

Parsha Q&A



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Parshas Matos

For the week ending 24 Tamuz 5755
21 & 22 July 1995

Parsha Questions

1. Who may annul a vow?
2. What is a *neder*?
3. Can a person take a *neder* permitting something that the Torah forbids?
4. At what age are a woman's *nedarim* binding?
5. When may a father annul the *nedarim* of his widowed daughter?
6. What type of vows may a woman's husband nullify?
7. How much time does a man have to annul his wife's *nedarim*?
8. Hashem commanded the Jewish People to attack Midian. Why did He not command them to attack Moav?
9. Why did the men selected to fight against Midian not go willingly?
10. What holy vessels accompanied the Jewish People into battle?
11. Why was Bilaam with the Midianites when the Jewish People attacked?
12. Those who killed in the war against Midian were required to remain outside the *machane* (camp). To which *machane* is the Torah referring?
13. In addition to proper cleansing to remove traces of forbidden foods, what other preparation is needed to make metallic vessels obtained from a non-Jew fit for a Jewish owner?
14. What portion of the spoils went to the soldiers who went to war against Midian?
15. Why does the Torah call Kalev ben Yefune a *Kenazi*?
16. How were Kalev ben Yefune and Osniel ben Kenaz related?
17. In verse 32:16, *Bnei Gad* and *Bnei Reuven* said, "We will build sheepfolds here for our cattle, and cities for our little ones." What is improper about that statement?
18. In the conquest of the Land, where did *Bnei Gad* and *Bnei Reuven* position themselves?
19. What promise did the *Bnei Gad* and *Bnei Reuven* make beyond that which Moshe required of them?
20. Which part of the Tribe of Menashe inherited land on the eastern side of the Jordan?

Bonus
Q:

Hashem commanded Moshe, "Avenge the *Bnei Yisrael* against Midian. (31:2)." Why did Moshe tell the Jewish People, "execute the vengeance of *Hashem* against Midian"?

I Did Not Know That!

"He shall not break his word. He shall do all that proceeds from his mouth" (30:3).

Everything that proceeds from the mouth of the righteous, Hashem shall fulfill.

Avodas Yisrael

Recommended Reading List

Ramban

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

Sforno

31:15	The Meaning of Silence
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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. 30:2 - Preferably, one person who is an expert in the laws of <i>nedarim</i>. If such a person is not available then three ordinary people. 2. 30:3 - A restriction a person takes upon himself as a sacred obligation. 3. 30:3 - No. 4. 30:4 - At eleven years old and one day, if it is ascertained that she understands the gravity of her words. At the age of twelve and one day her <i>nedarim</i> are binding even without any such verification. 5. 30:10 - If she is widowed before she is fully married, and is less than twelve and a half years old. 6. 30:14 - Vows of self-affliction. 7. 30:15 - Until sunset of the day he finds out about them. 8. 31:2 - Because Moav only acted out of fear against the Jewish People. Also, Ruth was destined to come from Moav. 9. 31:5 - They knew that the death of Moshe would follow the execution of vengeance upon Midian. 10. 31:6 - The <i>Aron</i> and the <i>Tzitz</i>. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. 31:8 - He went to claim his reward for the people who died in the plague as a result of his counsel. 12. 31:19 - The <i>Machane Shechina</i>. 13. 31:23 - Immersion in a <i>mikveh</i>. 14. 31:27 - Half. 15. 32:12 - He was the stepson of <i>Kenaz</i>. 16. 32:12 - They were half-brothers. Kalev's mother married <i>Kenaz</i> and gave birth to <i>Osniel</i>. (<i>Osniel</i> led the Jewish People after the death of <i>Yehoshua</i>.) 17. 32:16 - They showed more regard for their property than for their children. 18. 32:17 - At the head of the troops. 19. 32:24 - <i>Moshe</i> required them to remain west of the <i>Jordan</i> during the conquest of the Land. They promised not to return home for an additional 7 years while the Land was being divided. 20. 32:39-42 - <i>Bnei Machir ben Menashe</i>. They independently conquered part of the Amorite land, east of the <i>Jordan</i>. <i>Moshe</i> promised them that land. |
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Bonus

A:

When Midian seduced the Jewish People, they sinned against both Hashem and the Jewish People. Hashem was willing to forego his own honor, but not the honor of the Jewish People. His command was, "Avenge the *Bnei Yisrael*." The Jewish People knew that *Moshe* would not die until Midian was avenged. To prevent that loss, the Jewish People were willing to forego their own honor. Therefore, in order to get the Jewish People to agree to attack Midian, *Moshe* had to tell them that it was to avenge Hashem's honor.

Kli Yakar

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