



TORAH 4 TEENS

BY TEENS

NCSY ISRAEL



Avraham Zvi Thau Jerusalem Chapter Director

Striking the Balance, Hashem will Help Us

Parshat Ki Teitzei is read at a very auspicious time in the Jewish calendar - during the month of Elul. The month of Elul is uniquely meant for preparation and introspection. For every great event or any moment that is worthwhile, if one wants to maximize it, one needs to prepare. Rabbi Aryeh Lebowitz said, when we think about Pesach, we spend hours, days, weeks, a month preparing for one night, a mere few hours! Why do we do this? Because if we want our seder to be special we need to prepare. If we want Rosh

Hashana and the Aseret Yemei Teshuva and Yom Kippur to be special we need to prepare. But that preparation needs ample time. It requires an entire process which eventually culminates in Hoshana Rabbah. We are striving to become the people we want to be. The question remains; how do we begin this process?

The process of change has two major components; acting and believing in Hashem that he will help us. The pasuk says

כי תצא למלחמה על איביך ונתנו ה' אלקיך בידך ושבית שבי:

The pasuk is talking about us going out to war against our enemy and that Hashem will deliver them into our hands. The Masters of the Mussar Movement interpret this verse in a different light than its literal translation. They explain that the enemy being referred to here is not a physical enemy combatant, it is rather our *yetzer harah*.

This is very apropos for the time period we are in, Elul. If we are trying to improve ourselves to be the best people we can be, we must also improve our relationship with Hashem and serve Him properly. We cannot always wait for things to improve on their own. When we find ourselves to be inspired we must act on it.

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This can be a daunting task. We may question our own abilities to accomplish our mission - we ask ourselves, "Can we really succeed?"

The answer is clear, Hashem will deliver our enemies into our hands! ■



Liat Sanders
Jerusalem,
11th Grade

The Role of Mitzvot in Our Lives

Parashat Ki Tetzei is a very unique parsha. It stands out due to the fact that it contains seventy four mitzvot! That is the largest number of mitzvot mentioned in any parsha and in the five books.

The mitzvot in this Parsha include laws about inheritance among the sons of two wives, a wayward son, the corpse of an executed person, found property, rooftop safety, prohibited mixtures, sexual offenses, membership in the congregation, camp hygiene, runaway slaves and many more.

In this Parsha of course we learn about many different laws we should obey and often see a glimpse of the moral and ethical concerns behind Hashem dictates. We are meant to adapt these ideals to other areas in our life. where we do not find explicit

mitzvah mentioned in the Torah..

Often we also find that there are mitzvot that we do not understand. The Torah teaches that just because we might not understand the meaning does not mean it does not have one. God knows it and we don't have to always have the ability to understand God's ways. We follow the mitzvot because the almighty said so. We should trust and believe that all has meaning. Even when we do not see the deeper meaning, God does. ■

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