

Parashat Ki Teitzei August 28, 2020

Taught By: Rutie & Sam

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.



1) In this week's *parasha* we learn the *mitzvah* of making a railing around any portion of the roof of a new house that we intend to use for outdoor space. Why do you think there might be a rule to build a fence to protect someone likely to fall from falling from the roof of your new house? Wouldn't it just be better to not invite that faller person to walk on your roof in the first place?

SAM: It seems strange to invite someone, who is likely to fall, to walk out on the roof of your new house, but I guess just because they've fallen before it doesn't mean that they're *definitely* going to fall now. I mean, you just built a new house, so they probably haven't been up there before.

2) 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?

RUTIE: We are doing a lot of things at school this year that are a little like building fences around our roofs. We wear masks, we are washing our hands a lot and using a lot of hand sanitizer, and in the halls and in some classrooms there are stickers on the floor to show what 6 feet of distance between people looks like.

RUTIE: The Torah probably wants us to be able to welcome all sorts of people to our new house. We might have friends who are clumsy or have difficulty walking, and we want them to be able to visit our new house safely.

SAM: True, and even though most of us have not fallen sick with Corona Virus before, we know that we could, so we are doing a lot of things to try to keep each other safe and make us less likely to "fall" sick by accident.

NOTICE
ROOF
ACCESS