev, is the mountain on which Moshe Rabbeinu received the Luchot from Hashem. Is there any significance to the name Sinai? Some say that it is related to the word Sneh, for this was the same mountain on which Moshe encountered the Burning Bush. The Talmud (Shabbat 89a) says that the name Sinai (although spelled with a Samech) is related to the word Sinah (hatred, spelled with the letter Sin). "Why was the Torah given on a mountain called Sinai?" asks the Talmud. "Because the great sinah - the tremendous hatred aimed at the Jew - emanates from Sinai." What does this mean? It means that at its root, Antisemitism stems from the fact that we claim that there is a moral code that the world should follow.