

Parsha Q&A



Parshas Ki Sisa

For the week ending 18 Adar 5756
8 & 9 March 1996

Parsha Questions

1. How was the census taken?
2. What was the minimum age of military service in the Jewish army?
3. What were the three different types of *terumah* donated?
4. List two times when the Jewish People were counted.
5. How did the olive oil for anointing acquire its fragrance?
6. How many ingredients comprise the incense of the *Mishkan*?
7. What is the difference between *chochma* (wisdom), *bina* (understanding), and *da'as* (knowledge)?
8. Shabbos is "a sign" (31:13). What does it signify?
9. When did the Jewish People begin to give contributions for the building of the *Mishkan*?
10. Why did Aaron build the altar for the golden calf by himself?
11. Who were the "mixed multitude"?
12. Why did Moshe break the Tablets?
13. How can two brothers belong to two different tribes?
14. Rather than wipe out the Jewish People for the sin of the golden calf, Hashem agreed to punish them gradually. How did this affect the Jewish People throughout history?
15. What is a textual source for referring to "travel to Israel" as "*Aliyah*"?
16. In verse 33:2, Hashem says that the inhabitants of *Eretz Canaan* would be driven out of the Land. In that verse, only six of the seven Canaanite nations are mentioned. What happened to the seventh?
17. Which events took place on these dates: a) 17 *Tamuz*; b) 18 *Tamuz*; c) 19 *Tamuz*; d) 1 *Elul*; e) 10 *Tishrei*; f) 1 *Nisan*?
18. How did Hashem show that He forgave the Jewish People?
19. Why is Hashem "slow to anger"?
20. How many times is the ban on meat and milk mentioned, and why?

BONUS

Q:

In the list of the "13 Attributes of Hashem," the Name "Hashem" appears twice. Rashi explains that the Name "Hashem" refers to the attribute of Mercy, and is repeated to teach that Hashem is merciful not only before a person sins but also after he repents.

Why does a person need mercy *before* he sins?

I Did Not Know That!

"I have called Betzalel...to devise clever work...and Oholiav...to make all that I have commanded." (31:2-6)
The work of the *Mishkan* required a knowledge of design and of construction. Betzalel was in charge of the design of the *Mishkan* and Oholiav was in charge of its actual construction.

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Production Design: Lev Seltzer

Recommended Reading List

Ramban

30:13	"Lashon HaKodesh"
30:19	Washing Hands
31:2	Betzalel
32:1-4	The Golden Calf
32:18	Sounds
33:11	Yehoshua's Age
34:27	A Renewed Covenant
34:28	The Second Tablets

Sefer Hachinuch

105	Equality in Sacrifices
107-8	Anointing

Malbim

28:5	Trustworthy Treasurers
28:30	The "Urim V'Tumim"
29:9	Donning of the Kohen's Garments
30:1	The Incense-Altar
30:12	The Concept of Counting People
31:2	The Name Betzalel
31:13	A Taste of the World-to-Come

Answers to this Week's Questions

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

1. 30:12 - Through the donation of a half-shekel per person.
2. 30:14 - Twenty.
3. 30:15 - For the *Adanim* (sockets), for the purchase of communal sacrifices, and for the building of the *Mishkan*.
4. 30:16 - After *Yom Kippur* of the first year, and in *Iyar* of the second year.
5. 30:23-25 - It was mixed with spices.
6. 30:34 - Eleven ingredients were used making the incense.
7. 31:3 - *Chochma* is knowledge acquired from others. *Bina* is the deduction of new knowledge from what one has already learned. *Da'as* is holy inspiration.
8. 31:13 - It is a sign between Hashem and the Jewish People that He has chosen them and a sign to the nations of the world that He has sanctified the Jewish People.
9. 31:18 - The 11th of *Tishrei*.
10. 32:5 - He hoped that by building it by himself it would take longer and in the interim Moshe would return.
11. 32:7 - The non-Jews who came out of Egypt, who Moshe accepted and converted.
12. 32:19 - Moshe reasoned: If the Torah did not permit those who have estranged themselves from the Torah to partake in even a single commandment (*Pesach* sacrifice), surely the *entire* Torah cannot be given to a whole nation who has estranged itself from Hashem!
13. 32:27 - Half-brothers, sharing the same mother.
14. 32:34 - Whenever Hashem punished the Jewish People, part of that punishment comes as payment for the sin of the golden calf.
15. 33:1 - The words "*lech aleh*" (depart and go up).
16. 33:2 - The seventh nation, the *Girgashites*, voluntarily emigrated.
17. 33:11 - a) Moshe came down from *Har Sinai* and broke the Tablets. b) Moshe burned the golden calf and punished the offenders. c) Moshe went up a second time to *Har Sinai*. d) Moshe went up a third time to *Har Sinai*. e) Hashem forgave the Jewish people and gave Moshe the Second Tablets. f) The *Mishkan* was completed.
18. 33:14 - He agreed to let His *Shechina* dwell among them.
19. 34:6 - To give the sinner a chance to repent.
20. 34:26 - Three times — to prohibit eating, deriving benefit and cooking.

BONUS

A:

Hashem is merciful and good to all His creations, and although He knows in advance that a person will sin, He still is merciful to that person.

Sifsei Chachamim

Hashem is Hashem whether a person sins or not, and this proves that Hashem is unchanging and not affected by human choice or action.

The Maharal from Prague

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