Parsha Questions

1. What is the role of Shoftim? What is the role of Shotrim?
2. What qualifications should one look for when appointing a judge?
3. What is the effect of bribery?
4. What is a matzevah?
5. Even though the Avos were permitted to use matzevos, the Torah forbade them. Why?
6. In verse 17:9, the Torah says, “you shall come to the ... judge that shall be in that day.” Since it’s not possible to go to someone who lives at a different time, why does the Torah add these extra words?
7. How many horses may a Jewish king possess?
8. How many wives may a Jewish king have?
9. What promise does Hashem give to a king who doesn’t amass too much gold, raise too many horses and doesn’t marry too many wives?
10. How many Torah scrolls must a king possess?
11. What happens to a king who does not obey Hashem’s commands?
12. The Torah obligates non-Kohanim to give the Kohanim matnas kehuna (the shoulder, the two cheeks, and the maw) from certain species of animals. Which species are exempt?
13. The Torah requires non-Kohanim to give the Kohanim a portion of the sheering from their sheep. How many sheep must be shorn before the non-kohen is obligated in this gift?
14. When the Kohanim served in the Beis Hamikdash, they served on a rotational basis according to families. When was this rotation system implemented?
15. How is a false prophet executed by the court?
16. Which three categories of false prophets are executed?
17. How does the Torah command the Jewish People to “prepare the way” to the cities of refuge?
18. When the word “witness” is mentioned in the Torah to how many witnesses does the Torah refer?
19. How must witnesses give testimony?
20. If a defendant is executed through the testimony of witnesses that are found to be plotting witnesses, are the witnesses executed?
21. Why does the section describing going to war follow the laws governing witnesses?
22. Which Kohen speaks to the people before they go off to war?
23. When the Jewish People go to war, what symbolizes that Hashem is going with them?
24. When a murder victim is found in a field who determines which city is closest?
25. What happens to the murderer if he is found after the calf has had its neck broken?

In verses 17:14-20, the Torah gives the laws governing Jewish kings. What is the Torah’s attitude towards hereditary monarchy?

I Did Not Know That!

“Justice, justice you will pursue.” (16:20)
You must pursue justice, but only in a just fashion. The ends do not justify the means.

Rabbi Yaakov Yitzchak of Przysucha
Recommended Reading List

**Ramban**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verses</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16:21</td>
<td>Trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:11</td>
<td>Obedience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:15</td>
<td>Kingship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:20</td>
<td>Conceit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:15-16</td>
<td>Prophecy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19:8</td>
<td>Our Borders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19:13</td>
<td>Self Defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:8</td>
<td>The Torah Army</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sefer Hachinuch**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verses</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>491</td>
<td>Securing Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>496</td>
<td>Antidote to Anarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>498</td>
<td>Qualities of Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503</td>
<td>Safeguarding the King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>510</td>
<td>The Occult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>516</td>
<td>True Prophecy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>517</td>
<td>False Prophecy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>526</td>
<td>Strengthening the Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>527</td>
<td>Humane War</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sforno**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verses</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16:21</td>
<td>Beautiful But Bad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:3</td>
<td>The Sun And The Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:14</td>
<td>Above the Stars</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answers to this Week’s Questions

- All references are to the verses and Rashi’s commentary, unless otherwise stated.

1. 16:18 - Shoftim are the judges who pronounce sentence. Shotrim are the officers who execute the sentence.
2. 16:18 - That he is expert in the law and that he is righteous.
3. 16:19 - It distorts the judge’s judgment so that he will favor the one who has given the bribe.
4. 16:22 - An altar made from one stone.
5. 16:22 - Because the Canaanites used them for idolatry.
6. 17:9 - To teach that although the judge of a particular generation may not be as eminent as those of previous generations, the Jewish People are still obligated to obey him.
7. 17:16 - Only what is sufficient for his carriages.
8. 17:17 - Eighteen.
9. 17:18 - That his kingdom will endure.
10. 17:18 - Two. One stays in his treasury and one he carries with him at all times.
11. 17:20 - His kingdom will not endure.
12. 18:3 - Undomesticated animals.
13. 18:4 - Five.
14. 18:8 - During the time of David and Shmuel.
15. 18:20 - Death by strangulation.
16. 18:20 - One who prophesies something that he did not hear, prophesies something that was told to another prophet, or prophecies in the name of an idol.
17. 19:3 - A sign saying “Refuge” was posted at each crossroads pointing the way.
18. 19:15 - Two, unless otherwise specified.
19. 19:15, 17 - They must speak directly to the judges without an interpreter. They must give their testimony standing.
20. 19:19 - No. The witnesses are punished only if the defendant has been convicted but not yet executed.
21. 20:1 - To teach that if the Jewish People execute judgment in a just fashion they will be victorious in war.
22. 20:2 - The Kohen Meshuach Milchamah (anointed for war).
23. 20:4 - They carry the Aron with them.
24. 21:2 - The Sanhedrin.
25. 21:9 - He is tried and, if found guilty, executed.

Hereditary monarchy is abhorrent to Hashem. Knowing that the Jewish People would one day stubbornly insist upon having a king, the Torah established guidelines to minimize the damage. Nevertheless, the request by the Jewish People for a king like other nations was a sin and they were punished through the disasters that resulted from having such kings.

Announcing a new Ohr Somayach Publication:

**Seasons of the Moon**

The Jewish Year Seen Through its Months...

A new monthly newsletter that shows you the Jewish Year through its seasons of the moon.

Look for the first edition this Tishrei whenever Ohr Somayach Publications are found.

Parshas Shoftim For the week ending 7 Elul 5755, 1 & 2 September 1995

Parsha Q&A is available from several sources:
- World Wide Web: Our address is http://www.jer1.co.il/orgs/ohr/intro.html
- Fax and Regular Mail within Israel. Just send us a note requesting a subscription.
- The Jerusalem1 Gopher (gopher.jer1.co.il).

E-Mail via InterNet: To subscribe, send the message 'sub parasha-qa (your name)' to listproc@jer1.co.il

Compuserve's Religion Forum.

This publication contains words of Torah. Please treat it with due respect. Do not let this land on a garbage heap.