

Divrei Jeshurun

Parshat Behar-Behukkotai 5761

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Statistics: Behar

- ❖ 32st of the 54 Torah portions
- ❖ 9th of 10 in Vayikra
- ❖ Written on 99 lines in a Sefer Torah
- ❖ 7 parshiyot; 1 open, 6 closed
- ❖ 57 verses, 737 words, 2817 letters
- ❖ Ranks 50th in the Torah, last in Vayikra in all three categories
- ❖ A very short Torah portion. Only 4 are shorter, viz. the last 4 of the Torah: Nitzavim, Vayeleich, Haazinu, Vezot Ha-Bracha
- ❖ Behar contains 24 of the 613 mitzvot according to the *Sefer ha-Hinukh* - 7 positive & 17 negative (see chart). Only 7 Torah portions have more mitzvot.
- ❖ 9 Torah portions (Behar included) contain 409 mitzvot. 1/6 of the Torah portions contain 2/3 of the Torah's mitzvot

Statistics: Behukkotai

- ❖ 33rd of the 54 Torah portions
- ❖ 10 of 10 in Vayikra
- ❖ Written on 131 lines in a Sefer Torah
- ❖ 5 parshiyot; 3 open, 2 closed
- ❖ 78 verses- ranks 46 (7th in Vayikra)
- ❖ 1013 words - ranks 47 (7th in Vayikra)
- ❖ 6106 letters - ranks 47 (7th in Vayikra)
- ❖ Behukkotai contains 12 of the 613 mitzvot according to the *Sefer ha-Hinukh* - 7 positive & 5 negative (see chart)

Stats.: Book of Vayikra

- ❖ The Book of Vayikra is written on 36.5 of the Torah's 245 columns; it contains 10 Torah portions, 859 verses, 11950 words, 44790 letters, and 247 commandments (95 positive, 152 negative)
- ❖ Vayikra is the smallest of the 5 Books in number of Torah portions, verses, words, & letters. Its Torah portions (on average) have the fewest verses, words, and letters.
- ❖ On the other hand, it has more commandments than any other Book, which is all the more remarkable because of its small size

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Halakha in the Parsha: Halakha Chart Behar

The following is a listing of the commandments in this week's parsha. The first column is a simple ordinal listing within the parsha. The next column lists each mitzva relative to the total of 613. The next column states whether the command is positive or negative. The last column is where the command is listed in Leviticus.

#	613	☺	Command	Lev.
1	326	N	Not to work the earth of Israel in the 7th year (<i>shemitta</i>)	25:4
2	327	N	Not to do agricultural work to trees in the 7th year	25:4
3	328	N	Not to harvest wild-growing crops in the 7th year	25:5
4	329	N	Not to harvest trees in the normal way in the 7th year	25:5
5	330	P	To count 7 cycles of 7 years	25:8
6	331	P	To sound the shofar on Yom Kippur of the Jubilee year	25:9
7	332	P	To sanctify the Jubilee year	25:10
8	333	N	Not to work the earth of Israel in the Jubilee year	25:11
9	334	N	Not to harvest wild-growing crops in the Jubilee year	25:11
10	335	N	Not to harvest trees in the normal way in the Jubilee year	25:11
11	336	P	To effectuate justice between a seller & buyer	25:14
12	337	N	Not to oppress others [in commerce]	25:14
13	338	N	Not to oppress others [with language]	25:17
14	339	N	Not to sell ancestral land as a permanent sale	25:23
15	340	P	To return ancestral holdings in the Jubilee year	25:24
16	341	P	To redeem property within a walled city up until its year	25:29
17	342	N	Not to change the land designations for the Levites	25:34
18	343	N	Not to lend with interest to a fellow Jew	25:37
19	344	N	Not to work a Jewish slave as a non-Jewish slave	25:39
20	345	N	Not to sell a Jewish slave on the slave block	25:42
21	346	N	Not to work a Jewish slave with crushing labor (<i>perakhi</i>)	25:43
22	347	P	To consider a non-Jewish slave as a permanent possession	25:46
23	348	N	Not to allow a non-Jew to abuse a Jewish slave	25:53
24	349	N	Not to prostrate upon carved stones	26:1

Halakha Chart: Behukkotai

1	350	P	To give to the Temple one's valuation pledge (<i>erekh</i>)	27:2
2	351	N	Not to exchange an animal already consecrated (<i>temurah</i>)	27:10
3	352	P	To consider consecrated an exchanged animal (<i>temurah</i>)	27:11
4	353	P	To heed the Kohen's evaluation of the pledge of an animal	27:14
5	354	P	To heed the Kohen's evaluation of the pledge of a house (+20%)	27:16
6	355	P	To give the Temple one's evaluation of a field according to the set formula (1.02 shekel per year till Jubilee)	27:16
7	356	N	Not to exchange one consecrated animal for another	27:26
8	357	P	How to donate property as a <i>cherem</i> offering	27:28
9	358	N	Not to sell land made as <i>cherem</i> (rather its given to the Kohen)	27:28
10	359	N	Not to redeem property made as <i>cherem</i>	27:28
11	360	P	To tithe (<i>maaser behema</i>) ones kosher animals every year	27:32
12	361	N	Not to sell the tithed animal, rather to eat it in Jerusalem	27:33