

# Torah Tidbits This 'n That

Phil's page



**TRIDDLES** solutions to [phil@ouisrael.org](mailto:phil@ouisrael.org)  
1377FPT - **And eyes to see and ears to hear** -  
V'EINAYIM LIR'OT V'AZNAYIM LISHMO'A = 186 +  
637 + 114 + 440 = 1377. ParshaPix Unexplaineds  
(PPUs). Whose siblings are these? chick, eaglet,  
gosling, cygnet, peep? These are all names of  
the young of different birds, making them B'nei  
Tzipor, so they are siblings of Balak. Then there  
was 5+2x4-13 in a speech bubble. Doing the math  
correctly give you zero in the speech bubble =  
V'EFES... T'DABEIR. And you shall speak nothing  
except what I put in your mouth.

On [ttidbits.com](http://ttidbits.com) you can find links to The Whole  
TT file, a lite file, individual links to articles -  
including some that are not in the hard copy, the  
28 28s Anniversary Quiz and separately, the  
solutions and winning entries. R' Meir S. was  
awarded one of two silver medals, but the  
awards committee has changed his award to the  
Iron Award (which is on the same level as the  
Silver. And, a new feature - not in the hard copy  
- a work in progress with new GMs from the  
sedra each week. New GMs are added to the top  
of the file, with older ones being further down.  
Check it out, whether you know what a GM is or  
not.

## Another Fork in the Road

Walking down the main road, as we do,  
unceasingly... - the road is a double  
highway of Parshat HaShavua and the  
cycle of the Jewish calendar.

The fork in the road is this Thursday. We  
were scheduled to read the usual Thurs-  
day reading of the first part of the

weekly sedra. That reading, however, is  
preempted this year, by the reading for  
a fast day - 17th of Tamuz.

While I'm not suggesting that we switch  
laynings, we must see the two roads  
before us. 17 Tamuz and the Three  
Weeks, then the Nine days, then the  
week in which Tish'a b'Av falls, then  
Tish'a b'Av itself. A dark road we've  
been down too many times. 17 Tamuz is  
the day the T'midim, two daily korban-  
ot, stopped. Ceased. That's it for the  
functioning of the Beit HaMikdash.  
Exile.

The other branch of the fork is Parshat  
Pinchas, with its promise of entering  
Eretz Yisrael, apportioning the Land  
among the Sh'vatim. The bringing of the  
daily korbanot and the korbanot Musaf  
of Rosh Chodesh and the Chagim. As  
dark as the other road is, this one is  
bright and filled with hope and promise.

We don't know G-d's timetable. But we  
are taught that we as individuals and as  
Klal Yisrael have the ability to hasten  
the coming of the Mashiach and the  
building of the Beit HaMikdash. We need  
not to go down the Churban path, which  
we can do by perpetuating the many  
types of sins and behavior that brought  
about destruction and exile.

Pinchas, though it usually begins the  
period of mourning for the loss of the  
Mikdash and exile from Eretz Yisrael,  
contains the goal of becoming again the  
People who value Eretz Yisrael and the  
Beit HaMikdash and take that road.

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