

Connections

A Project of the Shluchim Office

PARSHAS BAMIDBAR
CHOF HEY IYAR 5765

Connecting Tzeirei Hashluchim around the World!

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 35

PARSHAS BAMIDBAR



On Friday, Morah Kaplan asked her students which parshah would be read in shul this Shabbos.

"I know," Riki called out. "It's Bamidbar."

"Last year we read Parshas Bamidbar on the Shabbos before Shavuos. I remember, because my brother was called up to the Torah for his Bar Mitzvah that day. But this year it's not the Shabbos right before Shavuos," exclaimed Dina.

"Actually," Morah Kaplan told the class, "We always read Parshas Bamidbar either on the Shabbos right before Shavuos or on the Shabbos before that. Bamidbar means "in the desert." There is a strong connection between a desert and the Torah which we were given on Shavuos."

"Oh, I remember learning about that," Miriam said. "The desert is open land. Nobody owns it. The Torah also does not belong to any one person alone. Every Jew has an equal share in the Torah."

"Very good, Miriam," Morah Kaplan praised her. "And, girls, there are more things that we can learn from the fact that the Torah was given in the desert. Let's think what life is like in a desert."

"It's hot."

"No water."

"Very little food."

"Now, when our forefathers received the Torah in the desert, they had to depend on HaShem for all their needs - for food, water and clothing. But they didn't worry. Instead, they eagerly received the Torah with joy and trust.

"We should learn this lesson from them. Even if we sometimes feel that we need things, we should not worry about them or let our needs disturb us from studying the Torah and doing mitzvos. We should trust HaShem and rely on Him to provide us with the things we need, just as He did for our ancestors in the desert."

Chani raised her hand. "Morah, last summer I went to Eretz Yisrael and visited my cousins in a small town in the Negev desert. True, it was hot, but they had plenty of water and beautiful gardens and parks."

Morah Kaplan nodded, "Our sages tell us that during the forty years the Jews journeyed through the desert, the desert changed so that even trees flowered and gave fruit.

"Some people are like a desert. They feel empty and dry when it comes to holy things. They, too, can change. The Torah can help them grow full of feeling for HaShem, and become fruitful with good deeds."

'Please Tell Me What the Rebbe Said' (Adapted from Likkutei Sichos, Vol. VIII)

Chinuch Yaldei Hashluchim

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First of 2, but half of 1. My brother leads the way. Who am I?

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org
Last weeks' brain buster: 3 done, 2 left. What's next?

Answer: במדבר

Congratulations to Mendy Wolosow, 10 from Sharon, MA for solving the brain buster.

With many thanks to our generous sponsors:

Chinuch Yaldei Hashluchim: Rabbi & Mrs Mendel & Sara Shemtov, Rabbi & Mrs Kasriel & Chana E. Shemtov

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FROM THE DESK OF... DR. GETZEL

Dear Junior Shluchim

Hmm. .Aperture f /11, lens speed 1/5000, long focus. .excuse me, let me just adjust this, and then I'll explain what I'm doing. Aperture f / 8, lens speed 1/8000. . I'm in the middle of working on my new super-magnificent lens, the one I told you about. It's called the Lo-Lo Lens, and when you look inside of it, and you focus the lens, it takes back in time to a LOng, LOng time ago.

Try it. It goes like this. Take an old pair of glasses, and spray them with Windex window cleaner. Then put them on until they slide to the end of your nose and close your eyes really tight. Turn off all other noises and turn on the imagination button inside your head. This is your LO-LO lens.

Do you what I see? Oh wow, this is so exciting. I see lots of sand in my lens. Lots and lots of it. Hey look, there's a sign that says "Sinai Dessert." And that big mountain over there, the one with a gate around it, it must be *Har Sinai*.

Do you see that tall man over there, near the mountain? Wow, there is a light shining from his face, and his eyes look so kind. Right now he looks very serious, as if something magnificent is going to happen. He must be Moshe Rabbeinu. Oh golly, I see tons and tons and tons and tons of people. They stretch for a few miles. I see girls with freckles and boys with yarmulkas, and men with thick bushy brows and ladies holding tiny babies. I see grandmothers with knitting bags, and grandfathers with cigars. Wow, the people go on and on. They don't even fit into this super cool lo-lo lens.

