

Parsha QA



Parshat Matos - Masei

For the week ending 26 Tammuz 5759, 9 & 10 July 1999

Parsha Questions

Matot

1. Who may annul a vow?
2. When may a father annul his widowed daughter's vows?
3. Why were the Jewish People not commanded to attack Moav, as they were to attack Midian?
4. Those selected to fight Midian went unwillingly. Why?
5. What holy vessels accompanied the Jewish People into battle?
6. Those who killed in the war against Midian were required to remain outside the "machaneh" (camp). Which machaneh?
7. Besides removing traces of forbidden food, what else is needed to make metal vessels obtained from a non-Jew fit for a Jewish owner?
8. "We will build sheep-pens here for our livestock and cities for our little ones." What was improper about this statement?
9. During the conquest of the Land, where did *Bnei Gad* and *Bnei Reuven* position themselves?
10. What promise did *Bnei Gad* and *Bnei Reuven* make beyond that which Moshe required?

Masei

1. Why does the Torah list the places where the Jewish People camped?
2. Why did the King of Arad feel at liberty to attack the Jewish People?
3. What length was the camp in the *midbar*?
4. Why does the Torah need to specify the boundaries that are to be inherited by the Jewish People?
5. What was the *nesi'im's* role in dividing the Land?
6. When did the three cities east of the Jordan begin to function as refuge cities?
7. There were six refuge cities, three on each side of the Jordan. Yet, on the east side of the Jordan there were only two and a half tribes. Why did they need three cities?
8. To be judged as an intentional murderer, what type of weapon must the murderer use?
9. Why is the *kohen gadol* blamed for accidental deaths?
10. When an ancestral field moves by inheritance from one tribe to another, what happens to it in *yovel*?

KASHA!

(kasha means "question")

How would you answer this question on the Parsha?

F. V. from Holland asked:

Here's a question that has baffled me for years: Why in Parshat Matot is the casualty report given after the counting of the spoils? The verse says Moshe counted and apportioned all the spoils captured in the war against Midian (Bamidbar 31:25-46); only then did the captains report to Moshe saying "We have taken a head-count of the warriors under our charge, and not one man is missing." (Bamidbar 31:48-9) Shouldn't they have counted the soldiers first to see if any died? Aren't people more important than things?

Answer:

Dear F.V.,

The captains' report was not a casualty report. Rather, they were saying that they monitored every soldier during the entire battle, and not one was ever missing from surveillance; and hence, no one sinned with any of the Midianite women.

Ramban

Do you have a KASHA? Write to kasha@ohr.org.il with your questions on any Parsha!

I Did Not Know That!

The phrases "*Bnei Gad*" and "*Bnei Reuven*" appear eight times in connection with taking their inheritance before the other tribes. Thus, the tribe of Gad and Reuven were exiled from that inheritance eight years before the other tribes.

Ba'al Haturim

Recommended Reading List

Matos

Ramban

30:16	Responsibility	33:53	
31:2,6	Vengeance	35:14	
31:23	Cleansing Vessels	35:29	
31:36	Miracle of the Spoils		
31:49	Jewish Victory	33:49	
32:33	Menashe's Inheritance	35:6	
32:41	Yair's Ancestry		

Sforno

31:15	The Meaning of Silence		
		408	
		409	
		410	
		33:1	
		36:4	
		36:12	

Masei

Ramban

The Land
Cities of Refuge
The Sanhedrin

Kli Yakar

The Greater Loss
Temporary Dweller

Sefer Hachinuch

Cities of the *Levi'im*
Capital Punishment
Exile

Sforno

The Merit of the Journeys
The Inheritance of Daughters
The Husbands of the Daughters of Tzafchad

Answers to this Week's Questions

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

Matot

1. 30:2 - Preferably, an expert in the laws of *nedarim*. Otherwise, three ordinary people.
2. 30:10 - If she is under 12 and 1/2 years old and widowed before she was fully married.
3. 31:2 - Because Moav only acted out of fear against the Jewish People. Also, Ruth was destined to come from Moav.
4. 31:5 - They knew that Moshe's death would follow.
5. 31:6 - The *aron* and the *tzitz*.
6. 31:19 - The *Machaneh Shechina*.
7. 31:23 - Immersion in a *mikveh*.
8. 32:16 - They showed more regard for their property than for their children.
9. 32:17 - At the head of the troops.
10. 32:24 - Moshe required them to remain west of the Jordan during the conquest of the Land. They promised to remain after the conquest until the Land was divided among the tribes.

Masei

1. 33:1 - To show Hashem's love of the Jewish People. Although it was decreed that they wander in the desert, they did not travel continuously. During 38 years, they moved only 20 times.
2. 33:40 - When Aharon died, the clouds of glory protecting the Jewish People departed.
3. 33:49 - Twelve *mil*.
4. 34:2 - Because certain *mitzvos* apply only in the Land.
5. 34:17 - Each *nasi* represented his tribe. He also allocated the inheritance to each family in his tribe.
6. 35:13 - After Yehoshua separated three cities west of the Jordan.
7. 35:14 - Because murders were more common there.
8. 35:16 - One capable of inflicting lethal injury.
9. 35:25 - He should have prayed that such things not occur.
10. 36:4 - It remains with the new tribe.