

# Parsha Q&A



## Parshas Shlach

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

### Parsha Questions

1. Why is the portion about the spies written immediately after the portion about Miriam's *tzara'at*?
2. To what was Moshe referring when he asked the spies "Are there trees in the land?"
3. Who built Hebron?
4. Which fruits did the *meraglim* bring back?
5. How many people carried the grape cluster?
6. Why did Hashem shorten the *meraglim's* journey?
7. Why did the *meraglim* begin by saying the land is "flowing with milk and honey?"
8. Why did the *meraglim* list Amalek first among the hostile nations they encountered?
9. How did Calev quiet the people?
10. Why did the Land appear to "eat its inhabitants?"
11. Besides the incident of the *meraglim*, what other sin led to the decree of 40 years in the desert?
12. On what day did *Bnei Yisrael* cry due to the *meraglim's* report? How did this affect future generations?
13. "Don't fear the people of the land...their defense is departed" (14:9). Who was their chief "defender"?
14. Calev and Yehoshua praised *Eretz Canaan* and tried to assure the people that they could be victorious. How did the people respond?
15. "How long shall I bear this evil congregation?" Hashem is referring to the ten *meraglim* who slandered the Land. What halacha do we learn from this verse?
16. How is the *mitzvah* of *challah* different from other *mitzvot* associated with *Eretz Yisrael*?
17. What is the minimum amount of *challah* to be given to a *kohen* according to Torah Law? Rabbinic Law?
18. Verse 15:22 refers to what sin? How does the text indicate this?
19. Moshe's doubt regarding the punishment of the *mekoshesh etzim* (wood-gatherer) was different than his doubt regarding the punishment of the blasphemer. How did it differ?
20. How do the *tzitzit* remind us of the 613 commandments?

### KASHA!

(*kasha* means "question")

How would you answer this question on the Parsha?

Barry Weiss from New York wrote:

Dear Rabbi,

*Efraim and Menashe were both sons of Yosef, so why in Parshat Shlach is only Menashe's tribe called "the sons of Yosef" and Efraim's tribe isn't? (13:8,11)*

Dear Barry Weiss,

Yaakov gave Yosef's sons Menashe and Efraim, "Tribe" status. Yaakov stipulated that Yosef's future sons would not have "tribe" status; rather, They would become part of the Tribe of Menashe or Efraim at Yosef's discretion. Yosef chose Menashe as the tribe to absorb these children. Hence, the Tribe of Menashe includes not only Menashe's offspring, but the "sons of Yosef" as well. (Rabbi Yaakov Kaminetzky)

Also, the spy from Menashe's tribe was one who spoke ill of the Land, hence, he is identified with his ancestor Yosef, who spoke ill of his brothers. The spy from Efraim's tribe, on the other hand, did not speak ill of the Land; hence, he is not identified here as Yosef's descendent.

(*Musaf Rashi*)

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 **Shlach** — 14 Sivan 5759 / 28 & 29 May 1999 (Inside Israel)),

21 Sivan 5759 / 4 & 5 June 1999 (Outside Israel)

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## ***I Did Not Know That!***

The minimal volume of dough requiring that *challah* be separated from it is 43 egg-volumes plus a fraction. The word *challah* hints at this number by the combined

numerical value of its letters: 43! (*Challah* is spelled *chet lamed hey*. *Chet*=8, *lamed*=30, *hey*=5)

*Midrash Tanchuma*

### ***Recommended Reading List***

	<b><i>Ramban</i></b>		<b><i>Sefer Hachinuch</i></b>
13:4	Order of the <i>Meraglim</i>	385	Challah
13:27,32 & 14:1,3	Tactics of the <i>Meraglim</i>	386	Tzitzit
14:17	Moshe Rabbeinu's Prayer	387	Avoiding Intellectual and Physical
15:2	Order of the Chapters		Temptations

## ***Answers to this Week's Questions***

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

- 13:2 - To show the evil of the *meraglim* (spies), that they saw Miriam punished for *lashon hara* (negative speech) yet failed to take a lesson from it.
- 13:20 - Were there any righteous people in the land whose merit would "shade" the Canaanites from attack?
- 13:22 - Cham.
- 13:23 - A cluster of grapes, a pomegranate and a fig.
- 13:23 - Eight.
- 13:25 - Hashem knew the Jews would sin and be punished with a year's wandering for each day of the spies' mission. So He shortened the journey to soften the decree.
- 13:27 - Any lie which doesn't start with an element of truth won't be believed; therefore, they began their false report with a true statement.
- 13:29 - To frighten the Jews. The Jewish People were afraid of Amalek, because they had once attacked them.
- 13:30 - He fooled them by shouting, "Is this all that the son of Amram did to us?" The people quieted themselves to hear what disparaging thing Calev wished to say about the "son of Amram" (Moshe).
- 13:32 - Hashem caused many deaths among the Canaanites so they would be preoccupied with burying their dead and not notice the *meraglim*.
- 13:33 - The golden calf.
- 14:1 - The 9th of Av. This date therefore became a day of crying for all future generations: Both Temples were destroyed on this date.
- 14:9 - Iyov.
- 14:10 - They wanted to stone them.
- 14:27 - That ten men are considered a congregation.
- 15:18 - The obligation to observe other *mitzvot* associated with *Eretz Yisrael* began only after the possession and division of the Land. The *mitzvah* of *challah* was obligatory immediately upon entering the Land.
- 15:20 - No fixed amount is stated by the Torah. Rabbinic Law requires a household to give 1/24 and a baker to give 1/48.
- 15:22 - Idolatry. "*All these commandments*" means one transgression which is equal to transgressing all the commandments — i.e., idolatry.
- 15:34 - Moshe knew that the *mekoshesh etzim* was liable for the death penalty, but not which specific means of death. Regarding the blasphemer, Moshe didn't know if he was liable for the death penalty.
- 15:39 - The numerical value of the word *tzitzit* is 600. *Tzitzit* have eight threads and five knots. Add these numbers and you get 613.