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# הַמִּזְרָחִי HAMIZRACHI

A project of the Mizrahi Schools Department

PARSHA WEEKLY

YOUTH EDITION

## PARSHAT MISHPATIM 5785 • 2025

### PARSHA SUMMARY

After the revelation at Har Sinai, Hashem gives Bnei Yisrael many laws to follow. These include rules about servants, punishments for crimes like murder and theft, and laws about loans, damages, and how judges should handle cases.

The laws also include treating foreigners kindly, celebrating the “Shalosh Regalim” – Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot, bringing agricultural gifts to the Beit Hamikdash, not cooking meat with milk, and the mitzvah of prayer. Parshah Mishpatim includes 53 mitzvot: 23 positive mitzvot – “do’s” and 30 negative mitzvot – “don’ts.”

Hashem also promises that he will bring Bnei Yisrael to Eretz Yisrael but warns them about the other nations that currently occupy the land.

Bnei Yisrael say, “Na’aseh v’Nishma” accepting all that has been commanded of them. Moshe leaves Aaron and Hur in charge of the camp and goes up to Har Sinai to stay for 40 days and nights to receive the Torah from Hashem.



### MESSAGE FROM ISRAEL

#### Right is Right

This week’s parsha, Mishpatim, teaches us an important lesson: right and wrong are not decided by who is stronger or weaker, richer or poorer. The Torah commands us to treat everyone fairly based on their actions.

Some people think “might is right” – they support powerful people because of their strength. Others support the weak person. Both are wrong – being strong or weak has nothing to do with being right.

The Torah shows great care for the weak – widows, orphans, and strangers – but it also tells us that being in a tough situation doesn’t excuse wrong behavior, like stealing or hurting others. Every person is always responsible for their actions, regardless of background or circumstances.

Let’s remember to stand up for what’s right and make choices based on fairness and justice.

Shabbat Shalom

Rabbi Doron Perez  
Executive Chairman,  
World Mizrahi



Dedicated by the Moshal family to the life and legacy of our family patriarch John Moshal –  
יוחנן הלל בן מרדכי ז"ל – a generous lifelong supporter of Jewish education.

## QUESTIONS ON THE PARSHA

1. When must Jewish servants be offered freedom?
2. What is the reason given for not mistreating a stranger?
3. What is an important law regarding lending money or goods?
4. At the end of the parsha, how long did Moshe remain on Har Sinai?
5. Who is allowed to eat from the produce grown in the Shemitta year?
6. What animal does the Torah use in describing the prohibition of cooking meat and dairy?
7. What are the names the Torah uses in this week's parsha for the three festivals?

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### Obligation or Choice?

In this week's parsha, the Torah teaches us about lending money to those in need. The wording, however, is interesting. The pasuk says, "If you lend money to My people..." (Shemot 22:24), making it sound like a choice rather than an obligation. But we know that helping others is a mitzvah! The Maharal explains that the Torah wants us to do chesed not just because we are commanded, but because we truly care.

**Dilemma of the Week: Helping a Friend Only When Asked?** Rivka and Chaya are classmates. Rivka is a whiz at math, while Chaya struggles. One day, their teacher, Mrs. Klein, assigns a challenging math worksheet. Chaya is lost. Seeing Chaya's frustration, Rivka feels bad. Should she help Chaya, even though Mrs. Klein didn't specifically tell them to work together? Rivka knows helping others is important, but she also wants to do well on her own work. What should Rivka do?

### Discussion Questions

**Why does the Torah phrase some mitzvot as if they are optional?** What lesson do we learn from the wording "if you lend money" instead of directly commanding us to do so?

**Doing the right thing vs. feeling the right thing:** Is it better to do a mitzvah because you feel like it or because it's a commandment? Why?

**What would you do in Rivka's situation?** Should she help Chaya even though Mrs. Klein didn't ask her to? What if it means she might not finish her own work?

**Can an obligation feel like a choice?** How can we turn things we have to do into things we want to do? What if nobody steps up? What happens if everyone waits to feel inspired instead of just doing what needs to be done?

## SOLVE IT AND SEND IT!

What is the name of the valley near Avshalom Cave (מערת אבשלום)?

Send the answer to [hamizrachiyouth@mizrachi.org](mailto:hamizrachiyouth@mizrachi.org) to be entered into our monthly raffle!

## PARSHA WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these parsha related words?

SAWL  
ONARA  
IETHAMST  
DAVNA  
SACPEH  
ERUEFG  
SKTOUK  
HAIVU  
ARH INSAI  
HVSUTAO



Next time you see someone struggling, will you wait to be asked to help, or will you step up on your own?



