

Michael *Micha'el ben Shalom v'Shmuel*

Parashat Ki Tetze

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<https://www.sefaria.org/Deuteronomy.20-21?lang=bi>

Summary

The Torah portion this week is called *Ki Teitzei* and my reading is from the 21st chapter of the Book of *Devarim*, verses 16-18.

Parashat Ki Teitzei contains 72 *mitzvot*, the most of any Torah portion. Among the many *mitzvot* mentioned in the Torah portion, Moshe tells people to return any lost items that they may find; to pay workers on time; to make sure your home is safe for your family and others by putting a fence around your roof, and to be honest in doing business. It also sets limits on punishment for people and animals that do something wrong.

The Torah portion concludes with the commandment to remember the tribe of Amalek's attack on the weak members of the Israelites, who were straggling behind when the Israelites left Egypt.

Questions

1) One of the *mitzvot* or commandments in my Torah portion is that if you just happen to see a bird on its nest--whether the bird is in a tree or on the ground--and that bird is sitting on its babies or on its eggs, you may take and use the eggs, but first you have to shoo away the mother bird before you take them. What do you think the Torah is trying to teach us with this rule? What might the Torah want us to be thinking or feeling when we shoo the mother bird away? <<pick 3>>

Some commentators say that the Torah is teaching us that it is ok for us to eat and to use the eggs as food, but that we should not take the mother bird, too. She might be able to have more babies and keep that species of bird going. I think this explanation makes sense because we *do* have to be careful about using our natural resources. The Torah is teaching us 2 things to make sure both that there is enough for everybody, because sharing is caring. It is also teaching us that we should not use our natural resources in a way that makes them completely disappear.

2) Also in this *parashah* the Torah teaches us that if a person sees something that someone has lost, they must not ignore the lost item. They must make a special effort to return it to the person. If a person finds something that they know belongs to someone else, but they do not know who it belongs to or how to return it, then they have to take it home and take good care of it until the person who owns it comes looking for it. Then it should be returned to the owner. Can you tell me about a time that you lost something and someone returned it to you? How did that feel? <<pick 3>>

On Monday it was rainy outside and we had soccer practice. Everything got so wet! When I left practice I also left my pencil bag behind. Coach Gary returned it to me right before I left. It felt really good! It was good to get back all my pencils and markers and other things that are important for school. Coach Gary really helped me out.

3) The Torah describes losing things you can see, but is it possible to lose something important that you *can't* see, and is there something someone could do to return that lost thing you *can't* see? <<pick 3>>

In the Prince of Egypt the Israelites lose their faith in G!d and Moshe. Faith is something that is important, but you *can't* see it. Moshe returns their faith to them by showing them the plagues. They see that G!d is powerful.