

Parsha Q&A



Parshas Ki Savo

For the week ending 16 Elul 5756
30 & 31 August 1996

Parsha Questions

1. When did the obligation to bring *bikkurim* (first fruits) begin?
2. From which crops must one bring *bikkurim*?
3. What does 'v'anisa v'amarta' mean (verse 26:5)?
4. How does one designate *bikkurim*?
5. Who shakes the basket containing the *bikkurim*?
6. "An Arami tried to destroy my father....(26:5)" Who was that Arami?
7. Starting when in the year are *bikkurim* brought? Until when are the special verses recited?
8. Someone declaring that he separated *trumah* and *maaser* says "and I didn't forget (26:13)." What didn't he forget?
9. Eleven curses were spoken on Mt. Eval. What is the significance of this number?
10. What were the Jewish People to do with the 12 stones on Mount Eval?
11. Six tribes were to stand on Mount Eval, and six on Mount Grizim. Who and what were in the middle?
12. Who "causes the blind to go astray?"
13. How does one "strike another secretly?"
14. Why is the word "ashteros" used in reference to sheep?
15. How is the manner of expressing the curses in *Parshas Bechukosai* more severe than in this week's *Parsha*?
16. What is meant by "the Jewish People will become a proverb?"
17. "...And there you will serve other gods...." What does this mean?
18. "In the morning you shall say, 'If only it were (last) evening' and in the evening you will say, 'If only it were (this) morning' (28:67)." Why?
19. To which tribe did Moshe give the Torah first?
20. How long does it take to understand the depth of one's teacher's wisdom?

Bonus
Q:

'Vidui' is a word usually used in reference to confession of sin. Why, then, is the declaration that one has properly given tithes to the Levi'im called 'Vidui Ma'aser'?

I Did Not Know That!

The parsha of *bikkurim* contains the name of Hashem 13 times, corresponding to the 13 attributes of Hashem's Kindness. Similarly, the 13 Attributes and the mitzva of *bikkurim* are listed in the same paragraph in Parshas Ki Sisa (Shmos 34). This hints that the mitzva of *bikkurim* arouses Divine Mercy.

Meshech Chochma

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Recommended Reading List

Sefer Hachinuch

606-7 Power of Speech
611 Emulating Hashem

Sforno

26:17 Exalting Hashem
26:18 The Exalted Jewish People
27:15 The Curses
28:2 The Blessings
28:14 Punishment

Ramban

26:3 The *Kohen* of Your Day
27:3 The Stones
27:26 Upholding the Torah
28:42 The Fourth Exile

Ohr HaChaim HaKadosh

226:11 Rejoicing with Hashem and the Torah

Answers to this Week's Questions

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

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 26:1 - After the Land was conquered and divided. 2. 26:2 - The seven species for which <i>Eretz Yisrael</i> is praised. 3. 26:5 - Speak loudly. 4. 26:2 - When he sees the first fruit ripen on a tree, he binds a piece of straw around it to mark it as <i>bikkurim</i>. 5. 26:4 - The <i>kohen</i> places his hands under the hands of the one bringing it, and they wave the basket together. 6. 26:5 - Lavan. 7. 26:11 - <i>Bikkurim</i> are brought starting from Shavuot (until Chanukah). The verses are recited only until Succot. 8. 26:13 - To bless Hashem. 9. 27:24 - Each curse corresponds with 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. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. 27:2 - Build an altar. 11. 27:12 - Kohanim, Levi'im and the Ark. 12. 27:18 - Any person who intentionally gives bad advice. 13. 27:24 - By slandering him. 14. 28:4 - Because they 'enrich' (<i>m'ashiros</i>) their owners. 15. 28:23 - In <i>Bechukosai</i>, the Torah speaks in the plural, whereas, in this <i>Parsha</i>, the curses are mentioned in the singular. 16. 28:37 - Whenever someone wants to express the idea of extraordinary suffering they will use the Jewish People as an example. 17. 28:64 - You will pay taxes to the idol worshipping priests. 18. 28:67 - Because the curse of each hour will be greater than that of the previous hour. 19. 29:3 - To the tribe of Levi. 20. 29:8 - 40 years. |
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Bonus

A:

Due to the sin of the Golden Calf, the first-born of every family lost the right to perform the temple service, and thereby receive *Trumah* and *Maaser*. Thus, "I removed the holiness from my house, and I gave it to the Levi..." is a confession to the sin of the Golden Calf.

Sforno