

Snapshot Torah



GUIDE TO THE WEEKLY PARSHA

ISSUE 37

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BEHA'ALOTHECHA

9th Sivan 5774

Kohen - First Aliya:

Chapter 8, verses 1- 14

- ✚ Moshe informs Aaron that Hashem has commanded him to light the Menorah which was crafted out of one piece of solid gold. The three wicks on the right and the three on the left must all face the central lamp.
- ✚ Hashem tells Moshe to purify all the Levi'im by sprinkling water over them. The Levi'im then have to shave their entire body and immerse their clothing in the Mikveh.
- ✚ The Levi'im then have to take two young bulls for sacrifices. Moshe then takes them down to the awaiting nation who are gathered around the entrance to the Ohel Moed (tent of meeting) to watch the final consecration rituals.
- ✚ Once inaugurated, the Levi'im commence with their duties in the Ohel Moed

Levi - Second Aliya:

Chapter 8, verses 15 -26

- ✚ The firstborn were saved by Hashem whilst they were in Mitzraim (Egypt) and belong to Him; but Hashem substitutes them for the Levi'im who will then be employed to work on behalf of Bnai Israel and provide atonement for them. The Levi'im are made to work full time from the age of 30 to 50. Those Levi'im who are between the ages of 25 to 30 are to be employed as apprentices.

Sh'lishi - Third Aliya:

Chapter 9, verses 1 - 14

- ✚ In the second year after the Exodus, Hashem tells Moshe that Bnai Yisrael have to offer up a Korban Pesach on the 14th of Nissan. However those who were deemed impure, which excludes them from bringing a Korban; will be allowed to bring one on the 14th of the following month instead.

R'VI' - Fourth Aliya:

Chapter 9, verse 15 - Chapter 10, verse 10

- ✚ From the day the Mishkan was erected, it was covered by a cloud during the day, and a fire by night. When the cloud lifted, this signalled that Bnai Israel should break camp and journey onwards, following the cloud until it came to rest in a new location of Hashem's choosing.
- ✚ In addition Moshe was asked to make two silver trumpets, The trumpet blasts blown by the Kohanim will indicate when the camp is to move, assemble, celebrate holy days, go to war etc.

Chamishi - Fifth Aliya:

Chapter 10, verse 11 - 34

- ✚ The order of breaking camp, before travelling to their new destination is discussed in detail.
- ✚ Moshe invites his father-in-law, Reuel (Yithro) to join them on their journey, but he declines.

Shishi - Sixth Aliya:

Chapter 10, verse 35 – Chapter 11, verse 29

- ✚ No sooner than Bnai Yisrael start traveling, they start complaining. First they complain about the "arduous" journey. Then they grumble about the manna, expressing their desire for meat. A forlorn Moshe turns to Hashem and insists that he can no longer bear his leadership role any longer.
- ✚ Hashem tells Moses to gather seventy elders who will assist him in his leadership duties, to ease his burdens. He also promises to provide Bnai Yisrael with an abundance of meat.

Sh'vi'i - Seventh Aliya:

Chapter 11, verse 30 - Chapter 12, verse 16

- ✚ Hashem causes a wind to sweep in huge numbers of quail from the sea. Those who ate gluttonously died in a plague.
- ✚ Miriam, Moses' sister, spoke negatively of Moses' decision to become celibate. Hashem was highly displeased by this Loshen Hora and smote Miriam with *Tzara'at* (leprosy) for one week.

Haftorah – ZECHARIAH Chapter 2 verse 14 to Chapter 4 verse 7

OVERVIEW:

- ✚ Shortly before the building of the Second Temple. Zechariah prophesies a vivid depiction of the joy that will prevail when Hashem will return back to Jerusalem.
- ✚ Zechariah describes a scene in the Heavenly Court; where Satan was seeking to incriminate the first Kohen Gadol to serve in the Second Temple, because of his sins. Hashem himself defends the High Priest and in turn rebukes Satan for his accusations.
- ✚ Hashem then proceeds to outline the rewards awaiting the Kohen Gadol if he and his descendants follow in Hashem's ways. Namely resuming full service in the Bais Hamikdash and the coming of the Moshiach.

LINK TO SEDRA READING:

- ✚ The beginning of the sedra begins with how the Menorah should be lit.
- ✚ In the Haftorah Zechariah describes his vision he has of the Menorah, symbolising that victory of Israel's enemies will be achieved by the Spirit of Hashem and not by physical force.

WEEKLY DISCUSSION: Was there any justification for Miriam's gripe against Moshe?

Miriam was upset that Moshe had separated from his wife Zipporah, Her reasoning being that both Aaron and she were able to receive Hashem's prophecies without resorting to celibacy. In addition Miriam knew that the separation was in fact Moshe's own idea and that Hashem had not commanded him to stay away from his wife and the reason why she complained because she did not want to see her brother punished by Hashem for his actions.

You also have to remember that Miriam had seen and been entangled with this similar situation before whilst still in Mitzraim before Moshe was born. Both her parents had decided to split from each other, because of Pharaoh's decree that every new born boy will be thrown into the river. Causing all the other Jewish Husbands to separate from their wives. Miriam was able to save the situation by chastising her parents, stating that by staying away from each other, all they were accomplishing was actually worse than Pharaoh's decree because they were in effect killing the new born girls too. Miriam's parents, thanked her for revealing their error to them and returned back to their marital relations.

Regarding Moshe, The Talmud explains Miriam's reasoning was flawed this time because Hashem had given his approval to Moshe for his decision. Their proof being that after the revelation at Sinai, Hashem told his new nation to 'return back to you tents' (literally meaning your families). However 'You Moshe shall stay with me'

Moshe realised he could no longer be confined to the limited framework of his private life. In order to attain a higher spiritual level to reveal Hashem's revelations to Bnai Yisrael. Separating from Zipporah was the only way Moshe knew he would be able to accomplish this.

Imagine living in a place where the only source of light is the light emitted from an occasional bolt of lightning. It would be impossible to truly understand your surroundings. Miriam did not truly recognise the sacrifices Moshe had to go through, enabling him to elevate himself to the higher level of Prophecy in order to communicate with Hashem enabling him to teach Bnai Yisrael the torah. If Moshe had remained on the same level of prophecy as herself and Aaron. Even if the prophecies were delivered frequently, Moshe would never have been able to reveal or comprehend the true essence of what the torah represented. Which is the reason why Miriam had to be punished by complaining about something beyond her comprehension.

May we all be continually be thankful and gracious to Moshe for sacrificing so much in order to bring the torah into the world.

