

## MATTOT AND MAS'EI

Numbers (B'midbar) Ch. 30, v2 - Ch.36, v13

AOW/8 JULY, 2021

### I. Forging a Nation.

The Israelites are confronted by the challenges of conquering the land of Canaan. How does a loose confederation of tribes join to become a conquering nation, by:

- A. Creating a national army.[See ch. 31]?
- B. Preparing the people for a “just” war?
- C. Establishing logical divisions in the armed forces: Anschei Milchamah and Anschei Tzava?
- D. Determining how to deal with the captives of war and the treatment of the vanquished.[See Ch. 33, vs 50-56]
- E. Identifying the moral and ethical guidelines to be observed in war?
- F. How to actually implement “settling the land?”
- G. In all of this, what was Moshe’s role?

### II. The “Kosher” Tradition in War.

- A. What is the appropriate, ethical way to dispose of the spoils of war?
- B. What are the origins of our tradition of kashering various items that we bring into our homes?
- C. What is the basic purpose of these rules? [See Ch. 31, vs 22 - 24]

### III. The End of an Era.

What impact do you think the deaths of Aaron and Balaam and the impending death of Moshe, had on the Israelite nation? [See, Ch. 31, vs 6 - 9, & Ch. 33, vs 35 - 39]

### IV. Conquering the Land. [See Ch. 32]

- A. How would you regard Moshe’s “charge” to the tribes of Reuven, Gad and 1/2 of Menashe as the Israelites were preparing to battle for the Land?
- B. In light of the expressed desires of the above-mentioned tribes, how would you evaluate the readiness of the entirety of the twelve tribes to function as a “national” unit?
- C. Considering the the episode with the tribes mentioned above, (those who intended to live outside The Land,) what do believe would be Moshe’s “charge” to those of us today regarding the obligation and responsibilities of Jews of the Diaspora — those living outside the Land of Israel — to stand with and support the survival and continuity of the Land of Israel?

### V. Cities of Refuge / Sanctuary Cities. [See Ch. 35]

- A. What was the purpose of establishing the six Cities of Refuge?
- B. How did these cities function? Who was the authority?
- C. Who was eligible to claim sanctuary and who was not?
- D. What attitude is expressed in Torah towards the paying of ransom to save the killer / murderer?