

Deuteronomy 21:10–25:19

Ki Teitzei | כִּי תֵצֵא

“when you go”

Containing 74 mitzvot (or 72, depending on who you ask)—the most of any portion in the Torah—Ki Teitzei is packed with commands. They include laws about family dysfunctions, moral and legal obligations towards neighbors and fellow citizens, sexual misdemeanors, moral behavior in relation to financial matters, and other rules of social responsibility. The portion ends with the command to be eternally vigilant about Amalek—the paradigm case of hatred and cruelty. What do they all have in common? They are all about respecting others.

Additional Resources:

BT:
2021

Rabbi
Jonathan
Sacks

Aleph-
Beta

Community Questions:

1. How many portion names begin with the word כִּי (“ki”)? List them.
2. Which other portion talks about “going out”? Who went out?
3. At what point during the Torah Service do we sing the word “teitzei”? What are we singing there?
4. Why were the Israelites to be kind to the Egyptians (23:7-8) but not to Amalek (25:17-19)?
5. What was Yeshua teaching the Pharisees (Matt. 19:1-9) after they referenced the the law concerning divorce in Deut. 24:1?
6. Compare 21:15-17 with the narrative of Jacob, Leah and Rachel in Gen. 29 & 49.
7. Why must you chase away the mother bird before taking the eggs or young birds from a nest?
8. In our faith, marriage is seen as the foundation of society. Disorder there leads to disorder elsewhere. Discuss how this plays out in the first three laws in this portion.
9. What does surrendering to Amalek in your life look like? What does defeating Amalek in your life look like?
10. How are we affected in the observance of the commands regarding animals in 22:6-7, 22:10, and 25:4?

