



TORAH 4 TEENS

BY TEENS

NCSY ISRAEL



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Role of Leviim

In Bamidbar we are told about the work that each family from Levi gets to do in connection to the Mishkan. We would think that this would appear in Sefer Vayikra since that is the book that speaks about the work of the Kohanim and the Mishkan. Why then is the work of the Leviim the introduction of Bamidbar?

While the Leviim oversee the work, the Torah also tells us they have a special role. They replace the role of the firstborn. The Leviim are the firstborn of Am Yisrael. The firstborn is the bridge between two generations- the generation of the parents and the generation of the children. The Leviim are the bridge between the Kohanim and Bnei Yisrael. The Torah is building a system of bridges. Just as Hashem is with the

Kohanim in an intimate way, we need a bridge for the rest of the nation to understand that relationship. The Leviim are that bridge.

In Bamidbar 3:7 the Leviim are told to keep charge of both the Kohanim and the rest of Bnei Yisrael. If the Torah were to end with the book of Vayikra we would think only Kohanim get to have a relationship with Hashem. But a normal person won't. We start Bamidbar with a census to show that not only the Kohanim are important but rather all Bnei Yisrael matter as we are all כהנים. The Leviim appear in the beginning of Bamidbar because they are the transition from a book that dealt with Kohanim to a book that deals with the rest of the nation. Through this chain of order and bridges everyone has their own important role to play in the service of Hashem. Without every role within the nation, we will not succeed at fulfilling our role. Hashem's Mishkan is placed in the middle of the camp so that all can be close with Him and not just the Leviim and Kohanim. As a

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nation we too have a similar role of being the bridge between Hashem and the rest of the world. May we fulfill this role and bring peace and redemption to the whole world.



Ranan Lustman
9th grade,
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It's Amazing What We Can Accomplish When We're In It Together

In this week's Parsha of Bamidbar, the Torah talks about the flags of the 12 Shevatim. Even though there was tremendous achdut among B'nai Yisrael following Yetziat Mitzrayim, Kriat Yam Suf, and Matan Torah, our Parsha says that it is still very important for each Shevet to have their own separate flag. Why? If B'nai Yisrael were really one unit so closely connected, why did they need to be divided with different flags? In his Sefer called *Shalom Rav*, Rabbi Shalom Rosner brings a nice idea from Rav Moshe Sternbuch who says that it was a very good thing for each Shevet to have their own flag as a symbol that was unique to each of them. He says that even though there was a very close connection as one unit, each Shevet had their own strength, their own special tafkid that was going to benefit all of B'nai Yisrael and create even more achdut. Rav Sternbuch compares this to the Israeli army where each different unit, like intelligence,

navy, air force, and ground soldiers, have their own jobs and responsibilities, but they work together as one army, looking out for each other. Rav Asher Weiss has a similar idea in explaining the meaning of "anivut"...humility. He explains that anivut is not putting yourself down, but recognizing that your unique qualities are no better than the special qualities of anyone else. Everyone's role is important and the goal is for people to use their "kochot" to benefit all of B'nai Yisrael. That was the meaning of the separate flags, and it is a great message for all of us. We should all use our own "kochot" to benefit each other, respect each other, and create a growing sense of achdut within Klal Yisrael. Shabbat Shalom! ■

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