

Parashas Yisro 5785 • February 15th • 17 Shevat

Reminders

During *Kerias HaTorah* of Parashas Yisro, the *minhag* of many Ashkenazic congregations is to stand when the *Aseres HaDibros* are read. Most Sephardic congregations are particular not to follow this practice.

Next week, the week of Parashas Mishpatim, is the sixth and final week of *Shovavim*.

Daf Yomi - Shabbos: Bavli: Sanhedrin 60 • Yerushalmi: Shabbos 81 • Mishnah Yomis: Shavuot 2:5-3:1 • Oraysa: Megillah 13b-15b • Kitzur Shulchan Aruch: 59:2-8

Make sure to call your parents, in-laws, grandparents and Rebbe to wish them a good Shabbos. If you didn't speak to your kids today, make sure to connect with them as well!

Next on the Calendar

Shabbos Mevorchim Chodesh Adar is next week, Shabbos Parashas Mishpatim.

Parshah in a Paragraph

Yisro: Yisro arrives at the Jews' encampment along with Moshe's family • Moshe greets him in distinguished fashion; Yisro praises Hashem • Yisro witnesses Moshe's wearying schedule and suggests a system of judges • Moshe implements Yisro's system • Moshe escorts Yisro as he leaves • The Jews arrive at Har Sinai • Moshe ascends the mountain • Moshe prophetically tells Bnei Yisrael that they are the chosen nation and must actualize their potential • Bnei Yisrael respond by saying "Na'aseh" • Hashem tells Moshe that He will reveal Himself to ensure the nation's eternal faith • Three days of preparation for the revelation • Moshe sets boundaries around the mountain • Hashem's glory descends on Har Sinai in an awe-inspiring manner • Moshe warns Bnei Yisrael not to approach the mountain • The *Aseres Hadibros* - See *Taryag Weekly* for the various *mitzvos* [first two spoken by Hashem, the remaining eight by Moshe] • This event elicits intense fear and trembling • Prohibition against making idols • Laws regarding construction and ascension of the altar

Haftarah: The parashah discusses *Kabbalas*

HaTorah, the awesome event at Har Sinai, which was an amazing spectacle of the glory of Hashem. The Navi Yeshaya relates the great heavenly spectacle he saw in his *nevuah*. (Yeshaya 6:1 - 7:6)

613 Taryag Weekly

Yisro: 72 Pesukim • 3 Obligations • 14 Prohibitions

1) Recognize and believe in Hashem's existence and His eternal omnipotence. 2) Do not believe in any other godly power. 3) Do not form or commission the formation of an idol. 4-5) Do not perform Temple services, or any other services, for another god. 6) Do not swear with Hashem's Name in vain. 7) Sanctify the Shabbos. 8) Do not perform *melachah* on Shabbos. 9) Honor your parents. 10) Do not commit murder. 11) Do not commit adultery. 12) Do not kidnap. 13) Do not testify falsely. 14) Do not attempt to acquire or covet another's possessions. 15) Do not create a statue or form of a human. 16) Do not construct an altar by carving stone. 17) Do not ascend the altar via stairs or with wide strides.

For the Shabbos Table

לֹא תַחְמֹד בֵּית רֵעֶךָ לֹא-תַחְמֹד אִשְׁתּוֹ וְעַבְדְּךָ וְאִמָּתְךָ וְשׁוֹרְךָ וְחֲמֹרְךָ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר לְרֵעֶךָ

"You shall not covet your fellow's home; You shall not covet your fellow's wife, his servant, his maidservant, his ox, his donkey or anything that belongs to your fellow man" (Shemos 20:14)

In the prohibition of coveting another's possessions, the Torah first details various items and then concludes by prohibiting "anything that belongs to your fellow man." Why does the Torah first list these various items if the conclusion is that everything is prohibited?

Rav Yaakov Galinsky zt'l explains that it seems to be a difficult task for a human being to not desire something he likes. To address this, the Torah writes sage advice on how to curb jealousy. "V'chol (everything) asher l'reiecha" explains that

although your friend's home seems so appealing, you must take all of the homeowner's life circumstances and burdens into account - "all that is his." One would need to accept problems, issues, worries, and challenges that accompany this coveted item.

We can understand each person's unique circumstances and provisions with a parable from the Chofetz Chaim. A man enters a shop seeking to purchase an ax with which to chop firewood. The proprietor has no axes in stock, but the salesman offers him a quality saw used for cutting metal, and he implores the man to buy it. The man responds, "I am a woodchopper and have no need for blacksmith tools." The Chofetz Chaim explains that one must recognize that Hashem provides each person with a custom-tailored package of a wife, household, etc., that he needs for his unique mission. Then, after the Torah lists these individual items, it guides us to understand that each of these gifts and possessions is uniquely suited to its owner. Through acceptance of this reality, jealousy dissipates quickly and easily, as one views his situation from its correct perspective.

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