

# Parsha Q&A



## Parshas Behaaloscho

For the week ending 14 Sivan 5759 (Inside Israel) /  
21 Sivan 5759 (Outside Israel)  
28 & 29 May 1999 (Inside Israel) / 4 & 5 June 1999  
(Outside Israel)

### Parsha Questions

1. Toward which direction did the wicks of the menorah burn, and why?
2. From what material and in what manner was the menorah made?
3. Moshe was commanded to cleanse the *levi'im* by sprinkling on them "*mei chatat*." What is "*mei chatat*"?
4. Which three "*tnufot*" (wavings) are in the Parsha?
5. Why did Hashem claim the firstborn of the Jewish People as His possession?
6. Why are the words "*Bnei Yisrael*" repeated five times in verse 8:19?
7. When a *levi* reaches age 50, which functions may he still perform?
8. Why was the mitzvah of *Pesach Sheini* not commanded directly to Moshe?
9. What similarity is there between the menorah and the trumpets?
10. What three purposes did trumpet signals serve?
11. How many tribes marched between the Gershon-Merari detachment and that of Kehat? How was the time differential used?
12. The tribe of Dan, who traveled last, was called "the gatherer of all the camps." What did they gather?
13. When the Jewish People entered the Land, who took temporary possession of Jericho?
14. Which *aron* is referred to in verse 10:33?
15. Which two topics are out of chronological order in the Parsha?
16. Which tastes did the manna not offer, and why not?
17. Moshe was commanded to choose 70 elders to help him lead the Jewish People. What happened to the elders who led the Jewish People in Egypt?
18. Who did Moshe choose as elders?
19. What was the prophecy of Eldad and Medad?
20. Why did Miriam merit to have the people wait for her?

### KASHA!

(*kasha* means "question")

How would you answer this question on the Parsha?

Saul Cohen from Worcester, Massachusetts  
<[scohen@cwix.com](mailto:scohen@cwix.com)> asked:

*In Parshat Beha'alotcha (12:1-13), both Miriam and Aharon are specifically said to be talking together about Moshe separating from Zipporah, yet only Miriam is punished with tzara'at. Why is only Miriam punished? Is Aharon also punished in some way that does not appear in the Parsha?*

Dear Saul Cohen,

Note that the verse mentions Miriam first, indicating that she was the primary actor. Furthermore, only Miriam spoke *lashon hara*, as can be seen from the Hebrew grammar of the verse, which literally reads, "She spoke (*vatedabair*), Miriam and Aharon, about Moshe...." Aharon is included because he listened in silence, or showed agreement. (*Ibn Ezra*)

The Midrash (*Sifri cited by Ohr Hachaim*) states that indeed Aharon was also afflicted with *tzara'at*, but that his *tzara'at* healed immediately.

*Do you have a KASHA? Write to [kasha@ohr.org.il](mailto:kasha@ohr.org.il) with your questions on any Parsha!*

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Parshas **Behaaloscho** — 14 Sivan 5759 (Inside Israel) / 21 Sivan 5759 (Outside Israel), 28 & 29 May 1999 (Inside Israel) / 4 & 5 June 1999 (Outside Israel)

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## I Did Not Know That!

The *menorah* in the Temple had seven stems, nine flowers, eleven pomegranates, and twenty-two cups. Its height was, according to one opinion, seventeen handbreadths.

These numbers correspond to the number of words in the first verse of each Book of the Torah: The first verse of *Bereishet* has seven words; the first verse of *Shmot* has eleven words; *Vayikra*, nine words, *Bamidbar*, seventeen words; *Devarim*, twenty-two words.

This idea is hinted in the verse “The beginning of Your words will give light” (*Tehillim 119*).

Vilna Gaon

## 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	Yitro'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

- 8:2 - They leaned toward the middle wick so people wouldn't say that the the menorah was lit for its light.
- 8:4 - It was made from one solid piece of gold.
- 8:7 - Water containing ashes of the *parah aduma*.
- 8:11 - The wavings of Kehat, Gershon and Merari.
- 8:17 - Because in Egypt He spared them during *makat bechorot*.
- 8:19 - To show Hashem's love for them.
- 8:25 - Closing the courtyard gates of the *Mishkan* and *Beit Hamikdash*; singing during the *avoda*; loading the wagons to transport the *Mishkan*.
- 9:7 - The people who asked about it were rewarded by being the catalyst for the teaching of this mitzvah.
- 8:4, 10:2 - They were each made from a single, solid block.
- 10:2-7 - Announcement of the gathering of *Bnei Yisrael*, the gathering of the *nesi'im*, and the beginning of a move of the encampment.
- 10:17-21 - Three: Reuven, Shimon and Gad. In the meantime Gershon and Merari set up the *Mishkan*.
- 10:25 - They gathered and returned things lost by the other tribes.
- 10:32 - The children of Yitro.
- 10:33 - The *aron* which held the broken pieces of the first tablets, which was taken to the battlefield.
- 9:1, 10:35,36 - The *Pesach* sacrifice, and the traveling of the *aron*.
- 11:5 - Cucumbers, melons, leeks, onion and garlic — these are harmful to nursing women.
- 11:16 - They were consumed in the fire at *Taverah* (11:3).
- 11:16 - People who were supervisors in Egypt and had pity on *Bnei Yisrael* at risk to themselves.
- 11:28 - “Moshe will die and Yehoshua will lead the Jewish People into the Land.”
- 12:15 - Because she waited for Moshe when he was cast into the river.