Parsha Questions

Acharei Mos
1. Why does the Torah emphasize that Parshas Acharei Mos was taught after the death of Aharon’s sons?
2. How long did the first Beis Hamikdash stand?
3. What did the kohen gadol wear when he entered the Holy of Holies?
4. How many times did the kohen gadol change his clothing and immerse in the mikveh on Yom Kippur?
5. One of the goats that was chosen by lot went to Azazel. What is Azazel?
6. After the Yom Kippur service, what is done with the four linen garments worn by the kohen gadol?
7. What is the penalty of kares?
8. Which categories of animals must have their blood covered when they are slaughtered?
9. What is the difference between "mishpat" and "chok"?
10. May a man marry his wife’s sister?

Kedoshim
1. Why was Parshas Kedoshim said in front of all the Jewish People?
2. Why does the Torah mention the duty to honor one’s father before it mentions the duty to honor one’s mother?
3. Why is the command to fear one’s parents followed by the command to keep Shabbos?
4. The Torah obligates one to leave the “leket” for the poor. What is “leket”?
5. In Shmos 20:13, the Torah commands, “Do not steal.” What does the Torah add when it commands in Vayikra 19:11, “Do not steal”?
6. In verse 19:13, the Torah commands, “Do not wrong your neighbor.” To what “wrong” is the Torah referring?
7. When rebuking someone, what sin must one be careful to avoid?
8. How does one fulfill the command “v’hadarta p’nei zakein”?
9. What punishment will never come to the entire Jewish People?
10. When the Torah states a death penalty but doesn’t define it precisely, to which type of death penalty is it referring?

I Did Not Know That!

The Torah forbids eating the blood of domestic animals “because the soul is in the blood.” (Vayikra 17:11) The blood of wild animals is also forbidden, but with opposite phrasing: Because “its blood is in its soul.” (Vayikra 17:14). Why does the Torah reverse the wording?

A domestic animal “sells its soul” to its human master. In exchange for food and shelter, it is milked, shorn, worked and...slaughtered. But a wild animal runs from such security. It prefers to face freezing winters, burning summers and prowling predators as the price of independence.

Thus, a domestic animal’s “soul is in its blood;” i.e., its spirit of independence is prisoner within its “blood-desires” for safety and ease. By contrast, the wild animal’s “blood is in its soul;” its “blood-desires” are engulfed by its overwhelming independent spirit.

Based on Moznaim L’Torah

Recommended Reading List

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Parshas Acharei - Kedoshim — 8 Iyar 5759, 23 & 24 April 1999

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Kedoshim

Ramban

19:2  Be Holy
19:14  Who May Not Be Cursed
19:17  Love and Rebuke
19:18  Love Your Neighbor
19:30  Shabbos
19:32  Honoring the Elderly

Sefer Hachinuch

227  Swearing Falsely
236  Tale Bearing
237  Standing Idly
238  Hatred
239  Rebuke

Answers to this Week’s Questions

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

Acharei Mos

1. 16:1 - To strengthen the warning not to enter the Holy of Holies except on Yom Kippur.
2. 16:3 - 410 years.
3. 16:4 - Only the four linen garments worn by an ordinary kohen.
4. 16:4 - Five times.
5. 16:8 - A jagged cliff.
6. 16:23 - They must be put into geniza and not be used again.
7. 17:9 - The person’s life is shortened and his offspring die.
8. 17:13 - Non-domesticated kosher animals and all species of kosher birds.
9. 18:4 - A “mishpat” conforms to the human sense of justice. A “chok” is a law whose reason is not given to us and can only be understood as Hashem’s decree.
10. 18:18 - Not during his wife’s lifetime.

Kedoshim

1. 19:2 - Because it contains the fundamental teachings of the Torah.
2. 19:3 - Since it is more natural to honor one’s mother, the Torah stresses the obligation to honor one’s father.
3. 19:3 - To teach that one must not violate Torah law even at the command of one’s parents.
4. 19:9 - “Leket” is one or two stalks of grain that are accidentally dropped while harvesting.
5. 19:11 - The Torah in Vayikra prohibits monetary theft. In Shmos it prohibits kidnapping.
7. 19:17 - Causing embarrassment.
8. 19:32 - By not sitting in their seat nor contradicting them.
9. 20:3 - “Kares” — the entire Jewish People will never be “cut off.”
10. 20:10 - “Chenek” (strangulation).

Parshas Acharei - Kedoshim  
For the week ending 8 Iyar 5759, 23 & 24 April 1999

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