

# KI TEITZEI



## PARSHAT KI TEITZEI SHORT SUMMARY

This week's sedra of Ki Teitzei stands out with its abundance of mitzvot - 74 to be exact. This single sedra contains more than any other sedra in the Torah.

The first aliyah opens with a challenging rule which discusses the permissibility of taking a female captive in war and marrying this woman. Following this, the Torah moves on to the area of inheritance and the rule of a double portion which is received by the oldest male child. The aliyah concludes with a law that many commentators struggle to understand regarding a rebellious child and the steps taken to deal with his recalcitrance.

The sedra then moves on to speak of various situations in which one comes to the aid of their fellow man. For example, quickly burying a corpse, the mitzvah to return a lost object to the owner, and helping a neighbor whose animal is struggling from lifting a heavy load.

The well known mitzvah of sending away the mother bird before taking the chicks or eggs is found this week and famously promises long life for those who abide by this dictum.

In the third aliyah we find two examples of mitzvot that relate to the clothing and how we dress. Namely, there is a prohibition to

wear clothing which contains a mixture of wool and linen - *shatnez*. Additionally, we find the mitzvah of wearing tzitzit.

Marriage and laws of divorce are now taught to the people of Israel. Related to this mitzvah we find the law which states that a newlywed man is exempt from military service for a full year. At the end of this passage (the 6th aliyah) we find the command that we always remember what happened to Miriam when she was afflicted with *tzara'at* (biblical leprosy) for the *lashon harah* that she spoke about Moshe.

The final aliyah opens with the prohibition to withhold or delay the wages that must be paid to workers (see Rav Daniel Mann's *dvar halacha* in this TT that deals with this issue during our contemporary times). The aliyah comes to a close adjuring Am Yisrael to maintain weights and measures that are accurate. Finally the sedra ends with the well known mitzvah to remember Amalek and their evil actions against young and vulnerable people. In an act of terror they ambushed the Israelites as they left Egypt at a time when they were 'faint and exhausted.' Not only was this an attack on the people of Israel, even worse, Amalek showed special contempt for God. It is for this reason that they are to be more despised than any other nation that waged war against Israel.

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## HAFTARAH

ISAIAH 54:1-10

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This week's short Haftarah of only 10

verses continues the series of “*Haftarot* of Consolation.”

It is the fifth in the series. We began reading these haftarot on the Shabbat following Tisha b’Av and continue until Rosh Hashanah.

The opening pasuk offers a metaphor likening Jerusalem to a barren woman without children. Hashem calls out to her and says that she will soon rejoice when the nation of Israel returns to and repopulates the holy city. The *navi* conveys the fundamental principle that Hashem has never forsaken the nation of Israel.

Although there are moments in our history when we experience God’s face as if hidden from us - the Almighty never has turned away from his people.

The haftarah makes an allusion to the flood of Noach, “From like the waters of Noach shall this be to me...” Just as God promises that He will never again destroy the earth by means of a flood, so too he will never sever His unending devotion and commitment to His chosen people. ■

## STATS

49th of the 54 sedras; 6th of 11 in D’varim  
Written on 212.8 lines; ranks 21st  
44 Parshiyot; 2 open, 42 closed; rank: 1  
110 p’sukim; ranks 28th (5th in D’varim)  
1582 words; ranks 23rd (5th in D’varim)  
5856 letters; ranks 26th (6th in D’varim)

## MITZVOT

74 mitzvot - 27 pos., 47 prohibitions;  
Ki Teitzei has the most mitzvot (both positive and prohibitions) in the Torah

# A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



As we herald in the holy season of Elul and the Yamim Nora'im it is my honor to personally reach out to you on behalf of the entire OU Israel staff with sincere wishes for your safety and good health. We so deeply miss seeing so many of you at the Israel OU Center but hope that we will soon be able to greet you in person, be’ezrat Hashem.

We feel very fortunate and blessed to maintain close ties with you through this precious publication. The words of Torah in these pages bond all of us closely together. Although we may be far apart from each other physically we continue to feel a real sense of *achdus*.

Please enjoy this edition of Torah Tidbits and we hope you enjoy each and every issue. It is a wonderful feeling knowing that *together* we are all sharing inspiration and wisdom from the wonderful rabbis and teachers that grace the pages of Torah Tidbits.

Wishing you strength, happiness, *bri’ut* and *be’sorot tovot*.

*Be’yedidut,*

*Aaron Goldscheider*

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