

## Parshat Behar-Bechukotai

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### Following in the Steps of our Ancestors

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In this week's Parsha, the Jewish people are warned of the punishments they will receive if they fail to live up to their obligations as the chosen people of Hashem. In the midst of punishments, the pasuk introduces words of comfort, promising the Jews that Hashem will eventually remember His promise that he made to Yaakov. The Shelah HaKadosh asks: why is there a statement of comfort in the middle of all the curses? This statement actually serves as a lesson for us. We know that a rasha, a wicked person, who is the son of a wicked person cannot be compared to a rasha, the son of a tzadik, a righteous person. The rasha, who came from a tzadik, should have known to follow the right path. We are reminded here that we are the children of Avraham, Yitzchok and Yaakov. Because of this lineage, we have a strong responsibility to follow in their ways and if not, we may bring about the curses in the surrounding statement on our heads. May we merit to follow in the righteous steps of our ancestors.

### Parsha Questions

Behar

- 1) Where did Hashem teach the laws of Shemitah? (Har Sinai)
- 2) How often does Shmitah occur? (Once every seven years)
- 3) During the seventh year of Shmitah can we farm or plant seeds?  
(No)
- 4) Is it ok to harvest the plants that grow on their own during Shmitah? (No)
- 5) Can someone sell the food that grows on his field during Shmitah?  
(No)
- 6) Can someone eat the food that grows on his field during Shmitah?  
(Yes)
- 7) Why can you not throw out fruit that grows during Shmitah?  
(Because it is considered to be special)
- 8) How do we know that the food that grew before Shmitah will last a long time? (Because Hashem promised)
- 9) If you see someone who needs help, what should you do? (Help them)
- 10) Are you allowed to charge interest to a fellow Jew? (No)

#### Bechukotai

- 1) If we do what we are supposed to, what will Hashem bring at the right time? (Rain)
- 2) What will grow in big amounts if we learn Torah? (Crops and food)
- 3) What is the part of the Torah called that says we will be punished if we aren't doing the right thing? (Tochachah)
- 4) What causes a water drought in Israel? (The B'nei Yisrael didn't listen to Hashem)
- 5) Can a person give money to the Beit Hamikdash for his value that he is worth? (Yes)
- 6) What is this process called? (Erchin)

- 7) How much should a person give of his flock to the Beit Hamikdash as a Korbon? (One tenth)
- 8) After Sefer Vayikra is finished in Shul, what does everyone say out loud? (Chazak, Chazak V'nitchazek)