

# Parsha QA



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For the week ending 2 Av 5755  
28 & 29 July 1995

## Parshas Masei

### Parsha Questions

1. Why does the Torah list the places where the Jewish People camped in the *midbar*?
2. What happened in Ritmah?
3. How did Aaron die?
4. Why did the King of Arad feel at liberty to attack the Jewish People?
5. What was the size of the camp in the *midbar*?
6. Why does the Torah need to specify the boundaries that are to be inherited by the Jewish People?
7. What three countries lie along the southern border of *Eretz Yisrael*?
8. What was the role of the *Nesi'im* in the division of the Land?
9. The cities of the *Levi'im* were surrounded by a "*migrash*". What is a "*migrash*"?
10. How much land surrounded the cities of the *Levi'im*?
11. From whom did a city of refuge shelter a murderer?
12. Who separated the cities of refuge on the eastern side of the Jordan?
13. When did the cities of refuge begin to function as places of refuge for murderers?
14. There were six cities of refuge, three on each side of the Jordan. Yet, on the eastern side of the Jordan, there were only 2 1/2 tribes. Why did they need three cities?
15. In order to be judged as an intentional murderer, what type of weapon must the murderer use?
16. If someone murders intentionally and the *go'el hadam* finds him inside the city of refuge, is the murderer safe?
17. Why does the murderer remain in the city of refuge until the death of the *Kohen Gado*?
18. A woman who is married to a man from a different tribe inherits an ancestral field. What happens to that field?
19. When an ancestral field moves from the possession of one tribe to another, what happens to it in *Yovel*?
20. When does a daughter inherit her father?

BONUS

Q:

"And (the murderer) shall dwell therein until the death of the *Kohen Gadol* (35:25)." Since the murderer was being pursued by the *go'el hadam* (avenger of blood), why was it safe for him to leave the city of refuge after the death of the *Kohen Gadol*?

### I Did Not Know That!

**"These are the journeys of the Bnei Yisrael, who went out of Egypt (33:1)."**

The Torah states that these were journeys *from* Egypt rather than *to Eretz Yisrael* to teach that each stage in their journey was part of their going out of Egypt.

Malbim

## Recommended Reading List

### Ramban

33:53	The Land
35:14	Cities of Refuge
35:29	The <i>Sanhedrin</i>

### Kli Yakar

33:49	The Greater Loss
35:6	Temporary Dweller

### Sefer Hachinuch

408	Cities of the <i>Levi'im</i>
409	Capital Judgment
410	Exile

### Sforno

33:1	The Merit of the Journeys
36:4	The Inheritance of Daughters
36:12	The Husbands of the Daughters of Tzlofchad

## Answers to this Week's Questions

**All references are to the verses and Rashi's commentary, unless otherwise stated**

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|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 33:1 - To show the love of Hashem for the Jewish People. Although it was decreed that they wander in the desert, they did not travel continuously. During the span of the 38 years they moved only 20 times.</li> <li>2. 33:18 - The <i>meraglim</i> slandered the Land.</li> <li>3. 33:38 - By "Divine kiss."</li> <li>4. 33:40 - When Aaron died, the <i>ananei kavod</i> (clouds of glory) which protected the Jewish People departed.</li> <li>5. 33:49 - Twelve miles.</li> <li>6. 34:2 - Because there are certain <i>mitzvos</i> that apply in the Land, but not outside of the Land.</li> <li>7. 34:3 - Egypt along the southwest corner, Edom along the southern border, and Moav at the southeastern corner.</li> <li>8. 34:17 - Each <i>Nasi</i> represented his Tribe in the division among the Tribes. He also allocated the inheritance to each family in his Tribe.</li> <li>9. 35:2 - An open area of land which served to beautify the city.</li> <li>10. 35:4 - 2,000 <i>amos</i>. The inner 1,000 was the "<i>migrash</i>", and the outer 1,000 was for their fields and vineyards.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. 35:12 - From the <i>go'el hadam</i> (avenger of blood), a close relative of the deceased who had the right to avenge the victim's death.</li> <li>12. 35:13 - Moshe.</li> <li>13. 35:13 - After Yehoshua separated three cities on the western side of the Jordan.</li> <li>14. 35:14 - Because murderers were more numerous on the eastern side of the Jordan.</li> <li>15. 35:16 - One which is capable of inflicting a lethal injury.</li> <li>16. 35:19 - No. The cities of refuge don't shelter intentional murderers.</li> <li>17. 35:25 - Because the <i>Kohen Gadol</i> causes the <i>shechina</i> to dwell in Israel and prolongs life, and the murderer causes the <i>shechina</i> to be removed from Israel and shortened life. The murderer is not worthy to stand in the vicinity of the <i>Kohen Gadol</i>.</li> <li>18. 36:3 - When she has a son, the son will inherit the field and the field will move from the possession of one tribe to another.</li> <li>19. 36:4 - It remains in the possession of the new tribe.</li> <li>20. 36:8 - If he has no sons.</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

**BONUS**

A:

When the *Kohen Gadol* died the magnitude of the loss effected the entire Jewish nation, resulting in repentance on a national level. The *go'el hadam*, effected by the tragic loss repented, also. This would have a calming effect on him and he would no longer seek vengeance on the one who accidentally killed his relative.

*Abarbanel*



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