



## TORAH 4 TEENS

## BY TEENS NCSY ISRAEL



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### Revealing the Name YKVK

Parshat Va'eira, famous for containing seven of the ten plagues, begins with a very strange introduction by G-d. In Shemot 6: 2-3 it says,

*“G-d spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am YKVK. I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as El Shaddai, but I did not make Myself known to them by My name YKVK.”*

This statement is hard to understand because in Sefer Breishit G-d does refer to himself as YKVK when speaking to the Avot. For example, in Breishit 15:7 G-d says to Avraham,

*“I am YKVK who brought you out from Ur Kasdim”.*

Why then does G-d tell Moshe that he

never revealed himself to the avot as YKVK?

Most commentators understand the words *“but I did not make Myself known to them by My name YKVK,”* not to mean that the Avot did not know of the name YKVK, but that they, in their own lives, had never experienced the attributes that the name represents.

So what is the significance of the name YKVK?

According to Rashi, the attribute represented by YKVK is faithfulness. G-d made many promises to the Avot about the multitude of children that they would have and the land of Israel that they would inherit. But the Avot never saw the fulfilment of these promises. They only experienced G-d as El Shaddai, who makes promises, not as YKVK who faithfully upholds His promises. As Bnei Yisrael are about to be redeemed from Egypt, receive the Torah, and inherit the land of Israel, the attributes expressed by the name YKVK will finally be revealed.

Alternatively, Ibn Ezra understands the name YKVK to represent the attribute of G-d as the one who performs open, nature defying miracles. The Avot experienced wondrous miracles. They survived famines and won many wars. But those never changed the natural order of the

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world and so the Avot only experienced God's attribute of El Shaddai. With the ten plagues and the splitting of the sea, Bnei Yisrael is about to experience God's "hand" in a way never seen before. They will experience the attribute expressed by the name YKVK.

Nowadays, to a certain extent, we are fortunate to experience the attributes represented by the name YKVK, as we witness the fulfilled promise of the Jewish homeland and the miraculous continued sustenance of the Jewish people. However, we still await the unfulfilled promise of the ultimate redemption and open revelation of God's dominion over the world, when the attributes of the name will be fully revealed. May we see it speedily in our days, Shabbat Shalom!



**Ben Latinik**  
Efrat, 12th Grade

## A Recipe For Discipline

Without HaShem in our life we are slaves, slaves to our ego, slaves to our greed, slaves to whatever direction pulls at us. But this week's parsha holds the key. The key to true freedom.

The first step is to remove the false Gods that plague us. The distractions and negativities that drag us down. The 10 makkot represent just that, the removal of false Gods.

Next we must fill that void. The 10 makkot

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also have another meaning, a correlation with the 10 statements of creation. Coming to re-affirm Hashem as our G-d and ruler of the world. We must fill the void with a 'why' and purpose.

All these changes are all just theory at this point. We must now take the next step.

The 10 commandments come to give us that next step, action. Thus taking this from theory into the tangible and reality.

These 3 things are the recipe for discipline. Releasing the negative anchors, re-affirming our why, and taking action. These let us achieve true self-mastery and true freedom. ■

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