

Torah Tidbits This 'n That

Phil's page



Old Business

TTriddles - remember them? Some people miss them. So do I. I did restore one type of **TT**riddle in the last several issues - the **FPTL** **TT**riddle. That's front page top left. It is connected to the issue number, rather than the content of the sedra (although it hits both sometimes). **TT**riddlers can find them (and soon, others) on ttidbits.com - where the front page is in the old style.

TT 1366 (Sh'mini) "**of the kosher animals and those not kosher**". Interesting that the sedra contained the portion of kosher and non-kosher animals, but the **TT**riddle came from Parshat No'ach - **MIN HAB'HEIMA HAT'HORA UMIN HAB'HEIMA ASHER EINENA T'HORA** = 1366.

TT 1367 (T-M) "**Do not muzzle an ox when it is threshing**." No connection to the sedras, but the whole pasuk, **LO TACHSOM...** = 1367.

TT 1368 (A-K) "**Yosef's wife (full name)**" **A-S'NAT BAT POTI FERA** = 1368.

TT 1369 (Emor) 🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌
SHIV'A SHOFAROT = 1369.

TT 1370 (B-B) "**Tzitzit HaKanaf, Choshen to Eifod, Tzitzit**" All have **P'TIL T'CHELET** = 1370

Welcome to the Fork in the Road

The **ROAD** I refer to is our combination of the cycle of Torah readings throughout the year and the cycle of the Jewish Calendar. These two roads are different but they usually run side by side, like different lanes of the same highway.

But this week, we come to a fork in the road. Parshat HaShavua is Bamidbar, the first sedra of the Book of the same name. At first, we seem to be headed to the next stage of our Nationhood - entry into the Land of Israel, armed with Torah and Mitzvot. But we know from the last many times we've been here, that we run into many serious roadblocks - sin of the spies, Korach's rebellion, various and serious complaints against G-d.

Meanwhile, the road of the Calendar brings us to Yom Yerushalayim and all that it represents. Very different from the way ahead in Bamidbar. Then comes Shavuot, which celebrates the Giving of the Torah, which was not just 3300 years ago, but we relive it every year and all the time. Shavuot is not just Z'man Matan Torateinu, but it is also the culmination of that which began with the Exodus and ends with Yom HaBikurim, the mitzva that represents Jewish Life in Eretz Yisrael at its best.

That's the fork in the road we come to each year, and we have the ability to choose which was we go. Let's choose wisely.