



# TORAH 4 TEENS

## BY TEENS NCSY ISRAEL



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### A Good Offense

This week's Parsha, Ki Teitzei opens up by discussing wartime laws regarding Jewish soldiers taking non-Jewish female captives as a wife. While the Halacha is technically relevant, the chances of one of us needing this information for practical use is 0%. As the question should always be when looking over the pesukim in the Torah, and particularly the weekly Torah portion; what can I learn from this and how can it enable me to grow?

The first Pasuk of our Parsha reads as follows:

כִּי תֵצֵא לְמִלְחָמָה עַל־אֹיְבֶיךָ וְנָתַנּוּ־יָהּ אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְיָדְךָ וּשְׂבִייתָ שְׂבִייוֹ

“If you go out to war against your enemies,

and the Lord, your God, will deliver him into your hands, and you take his captives.”

The Pasuk begins with going out to war against your enemies. The Chassidic masters tell us that the enemies can also refer to your Yetzer Hara. This already gives us keen advice for us to follow! Our Yetzer Hara is something we should go to battle with, something we need to constantly fight against. If you don't feel like you're in a battle with your Yetzer Hara, something already needs to change. Another piece of advice is hinted to in the words “Ki Teitzei- when you go out”. Don't wait for your Yetzer Hara to attack you, you should be going out for the first attack. As is often said, the best defense is a good offense.

The Pasuk continues with “Unetano Hashem Elokecha Byadecha- and Hashem your G-D will deliver him into your hands.” This comes to teach us a very important lesson if read carefully. The enemies and challenges, INCLUDING our Yetzer Hara,



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that we receive in our lives, all comes from Hashem. Hashem is the one who delivers the enemy into your hands and Hashem specifically is the one who thought you were qualified to wage this war and fight this battle. This means you WILL prevail when giving your all with strong persistence.

The final part of the Pasuk ends with "Vshavita Shivyo-and you take his captives." This enemy/Yetzer Hara that you're battling with is not something you're meant to annihilate, it's something you're meant to take captive. All the challenges and bad in our lives are there for us to hold onto and grow from, not forget about and sweep under the rug.

May Hashem give us all the strength to use our abilities to defeat our Yetzer Hara and see the complete redemption speedily in our days. Shabbat Shalom! ■

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