

Parashat Ki Teitzei

Deuteronomy 21:10–25:19

AUGUST 28, 2020



SUMMARY

Ki Teitzei starts by teaching the Israelites some of the *mitzvot* they will be responsible for when they go to war to conquer the Promised Land.

According to Rabbi Moshe Maimonides *Parashat Ki Teitzei* contains 74 *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 a new home is safe for family and others by putting a fence around the 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 community who lagged behind the main group as the Israelites set out from Egyptian slavery.

From Our Commentators:

SFORNO:

ולא תשים דמים בביתך כי יפול הנופל. כאשר יקרה שיפול איזה נופל משם לא תהיה אתה הגורם באופן שיהיה עונש הדם בביתך

If it were to happen that someone falls off that roof, then you could not have been the indirect cause, seeing you had put up a protective railing. Had you not done so, your family might bear part of the guilt for such a mishap.

For Discussion:

- 1) In this week's *parasha* we learn is that we must send the mother bird away before we take her baby chicks or eggs for our own use. Why do think the Torah might have a rule like this? Why might the Torah want us to send away the mother bird before we take the chicks or the eggs to use?
- 2) Why do you think there might be a rule that we must build a fence around the roof of a new house to protect someone likely to fall from falling? Wouldn't it just be better to not invite a person who is likely to fall to walk on your roof in the first place?
- 3) We are doing a lot right now to keep people safe that may be a little like putting a fence around the roof of a new house. What are some of these things we are doing to protect people from getting hurt? How is that like putting a fence around your roof to protect someone from falling?