## WORD OF THE WEEK

### רִבִּית – Ribit – Interest

(Shemot 22:24) לֹא-תִשִּׂים עָלָיו רִבִּי

The Hebrew word רִבִּית (ribit) means “interest,” referring to the extra money charged on a loan. The root of the word is ר-ב-ה (Reish-Bet-Heh) which means “to increase” or “to multiply,” just like the word הַרְבֵּה (harbeh), which means “a lot” or “many.” This connection makes sense, as interest causes a loan amount to grow. The word for interest in our parsha is נֶשֶׁךְ (neshech), from the root כ-ש-כ (Nun-Shin-Kaf), meaning “to bite,” hinting at how interest can “bite” and burden a borrower. These two words reflect different perspectives on lending – one focusing on growth and the other on its potential harm.



## THIS WEEK IN JEWISH HISTORY

### 29 Shevat

#### Remembering Israel's First Astronaut – Ilan Ramon (5763/2003)

Ilan Ramon was born in Ramat Gan in 1954. He was a pilot in the Israeli Air Force and later changed his last name to Ramon because he loved the Ramon Crater. In 1997, he was chosen as Israel's first astronaut! He and his family moved to the U.S. for training, and in 2003, he flew on the Space Shuttle Columbia. Ramon felt honored to represent Israel in space. Sadly, as the shuttle was returning to Earth, something went wrong, and it broke apart. Ramon and the other astronauts did not survive, but he is remembered as a hero who inspired many.



### MEET OUR READERS!

NAME: AIELET MORIAH NADEL

AGE: 14

LOCATION: OR AKIVA, ISRAEL



FAVORITE SHABBAT ACTIVITY: Playing with my sister on Shabbat afternoon.

IF I COULD DO ONE BIG CHESED, IT WOULD BE: Visiting the sick

SOMETHING I LEARNED THAT INSPIRED ME: I learned that it doesn't matter if you succeed at everything, but you always have to try.



### WANT TO BE FEATURED IN A FUTURE EDITION?

If you'd like to be featured in an upcoming Youth Edition, and have a chance to win a prize, fill out the form at [mizrachi.org/youthfeature](https://mizrachi.org/youthfeature) or scan the QR code!



## PARSHA ANSWERS

1. After six years of working.
2. We were once strangers in the land of Egypt, so we should remember the feeling and be compassionate.
3. One cannot charge interest when lending something.
4. Moshe remained on Har Sinai for forty days and forty nights.
5. Poor people and wild animals.
6. The Torah describes cooking a young goat in its mother's milk.
7. Chag Hamatzot – Festival of Matzot (Pesach), Chag Hakatzir – Festival of the Harvest (Shavuot), Chag Ha'asif – Festival of the Ingathering (Sukkot).

## JOURNEY THROUGH ISRAEL



### Mearat HaNetifim (Avshalom Cave)

Mearat HaNetifim, also called Avshalom Cave, is a breathtaking stalactite cave in the Judean Hills near Beit Shemesh. It is filled with incredible rock formations that have developed over a very long time through a natural process involving water and minerals. The cave was discovered by accident during quarrying and was kept secret for a while to protect its beauty. Eventually, it was opened to visitors and became part of a nature reserve.

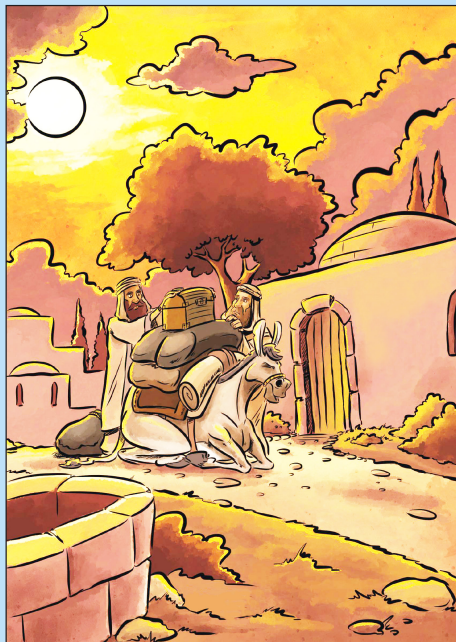
The cave is named after Avshalom Shoham, an Israeli soldier who was injured in battle and later passed away. Scientists study the formations inside the cave to learn about how nature has changed over the years. Visitors can walk on special paths to see the unique stalactites and stalagmites up close while ensuring they remain preserved for future generations.

Some of the formations in Mearat HaNetifim are so delicate that even a small touch can stop their growth. That's why visitors are not allowed to touch them!

קום התהלך בארץ

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you find 10 differences between these two parsha pictures?



This illustration was taken from the book 'בדרכה של תורה' on the Parsha.

Special thanks to Ori Lerman (illustrations), Rabbi Weitz, and the Har Bracha Institution for their permission.