Hey listen, it's getting very quiet. The mothers and fathers, and boys and girls, and grandmothers and grandfathers all look very serious. The birds are quiet, the trees are still, and the butterflies are resting in the sand. Yikes, I see thunder! And double yikes, I hear lightning. I've seen lots of things, but I've never seen thunder before. And look, Moshe is climbing up the mountain. His face looks so bright, I need to turn away; the light might break my lens.

Now, Moshe is up at the top. I know what's going to happen next. I learned about it in Chumash with Rabbi Knowall. I know exactly what's going to happen now. Hashem is going to come down and talk to all His children, and give us the whole Torah so that we could be close to Him forever.

This is the greatest moment that ever was. MY HANDS ARE SHAKING... I better close my lens. Soon all the people are going to faint from hearing Hashem's voice, and Mrs. Getzel will be upset if I faint.

Do you also see the mountain of Sinai in your old-glasses-Windex-sprayed-lo-lo-lens? Isn't it spectacular? Do you think I'll win the Nobel Peace prize of Lens Formation for making this lens?

Next week is Shavuos, the day Hashem came down to earth and gave us the Torah. And do you want to hear the best part? Rabbi Knowall told me that every year Hashem gives us the Torah again, so the Torah is always brand new. During next week, use your lo-lo lens and SEE the picture, what it must have been like when Hashem came down the first time. And get ready, because on Shavuos, it's going to happen again... yippee!

Dr. Getzel

ראש חודש & שבת מברכים Checklist

This Shabbos is שבת מברכים חודש סיון

- morning I made sure to say תהילים. (Remember to do your quote for the World-Wide Tehillim club)
- I went to shul and made the special ברכה for the new month of סיון. (The ברכה can be found in the סידור after שחרית for שבת)

ראש חודש אייר
ל' ניסן - Monday
א' אייר - Tuesday

- I remembered to say שמונה עשרה יעלה ויבוא in bentching
- I remembered to say הלל after עשרה שמונה
- I remembered to daven מוסף.
- I remembered to say ברכי נפשי after the שיר של יום
- (For Girls) I didn't sew or do any laundry

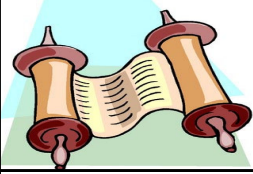
KIDS SPEAK WHERE YOUNG SHLUCHIM TALK ABOUT THEIR SHLICHUS



**CHAYA POSNER, 11
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

My name is Chaya Posner and I am eleven years old. I have been on shlichus in Boston, Massachusetts all my life. My family has been on Shlichus on campus for nineteen years. Our Chabad House has six floors. We have a big room for meals and a shul. There are offices and apartments that people live in. People also sleep there on Shabbos. Every Shabbos and Yom Tov students come for davening and meals. They think we are so cute. I never know who is going to come but I always meet interesting people. We also have lots of nice programs for the students. We have Rosh Chodesh programs and many weekly classes. When the students come to our house all my siblings and I smile at them. We talk to them and they like us a lot. We had a big Purim party. Lots of people come and have fun. I went to the Kinus and I made friends with lots of Shluchos from all over the world. I keep in touch with some of them. It is nice to have friends that are in the same situation as me. I am proud to be able to do this work for the Rebbe. I am sure that we will be successful and be able to bring Moshiach speedily in our days.

**HEY KIDS!
SEND US A REPORT ABOUT YOUR SHLICHUS AND WE WILL IY"H PUBLISH IT
IN OUR FUTURE CONNECTIONS!
E-MAIL US AT CONNECTIONS@SHLUCHIM.ORG
PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, AGE, LOCATION OF SHLICHUS
AND A PHOTO IF POSSIBLE.**



Are you a Parsha Expert?

“וירבר ה' אל משה במדבר סיני” (א:א)

Why was the תורה given in a desert, in a wilderness?

This teaches us that even if a person is in a place that is like a desert and a wilderness, for example if he is on שליחות far from a Jewish community, he can make that place holy by learning תורה and doing מצוות there, and even more, by teaching others to do the same.

Why does the פסוק tell us that the תורה was given in סיני במדבר and not just סיני?

The words מדבר סיני have the same גימטריא as the word שלום - 376. In order for the אידן to receive the תורה they had to have complete שלום between them.

