

Parsha Q&A



Parshas Behar/Bechukosei

For the week ending 22 Iyar 5756
10 & 11 May 1996

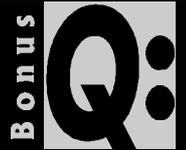
Parsha Questions

BEHAR

1. Why does the Torah specify that the laws of *Shmittah* were taught on Har Sinai?
2. If one possesses *Shmittah* food after it is no longer available in the field, what must he do with it?
3. Which two "returns" are announced by the shofar during Yovel?
4. What is the punishment for neglecting the laws of *Shmittah*?
5. If *Shmittah* is observed properly, how long is the crop of the sixth year guaranteed to last?
6. Under what circumstance may one sell ancestral land?
7. After selling an ancestral field, when can one redeem it?
8. If a home in a walled city is sold, when can it be redeemed?
9. Who is a "ger toshav"?
10. List three prohibitions which demonstrate the dignity with which one must treat a Jewish indentured servant.

BECHUKOSAI

1. To what do the words "*bechukosai telechu*" (walk in My statutes) refer?
2. What is the blessing of "*v'achaltem lachm'chem l'sova*" ("and you shall eat your bread until satisfaction" 26:5)?
3. Which "progression" of seven transgressions are taught in chapter 26, and why in that particular order?
4. What was the duration of the Babylonian exile and why that particular number?
5. Why does the Torah say in 26:46 "*Toros*" (plural) and not "*Torah*" (singular)?
6. If a man dedicates an ancestral field to the *Beis Hamikdash* and fails to redeem it before Yovel, what happens to the field?
7. When a person dedicates a field that he bought from the original owner of an ancestral field, what happens to that field in Yovel?
8. Where must "*Ma'aser Sheini*" be eaten?
9. When a person redeems "*Ma'aser Sheini*", what happens to the food? What happens to the redemption money?
10. How does a person tithe his animals?



If a house in a walled city is sold, it does not revert to the original owner in Yovel. Rather, the Torah gives the original owner only one year to buy it back. Why?

I Did Not Know That!

"I will remember my covenant with Yaakov, and also my covenant with Yitzchak, and also my covenant with Avraham I will remember, and the land I will remember." (26:43)

The verse begins with remembrance and ends with remembrance to teach that Hashem never forgets the merit of the Avos (patriarchs).

Baal Haturim

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Recommended Reading List

BEHAR

Ramban

25:3	First Six Years
25:9	Two Kinds of "Shofar"
25:10	The Word "Yovel"
25:20	Three Year Blessing
25:23	Ban on Perpetual Sale
25:36	Two Kinds of Usury
26:1	Commitment in Hostile Environment

Sefer Hachinuch

330	Counting until Yovel
331	Call of the Shofar
337	Unfair Profit
342	National Land
343	Usury

Sforno

25:4	"A Shabbos to Hashem"
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BECHUKOSAI

Ramban

26:6	Taming of Wild Animals
26:11	Theology of Medicine
26:12	Promise for the Future
26:16	Analysis of Jewish History

Sefer Hachinuch

350	Dedicating One's Value
352	Switching <i>Korbanos</i>
360	Animal Tithes

It changes all the time...



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Answers to this Week's Questions

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

BEHAR

1. 25:1 - To teach us that just as *Shmittah* was taught in detail on Har Sinai, so too, all the *mitzvos* were taught in detail on Har Sinai
2. 25:7 - Remove it from his house or property and make it "*hefker*."
3. 25:10 - The return of the land to its original owner, and the "return" (freedom) of the slave from slavery.
4. 25:18 - Exile.
5. 25:21,22 - From Nissan of the 6th year until Succos of the 9th year.
6. 25:25 - Only because of poverty.
7. 25:24 - Anytime after two years following the sale until *Yovel*. At the beginning of *Yovel* it returns to the family automatically.
8. 25:29 - Only within the first year after the sale. Afterwards, even in *Yovel* it does not return.
9. 25:35 - A non-Jew who lives in Eretz Yisrael and accepts upon himself not to worship idols.
10. 25:39-43 - a) Do not make him perform humiliating tasks; b) Do not sell him publicly; c) Do not make him perform unnecessary jobs.

BECHUKOSAI

1. 26:3 - Laboring in Torah learning.
2. 26:5 - You will only require a little bread to be completely satisfied.
3. 26:14,15 - Not studying Torah, not observing *mitzvos*, rejecting those who do keep *mitzvos*, hating Sages, preventing others from keeping *mitzvos*, denying that Hashem gave the *mitzvos*, denying the existence of Hashem. They are listed in this order because each transgression begets the next.
4. 26:35 - 70 years. Because the Jewish People violated 70 *Shmittah* and *Yovel* years.
5. 26:46 - To teach that both the Written Torah and the Oral Torah were given to Moshe on *Har Sinai*.
6. 27:16 - It becomes the property of the *Kohanim* who are on rotation at the beginning of *Yovel*.
7. 27:22 - It returns to the person who originally sold the field.
8. 27:30 - In Jerusalem.
9. 27:31 - The food becomes permissible to him outside of Jerusalem. The redemption money must be brought to Jerusalem and used to purchase food to be eaten there.
10. 27:32 - He passes them through a door individually and every tenth animal he marks with a rod smeared with red dye.

BONUS

A:

Walled cities were fortresses designed to protect the inhabitants in case of attack. For that reason, it was essential that the inhabitants be familiar with the secret passage ways and shelters located in the city. If after the *Yovel*, the houses in the cities would revert back to the ancestral owners, the new inhabitants would be unfamiliar with the strategic aspects of the city, and the city would lose its effectiveness as a fortress. Thus, the Torah limited the seller's right of repurchase to one year.

Meshech Chochma

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