

Parsha Q&A



Parshas Beha'aloscha

For the week ending 14 Sivan 5756 (21 Sivan 5756*)
31 May & 1 June 1996 (7 & 8 June 1996*)
*Week ending dates for locations outside of Israel

Parsha Questions

1. Toward which direction did the wicks of the *Menorah* burn, and why?
2. From what material was the *Menorah* made?
3. Moshe was commanded to cleanse the *Levi'im* by sprinkling on them "*mei Chatass*". What is "*mei Chatass*"?
4. What was unique about the "*Chatass*" offered by the *Levi'im*?
5. Which three "*tnufos*" (wave offerings) are in the *Parsha*?
6. For which two functions were the *Levi'im* dedicated?
7. Why did Hashem claim the firstborn of the Jewish People as His possession?
8. Why does the Torah repeat the words "*Bnei Yisrael*" five times in verse 8:19?
9. When a Levi reaches the age of fifty, which functions may he still perform?
10. How many times did the Jewish People offer the *Korban Pesach* in the *midbar*?
11. Why was the *mitzvah* of *Pesach Sheini* not commanded to Moshe earlier?
12. When were the trumpets used?
13. How long were the Jewish People encamped near *Har Sinai*?
14. When the Jewish People entered the Land, who took temporary possession of Jericho?
15. Which *Aron* is referred to in verse 10:33?
16. Which tastes did the Manna not offer, and why?
17. Moshe was commanded to choose seventy elders to help him lead the Jewish People. What happened to the elders that led the Jewish People in Egypt?
18. Who did Moshe choose as the seventy elders?
19. What was the prophesy of Eldad and Medad?
20. Why did Miriam deserve to have the Jewish People wait one week for her to recover?

Bonus

Q:

Moshe asked *Chovav*, his father-in-law *Yisro*, to join the Jewish People in their travels, and enter *Eretz Yisrael* with them. But *Chovav* replied, "I won't go, rather I'll go to my land and my birthplace I'll go." (*Bamidbar* 10:29,30)

This appears to be a quite unexpected response from someone who had converted and played an important role in the leadership of the Jewish People until now. How can we understand this?

I Did Not Know That!

The parts of the *Menorah* included seven stems, nine flowers, eleven pomegranates, and twenty-two cups. Some say its height was seventeen *tefachim*. These numbers correspond to the number of words in the first verses of each of the Books of the Torah: Seven words in *Bereishis*, eleven words in *Shemos*, nine words in *Vayikra*, seventeen words in *Bamidbar*, and twenty-two words in *Devarim*.

Divrei Noam

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Parshas Beha'aloscha — 14 Sivan 5756, 31 May & 1 June 1996

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Recommended Reading List

Ramban

8:2	Preview of <i>Chanukah</i>
9:1	<i>Korban Pesach</i> in the <i>Midbar</i>
9:10	<i>Pesach Sheini</i>
9:14	<i>Pesach</i> of the <i>Ger</i>
10:29	Yisro's Choice
10:35	Flight from Sinai
11:1	Sin of Complainers
11:5	Fish and Vegetables in Egypt
11:6	Complaints about Manna
11:16	Significance of Number 70

Sefer Hachinuch

380	<i>Pesach Sheini</i>
384	Significance of Trumpets

Sforno

9:1	The Four Merits
11:22	Never Satisfied

Answers to this Week's Questions

All references are to the verses and Rashi's commentary, unless otherwise stated

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 8:2 - They leaned toward the middle wick so that people would not say that Hashem wanted the <i>Menorah</i> for its light. 2. 8:4 - From solid gold. 3. 8:7 - Water containing ashes of the <i>Parah Adumah</i>. 4. 8:8 - It was not eaten by the <i>Kohanim</i>. 5. 8:11 - The wave offerings of the families of Kehas, Gershon and Merari. 6. 8:16 - For carrying the sacred articles of the <i>Mishkan</i> and for singing in the chorus in the <i>Mishkan</i>. 7. 8:17 - Because in Egypt He spared them during <i>Makas Bechoros</i>. 8. 8:19 - To show Hashem's love for them their name was repeated five times corresponding to the five <i>chumashim</i> of the Torah. 9. 8:25 - He may close the gates of the courtyard of the <i>Mishkan</i> and <i>Beis Hamikdash</i>, may sing during the <i>avoda</i>, and may load the wagons when the <i>Mishkan</i> is to be transported. 10. 9:1 - Only once. 11. 9:7 - To reward those who asked about it. Hashem wanted them to be the catalyst for the teaching of this <i>mitzvah</i>. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. 10:2-7 - They were used to gather the Jewish People, to gather the <i>Nesi'im</i>, to signal the beginning of a move of the camp, and to accompany the offering of certain communal <i>Korbanos</i>. 13. 10:11 - One year minus ten days. 14. 10:32 - The children of Yisro. 15. The <i>Aron</i> which held the broken pieces of the first Tablets. This same <i>Aron</i> traveled with the army in times of war. 16. 11:5 - Cucumbers, melons, leeks, onion and garlic — these are harmful to nursing women. 17. 11:16 - They were consumed in the fire at <i>Taverah</i> (11:3). 18. 11:16 - People who were supervisors in Egypt and, at personal risk, had shown compassion for their brethren. 19. 11:28 - "Moshe will die and Yehoshua will lead the Jewish People to the Land." 20. 12:15 - Because when Moshe was cast into the river, she waited one hour to see what would happen to him. |
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BONUS

A:

Chovav was saying that he need to return to his land-properties and to his family (Rashi from the *Sifri*). This means that he intended to return to Midian to sell off his land-properties before entering Eretz Yisrael and receiving a portion thereof, and also wanted to make an effort to encourage the rest of his family to join him - and possibly convert - 'in his footsteps.'

Ramban and Sifsei Chachamim

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