“שאו את ראש כל עדת בני ישראל” (א:ב)

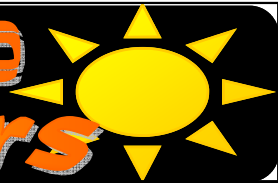
Rashi tells us that ה' counts the אידן to show how much He loves us? How does counting show this?

We know that there are אידן who are very, very frum, אידן who unfortunately don't keep any מצוות at all and everything in between. Some people might think that a איד that keeps less than them is 'gornisht' - nothing.

When ה' told משה to count the אידן, He told to count each person as 'one' - not more and not less. This teaches us that EVERY איד is one of ה'’s children and has a נשמה—a part of ה' in him.

(Adapted from Vedibarta Bam)

פרקי אבות Pointers



פרק חמישי

צרה נסיונות נתנסה אברהם אבינו.... (ד')

Why does this מנה use the title of אבינו when in מנה he is simply called אברהם?

A father passes on his רוחניות & מעוד strengths and abilities to his children. The מנה, by writing "אבינו" - "our father," is teaching that אברהם who was the first person to be tested by ה', gave over to his children the strength and ability to go through tests and to pass them. אברהם led the way for all his descendants, and because of him we have the ability to overcome all the challenges ה' places before us. We are able to have the same unquestioning devotion and dedication to ה' and the same נפש to fulfill what ה' wants.

(Adapted from Vedibarta Bam)

Remember to say פרקי אבות of פרק חמישי
מנוחה after שבת on



POCKET CALENDAR

ראש חודש סיון

The תורה tells us that the Jewish people arrived at הר סיני on ראש חודש and began to prepare themselves for מתן תורה on that very day.

Every year, on ראש חודש סיון, we must remember once again what happened on that ראש חודש סיון. Every Jewish child should tell ה' that he is getting ready for מתן תורה just as the Jewish people did the first time. How does he tell ה'? By making a החלטה to go even higher in learning תורה and doing מצוות.

When ה' gave the Jewish people the תורה they faced הר סיני and called out together 'נעשה ונשמע' - We will do and we will hear. The Jewish people said 'נעשה' before 'ונשמע'. They promised to first do what ה' commanded and only later would they ask questions and try to understand the reason for His commandments.

Every year, when we get ready for מתן תורה, we must accept the תורה just as the Jewish people did then - in a way of 'נעשה ונשמע'.

And this is exactly why Jewish children are called 'צבאות ה'!' - The army of ה'! In every army all soldiers have to obey the Commander-in-Chief without questions. Jewish children must obey ה' in a way of 'נעשה ונשמע'. They must do everything ה' tells them, with devotion and מסירת נפש. Only after they have obeyed can they try to understand the reason for ה'’s מצוות.

When ה' sees how Jewish children are preparing to receive the Torah even before שבועות, and they do so with joy and חיות, ה' himself once again prepares to give the תורה to the Jewish people, amidst great joy.

Then ה' blesses us with everything we need, and He will take us out of גלות, marching straight and tall, to welcome צדקינו.

(Adapted from The Rebbe Speaks to Children)

Stories Of Elders

The Mysterious Illness

Once there was a wealthy Jewish man named Reb Zundel. His wife suddenly became ill with a mysterious illness, and she totally lost the ability to move her hands and arms.

Reb Zundel took his wife to the best doctors, but they were not able to help her. The cause of her sudden problem, and how to treat it, remained a mystery.

Still, Reb Zundel did not give up. He made an appointment for his wife to see yet another famous doctor who lived in a distant city. On the way, however, he had a different thought. "We are halfway to Mezibuzh already," he said to his wife, "why don't we go to the בעל שם טוב first?" The בעל שם טוב listened to their problem, and asked them to remain in Mezibuzh for a while, and to visit him regularly.

One day, he said to Reb Zundel, "I am going on a trip today. I want you both to accompany me. Please ask your wife to get ready." They journeyed together for a day, till they came to an inn. The owner of the inn was a חסיד and he welcomed his honored guests and hastened to provide them with everything they needed.

"I want you to lock the doors tonight," the בעל שם טוב told the innkeeper. "Bar the doors, and don't let anyone in. If you are asked why, say it is because I am here."

That night a violent storm raged outside. Winds howled. Trees bent over backwards. Suddenly there was a knock at the door. The innkeeper went to open up, but then remembered the instructions of the בעל שם טוב.

