

QUESTIONS FOR PARSHAT VA'ETCHANAN 5770

by Rabbi Edward Davis

I. From the Text

1. The Jewish nation will lose Eretz Yisrael and be sent into Exile and be spiritually lost. What promise does Moshe make to them in the name of Hashem? (4:29,30)
2. How many Cities of Refuge would be established east and west of the Jordan River? (4:41)
3. How is the Mitzvah of Shabbat in these Ten Commandments different from those in Exodus, Parshat Yitro? (5:12,15)
4. Name 3 Mitzvot in the first paragraph of the Shema. (6:5-9)
5. What kind of covenant were Bnei Yisrael not permitted to create with the inhabitants of Canaan? (7:2)

II. From Rashi

6. Why did Moshe now think that the decree for him not to enter Eretz Yisrael would be repealed? (3:23)
7. What are the examples Rashi provides for the Mitzvah of "Do not add or subtract from the Mitzvot of the Torah"? (4:2)
8. Why did Moshe set aside the 3 Cities of Refuge east of the Jordan River now when they would not be operable until the other 3 Cities west of the Jordan would be established? (4:41)
9. When did Hashem inform the people of Israel of the Mitzvah of Shabbat, before the Revelation at Sinai? (5:12; see Exodus 15:25)
10. How does Rashi explain the Mitzvah of V'Ahavta—you shall love Hashem, in the beginning of the Shema? (6:5)

III. From the Rabbis

11. Moshe prays to Hashem: "Let me now cross and see the good Land... this good mountain and the Lebanon." (3:25) Our Sages say that the Lebanon here is a reference to the Temple Mount in Yerushalayim. How is the Holy Temple considered a Lebanon? (Sifre)
12. V'Nishmartem Me'od L'Nafshoteichem... (4:15) Our Sages take this line out of context to give special attention to care for our bodies and souls in good health. What is the meaning in the context of the verse which refers to the Revelation at Sinai? (Ramban)
13. Moshe refers to Acharit HaYamim, the end of days. (4:30) What are the end of days? (Seforno)

IV. Relationships

- a) Yosef-Orde
- b) Reuven-Kehat
- c) Yishmael-Yaakov
- d) Amram-Machli (2 answers)
- e) Eliezer-Pinchas

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1. That Bnei Yisrael will find their way back to Hashem and to Eretz Yisrael.
2. 3 east of the Jordan + 3 west of the Jordan = 6
3. "Shamor" guard the Shabbat and not "Zachor," remember. And the reason stated here is not about Creation, but about the Exodus from Egypt.
4. The belief in the Oneness of God; Teach Torah to your sons; Tephilin; and Mezuzot.
5. Do not make a covenant with the Canaanites that would allow them to remain in the Land and continue to worship idols.
6. After conquering the lands of Sichon and Og east of the Jordan River, it is as if Moshe was in the new and improved part of Eretz Yisrael.
7. Do not add or subtract to the 4 Parshiot of the Tephillin, to the 4 species of the Lulav and Etrog, or to the 4 corners of the Tzitzit.
8. Moshe loved to fulfill any Mitzvah possible for him to fulfill.
9. In Marah.
10. Perform the will of Hashem out of the love for Him. One is more dedicated in the performance of the will of the Master if performed out of love.
11. Lebanon is from the word Lavan, meaning white. The Temple provided atonement and thus "whitens sins."
12. Do not be misled to think that the voice that you heard at Sinai came from a physical body.
13. The period just before the coming of Mashiach.

Relationships:

- a) Uncle Yosef
- b) Uncle Reuven
- c) Uncle Yishmael
- d) First Cousins; Uncle Amram (when Amram married Yocheved, Machli's aunt)
- e) First Cousins, once removed