



Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

Raising Ourselves Up

Presented by Rabbi Moshe Sadwin, Kollel Scholar

Each year, we read Parshas Bamidbar on the Shabbos that precedes Shavuos, the holiday that commemorates our receipt of the Torah. The proximity of these two events would seem to imply that our parsha contains a message relevant to Shavuos. However, a thorough reading of the parsha reveals that its general topic is the counting and arrangement of the Jewish population. What connection is there between the enumeration of the Jewish people and acceptance of the Torah?

Rav Moshe Feinstein points out that the Torah, when introducing the counting, states: "Raise up the head of the entire congregation of the Jewish people." (Bamidbar 1:2) Rav Moshe explains that this concept of "raising up" signifies that every person is to be exalted for who he or she is. The intent of counting every individual is to communicate that each person is special and unique; each person's mission in the world is different from anyone else's.

This powerful message resonates particularly during Shavuos. At times, we may feel as if our actions are inconsequential, that we can never hope to achieve great heights of observance. The message of Bamidbar is that we each have our own singular purpose and unique mission in the world – our own special connection to the Torah. As we celebrate G-d's gift of the Torah and accept it upon ourselves, let us recognize both our distinct relationship with the Torah and our unlimited personal potential. We must never underestimate our capabilities and the greatness that lies within each of us.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos and a Good Yom Tov!

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

I have taken the Leviim from among Bnei Yisrael, in place of every firstborn... (3:12)

"Through the first born I acquired the Leviim; I took them in exchange for the firstborn. The firstborns had performed the avoda, but when they sinned with the Golden Calf they were disqualified. The Leviim, who did not participate in the idol worship, were chosen instead of them" (Rashi).

It seems from Rashi that the firstborns were destined to serve in the Bais Hamikdash, however, they lost it due to their worshipping of the Golden Calf.

When Yaakov gave the berachos (Vayichee 49:3-4) to his sons, he told Reuven that he was destined, as firstborn, to be a Kohen and serve in the Bais Hamikdash, however, he lost it due to his haste. When did the firstborns lose their status, when Reuven sinned or at the sin of the Golden Calf?

PARSHA RIDDLE

Why weren't men under the age of twenty recruited into the army of Bnai Yisroel?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

Why are the laws of lending with interest in Yoreh Deah and not in Choshen Mishpat, which discusses monetary laws?

Answer: The Halachos of a Jew's relationship with a non-Jew are discussed in Yoreh Deah. A Jew's allowance to lend money to a non-Jew with interest belongs there. Once lending money with interest is discussed, the prohibition of lending money with interest to a Jew is also written. (Tur Yoreh Deah 160)

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In parashas Bemidbar (2:2), the Torah instructs that the Jews shall be arrayed "far off around the tabernacle of the congregation". Rashi (based on Midrash Tanchuma) explains that "far off" denotes a mil, two thousand cubits, "in order that they be able to come on the Sabbath", i.e., without violating the laws of techumin, which prohibit travel beyond that distance. This seems to imply that these laws restricted movement within the Jews' desert encampment – but this is apparently contradicted by a Talmudic discussion (Eruvin 55b) that takes for granted that the Jews were permitted to traverse their entire encampment, from one edge to the other (and even proceed to exit the encampment), despite the fact that this distance exceeded the techum limit. The Talmud apparently understands that the encampment had the status of a city, within which travel is unrestricted. [See Moshav Zekeinim for discussion of this question.]

The Mechilta (Ch. 20) states that at the giving of the Torah, the Jews reacted to Hashem's utterances of each of the ten commandments by retreating twelve mil. The Rokeach (#178) explains that this did not constitute a techum violation since they were surrounded by clouds [i.e., the Clouds of Glory that accompanied the Jews in the desert], which had the status of 'partitions'. Some understand that these cloud partitions were the reason that (according to the aforementioned Talmudic discussion) the desert encampment of the Jews had the status of a city (Moshav Zekeinim), although others argue that the Talmudic discussion actually implies precisely the opposite, that even though the encampment was not enclosed, its Divinely ordained character rendered it the equivalent of a permanent settlement, within which travel is not restricted even in the absence of any surrounding enclosure (Imrei Binah OC Shabbas #34, and cf. Shut. Toras Chesed OC 35:6-7; Shut. Avnei Nezer OC 278:11).

Some authorities reject the notion that the clouds constituted 'partitions', due to the insubstantiality of clouds (Avnei Nezer os 12; Toras Chesed os 7). As to the twelve mil retreats at the giving of the Torah, some apparently understand them to have been involuntary reactions to Hashem's voice, and not conscious decisions (see Panim Yafos Shemos 19:17; Toras Moshe ibid. 20:14).

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. We did not serve.
2. Therefore, we did serve.
3. Five Shekel replacement.
4. Now we wash the blessers.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am weeks.
2. Remain awake.
3. I am the fiftieth.
4. I make it flowery.

Last Week's Answers:

#1 Yovel (jubilee year) (I make you count, I am not sefiras haomer, I make you blow, I am not a Jew named Billy.)

#2 Sefer Vayikra (Finish me this Shabbos, I'm the third, The Torah for Kohanim, I am full of Korbanos.)

All children 13 and under who answer a "Who Am I?" correctly will be entered into a raffle to **Win a Ripstik!**
Congratulations to Chananya Bensimon on winning an ETTg Tempo Remote Control Speed Boat

Visit gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

Answer as many as you can. Each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning!

THE NEXT
RAFFLE WILL BE
July 31st.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

The Greater Washington Community Kollel wishes our participants, friends, supporters, and the entire community a meaningful and joyous Shavuot!

To sponsor an upcoming Shabbos Delights, please contact info@gwckollel.org