

Snapshot Torah



GUIDE TO THE WEEKLY PARSHA

ISSUE 51

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KI TAVO

18th Elul 5774

Kohen - First Aliya:

Chapter 26, verses 1 - 11

- ✚ When Bnai Yisrael settle in the land of Israel they must make a pilgrimage to the Temple to offer up their Bikkurim (First Fruits).
- ✚ This Mitzvor only applies to one of the seven species specifically grown in Israel. (Wheat, barley, dates, figs, grapes, pomegranates and olives).
- ✚ When the Bikkurim are brought, the owner has to recite a brief thanksgiving prayer to Hashem before handing over the produce to the Kohanim (priests)

Levi - Second Aliya:

Chapter 26, verses 12 -15

- ✚ In the third year of a cycle, when a person takes Ma'aser for the Levi'im, a convert, orphan or widow, they have to make a declaration that they have done the tithing according to the Torah Laws of Hashem.

Sh'lishi - Third Aliya:

Chapter 26, verses 16 - 19

- ✚ Moshe reminds his people that they all selected to follow and adhere to Hashem's commandments and in turn Hashem chose them to be his 'Chosen Holy Nation'

R'VI' - Fourth Aliya:

Chapter 27, verses 1 - 10

- ✚ Moshe asks Bnai Yisrael, when they cross the Jordan River, they are to set up stones and coat them with plaster.
- ✚ They must then engrave the torah on these stones which are then to be set up on Mount Eval.
- ✚ Next an altar of uncut stones is to be erected and Korbonos of peace are to be sacrificed upon it.

Chamishi - Fifth Aliya:

Chapter 27, verse 11 - Chapter 28, verse 5

- ✚ .Moshe tells the leaders of the twelve tribes, when they cross the Jordan they are position themselves on two mountains, The tribes of Shimon, Levi, Yehuda, Yosef and Benyamin are to stand on Mount Gerizim and the tribes of Reuven, Gad, Asher, Zevulan, Dan and Naftali are to stand on Mount Eval.
- ✚ The Levi'im face each mountain alternately and recite in a loud voice all the blessings and curses.

Shishi - Sixth Aliya:

Chapter 28, verses 6 - 69

- ✚ The complete list of Blessings and Curses are recited here.
- ✚ After each individual one has been read out, the people have to all respond 'Amen' in unison.

Sh'vi'i - Seventh Aliya:

Chapter 29, verses 1 - 8

- ✚ Moshe calls Bnai Yisrael and reminds them that they were witnesses to the miracles that Hashem performed in Mitzraim (Egypt).
- ✚ Moshe recalls the fact that their clothes did not wear away, and their shoes did not break despite being in the desert for forty years.
- ✚ Moshe then recounts the battles of Sihon and Og and the distribution of the land amongst the tribes of Reuven, Gad and half of Menashe.
- ✚ Finally Moshe tells them if they continue observing Hashem's laws correctly, every one of them will become successful in all that they do.

Haftorah –YISHAYAH (ISAIAH) Chapter 60 verses 1 to 22

OVERVIEW:

- In glowing terms Yishayah recounts what will unfold during the Final Redemption.
- It will commence with the ingathering of the exiles and the resurrection of the departed.
- Hashem will then shower the Jewish nation with abundance of happiness and blessings.
- All the nations of the world will come to the reality that there is all but one true G-d and will praise him accordingly.
- Finally, the Jewish nation will no longer be despised. All violence and mourning will cease and Hashem will shine His everlasting light on His people, for evermore.

LINK TO SEDRA READING:

- This week's Haftorah is the sixth of the seven 'Haftorah's of Consolation', commencing on the Shabbat following Tisha b'Av right up until Rosh Hashanah.
- One of the curses read in the sedra mentions that Bnai Yisrael has to either 'Shape up or Ship out' (meaning follow in Hashem's ways or be exiled by boat.) Yishayah talks about these boats here, only this time they are serving the exact opposite purpose or returning the people back from Golus.

WEEKLY DISCUSSION:

This week's Parsha begins by discussing the Jewish farmer's obligation to bring their Bikkurim (first fruits to the temple and to thank and praise Hashem for blessing them with fertile land. This Mitzvor has to be observed with great joy and happiness in order to fulfil its requirements correctly.

Straight after this the Torah goes on to explain a different topic relating to what percentage each farmer is obligated to give as Ma'aser (Tithes) to the needy, orphans and widows every three years. Is there a connection between the two?

Our sages offer a couple of explanations. One reason is to show how all the hard efforts a farmer has to put in to achieve his crops is meaningless if they don't provide charity to the poor and needy.

An example of this is the festival of Purim, where even though everyone is letting their hair down, drinking wine, eating lavish food at the suedah, singing and dancing; the poor are not forgotten and an extra special Mitzvor was introduced in the midst of all these festivities to raise money for them.

In Judaism, happiness and Charity go hand in hand. A person can only feel true Simcha (joy) when they know for a fact someone else is not suffering or deprived of food.

I believe that these two Mitzvah's of Bikkurim and Ma'aser are linked to show Hashem that every one of us are concerned with the welfare of those who are unfortunately worse off than ourselves. If we can show Hashem our concerns for our fellow man / woman then I'm sure that Hashem will show us his compassion in return for us too.

May Hashem continue to ensure and bestow his charitable side towards us and grant us all a healthy and joyous new year.