"Open up!" a voice shouted from outside.

"We're closed!" the innkeeper replied.

"What do you mean, 'you're closed'?" the man shouted. "This is a public inn. You must let me in!"

"I'm sorry, but I'm all filled up tonight," said the innkeeper.

The man knocked louder. "Do you expect me to stay out here in this storm! I won't accept that for an answer. I am a high-ranking officer. You can't send me away! Open this door before I break it down!"

"I am really sorry," the innkeeper said again, "but I can't possibly do that. The holy Rebbe, ישראל בעל שם טוב, is staying here, and he does not allow anyone in."

In a rage, the officer began pounding the door with heavy blows. Anxiously, the host looked towards the בעל שם טוב, who nodded and motioned to open up. Cursing angrily, the stranger burst in. "How dare you lock me out!" he shouted in anger. "Who is this Rabbi who thinks he is so important? I'll teach him a lesson!"

The terrified innkeeper glanced at the בעל שם טוב. "Are you the Rabbi?" the officer shouted, pulling out his sword, and raising it high in the air. The בעל שם טוב sat calmly without saying a word, his eyes focused on the officer.

Suddenly the בעל שם טוב cried to the woman seated in the corner, "Quick! Lift up your hands!" Instinctively the woman's hands shot up to protect the Rebbe.

"Aiiyyyyeee!" the officer cried out in sudden pain, as his sword fell to the floor. "My hands! My hands! I can't move them!" His arms were frozen in mid-air.

"I can't move!" he exclaimed in horror. "Please," he began to plead with the בעל שם טוב, "I'm sorry . . . Ah-aiye, the pain! . . . P-please, let me move my hands again."

The בעל שם טוב just turned and walked out of the room.

The next day, Reb Zundel and his wife, now totally cured, returned with the בעל שם טוב to Mezibuzh.

(Tzivos Hashem Newsletter)



פרשת במדבר



the answers to the puzzle below, and fax it to the Shluchim Office at (718) 221-connections@shluchim.org by Wednesday א"ה סיון—א' סיון.

Level 1: Ages 5-8

In פרשת במדבר the אידן are counted and told how to camp. For both these things, the אידן are divided into their שבטים. Write the name of each שבט next to the clue. (Hint: first do the ones you know, then it will be easier to figure out the rest)

The כהנים come from me	_____
My שבט became 2	_____
I'm the oldest of the שבטים	_____
If you turn me around, I'm a fish in Hebrew	_____
I'm Rochel's youngest son	_____
There are 2 ש's in my name	_____
I have only 2 letters	_____
I start with a ש	_____
My daughter told my father that my brother was still alive	_____
My middle letter is a ת	_____
מישהו will come from me	_____
I have five letters and end with a ן	_____

אשר

דן

יהודה

ראובן

יוסף

נפתלי

יששכר

שמעון

בנימין

גד

זבולן

לוי

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Last Week's Winners:

Level 1: Elisheva Hecht, 7; S. Francisco, California
Efraim Andrusier, 6; Columbus, Ohio

Good Luck!



פרשת במדבר



Kids! Fill out the answers to the puzzle below, and fax it to the Shluchim Office at (718) 221-0985 or e-mail it to connections@shluchim.org by Wednesday ר"ח סיון—א' סיון.

Level 2: Ages 9-12

Maths in the Torah

In פרשת במדבר the אידן are counted. Can you work out these sums to see how many אידן were in each שבט. Add up all the numbers at the end to see the total. Just in case you were wondering, שבט לוי were counted separately.

גד =	45650	45650
שמעון =	גד + 13650 =	_____
יהודה =	שמעון - 133900 =	_____
יששכר =	159350 - (גד + שמעון) =	_____
ראובן =	(גד X 2) - 44800 =	_____
זבולן =	ראובן + 10900 =	_____
אפרים =	יששכר - 13900 =	_____
מנשה =	זבולן - 25200 =	_____
בנימן =	מנשה + 3200 =	_____
דן =	138600 - (אפרים + בנימן) =	_____
אשר =	דן - 21200 =	_____
נפתלי =	אשר + 11900 =	_____
Total:		_____

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Last Week's Winners:

Level 2: Draizy Wilansky, 11; Portland, Maine
Mendel Sherman, 12; Merion Station, Pennsylvania

Good Luck!