

Matot-Masei | מטות-מסעי

"tribes"- "journeys" | Numbers 30:2–36:13

The portion makes clear that personal vows to God that go beyond the Torah are not to be taken lightly.

This section on vows makes apparent the idea that there is a God-created design for "covering:" woman is covered by man; man is covered by God.

The letter "aleph" and the number "1,000" (pronounced "eleph") are said to represent unity. Midian is thought to represent discord and baseless hatred (this type of hatred is said to be the reason for the destruction of the 2nd Temple).

The Cities of Refuge reveal the complex marriage of justice and mercy that is essential to God's nature. Discuss the Jewish saying, "When raising children, a parent must push them away with the left hand and pull them close with the right."

Apply verse 35:33, the key to the Cities of Refuge, to Yeshua.

Beth Tikkun | Torah Portion Discussion Guide | Sponsored by: Tim & David

Community Questions:

What are the positives and negatives of "going beyond the law"?

Since this is the case, what are we doing by daily reciting the Shema?

How would you apply these ideas to chapter 31 and the 9th of Av?

Why is it important that Israel do battle against Midian at this particular point in the journey?

Does one come before the other?

In what ways do we all shed blood?



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