

Parsha Q&A



Parshat Ki Tavo

For the week ending 16 Elul 5759
27 & 28 August 1999

Parsha Questions

1. When did the obligation to bring *bikkurim* begin?
2. *Bikkurim* are from which crops?
3. How does one designate *bikkurim*?
4. Who shakes the basket containing the *bikkurim*?
5. What does "*v'anita v'amarta*" mean?
6. Which Arami "tried to destroy my father"?
7. When during the year may *bikkurim* be brought? Until when are the special verses recited?
8. Someone declaring that he separated *terumah* and *ma'aser* says: "And I didn't forget." What didn't he forget?
9. What were the Jewish People to do with the 12 stones on Mt. Eval?
10. Six tribes stood on Mt. Eval and six on Mt. Gerizim. Who and what were in the middle?
11. Who "causes the blind to go astray"?
12. How does one "strike another secretly"?
13. Eleven curses were spoken on Mt. Eval. What is the significance of this number?
14. Why are sheep called "*ashterot*"?
15. How is the manner of expressing the curses in Parshat Bechukotai more severe than in this week's parsha?

I Did Not Know That!

"And you shall take from the first of every fruit of the earth...and place (them) in the basket."
(Devarim 26:2)

By Torah law, *bikkurim* have no minimum amount which one must give. The Sages, however, required that one give a sixtieth of his crop (*Rambam Hilchot Bikurim 2:17*). This amount, one out of sixty, is hinted in the above verse "and place in the basket." The Hebrew word for basket — *teneh* — has the numerical value of 60.

In the name of the Vilna Gaon

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Recommended Reading List

Sefer Hachinuch		Ramban	
606-7	Power of Speech	26:3	The Kohen of Your Day
611	Emulating Hashem	27:3	The Stones
		27:26	Upholding the Torah
		28:42	The Fourth Exile
Sforno		Ohr Hachaim Hakadosh	
26:17	Exalting Hashem		
26:18	The Exalted Jewish People		
27:15	The Curses	226:11	Rejoicing with Hashem and the Torah
28:2	The Blessings		
28:14	Punishment		

Answers to this Week's Questions

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

1. 26:1 - After the Land was conquered and divided.
2. 26:2 - The seven species for which *Eretz Yisrael* is praised.
3. 26:2 - When he sees the first fruit ripen on a tree, he binds a piece of straw around it to mark it as *bikkurim*.
4. 26:4 - The *kohen* places his hands under the hands of the one bringing it, and they wave the basket together.
5. 26:5 - Speak loudly.
6. 26:5 - Lavan.
7. 26:11 - *Bikkurim* are brought from Shavuot until Channuka. The verses are recited only until Succot.
8. 26:13 - To bless Hashem.
9. 10. 27:2 - Build an altar.
10. 27:12 - *Kohanim, levi'im* and the Holy Ark.
11. 27:18 - Any person who intentionally gives bad advice.
12. 27:24 - By slandering him.
13. 27:24 - Each curse corresponds to one of the tribes, except for the tribe of Shimon. Since Moshe didn't intend to bless the tribe of Shimon before his death, he did not want to curse them either.
14. 28:4 - Because they "enrich" (*m'ashiro*) their owners.
15. 28:23 - In Bechukotai the Torah speaks in the plural, whereas in this week's Parsha the curses are mentioned in the singular.