The Torah should have counted the sons of Gershon first, before those of Kehas, since Gershon was the firstborn. Why were they counted after the sons of Kehas? The Midrash answers that since the responsibility of Kehas was to bear the Ark, which held the Torah, Kehas was counted first. Yet it still remains for us to ask why Gershon wasn’t given the responsibility for bearing the Ark, since his clan was the firstborn. There would then have been a stronger reason to count him first, for this should have been his privilege as firstborn.

Kli Yakar answers that the Torah wants to teach the Jewish people the primacy of honoring those who learn Torah. That honor is not limited to any order of birth. If the Torah had given Gershon the task of bearing the Ark, and had counted him first, we might have attributed this honor to his being the firstborn and we might not have honored him for the Ark he was bearing. Therefore that task had been given to Kehas so that all would then know that his being counted first was not because of his birthright, but specifically because of the honor of the Torah. The crown of Torah is not limited to any one class, tribe or birthright. It is available to everyone who seeks it.

As the Jews began their journey to the land of Israel, Moshe and Aharon were commanded to count the Levi’im, the tribe whose task it was to carry the objects of kedushah. And though that important task was limited solely to the Levi’im, the task of learning and honoring the Torah was not. The nation whose task is to guard the Torah, to maintain it as the center and purpose of their existence and to spread its light to all the nations, must always remember that the Torah itself is the privilege and responsibility of all.

HONOR FOR TORAH

TESHUVAH IN ONE’S HEART

Rambam rules (Hilchos Teshuvah 1:1) that a person should do teshuvah whenever he finds himself in violation of a mitzvah in the Torah, whether it be a positive or negative commandment, and whether the violation was committed on purpose or by error. When a person sets out to fulfill this mitzvah of teshuvah, he must begin by totally abandoning the sin, and he must then confess his sin before Hashem. Many commentators contrast this ruling with the famous Gemara (Kiddushin 49b) where we find the case of a person offering kiddushin - a marriage proposal - to a woman on the condition that he is a completely righteous person. The halachah is that even if we know that this person is an established evildoer, we consider that the kiddushin may be valid, for we must take into consideration the possibility that the person decided in his heart to do teshuvah. And, in fact, Rambam (Hilchos Ishus 8:5) himself rules according to this Gemara.

These two rulings, however, seem to be inconsistent. If Rambam rules that teshuvah must be accompanied by confession in order to be valid, how can we, at the same time, accept the kiddushin proposal of this man as valid simply based upon the possibility that he considered teshuvah in his heart? After all, this man did not verbalize his thoughts with confession, and even his most virtuous intentions cannot be deemed as adequate teshuvah without confession.
The Lechem Mishna asks another question along the same lines. We know that kiddushin must be witnessed by two valid witnesses. If the kiddushin was witnessed by two people who were disqualified due to their being sinners, the procedure is not valid. We may ask, though, why we disregard such a kiddushin outright. After all, perhaps the witnesses considered teshuvah in their hearts. They would then be kosher witnesses, and the kiddushin may be valid. We would at least be wary of this possibility, and the kiddushin should be in doubt.

To this question, the Lechem Mishnah provides two answers. First of all, the Gemara in Kiddushin and its subsequent ruling are unique to the context where the groom has set forth the condition that he be a tzaddik, and this is why we can therefore suspect that he has performed teshuvah in order for the kiddushin to be valid. This is unlike a case of two known evildoers who stand as witnesses. Their status is one of being disqualified, and there is no indication on their part that anything has changed. Furthermore, in the case of the groom, he has himself declared before us that he may be righteous. This being the case, we can certainly at least consider the possibility that he has done teshuvah. In the case of the witnesses, however, there is no such statement on their behalf with which to contend.

The great Rabbi Dov Berish Wiedenfeld, the former Rabbi of Tchubin, offered another solution to this question. Our sages teach us (Yerushalmi, Bikkurim 3:3) that a groom is among the list of those whose sins are forgiven. Accordingly, the moment a groom offers kiddushin to a woman, the kiddushin and his atonement for any sins occur simultaneously. We can thereby heed his words as he refers to himself as a tzaddik. It is true that witnesses who are otherwise disqualified to serve in their role and who stand and observe a kiddushin ceremony might also have considered teshuvah. Nevertheless, their status as evildoers remains with them until they follow through and achieve full atonement. For these witnesses, the teshuvah process has not been completed until they also confess their sins verbally.

****************************

WITHOUT PERSONAL INTERESTS

Said Rabbi Abba bar Zavda: “Anyone who gives his priestly gifts to only one Kohen causes a famine to occur in the world.” - Gemara Eiruvin 63b

The Gemara assigns a very harsh consequence to a person who seemingly has shown loyalty and devotion by always giving his priestly gifts to the same Kohen. How are we to understand this?

The Ben Ish Chai explains that the mitzvah of taking off terumah and ma’aser is thereby clouded with personal interests. Once the mitzvah of removing terumah and ma’aser is thereby clouded with personal interests.

This recognition is our part in the cycle of blessing which then earns us further merit and increased abundance.

This recognition is our part in the cycle of blessing which then earns us further merit and increased abundance.

in the world.

Hashem has endowed us with great resources, and by earmarking these portions for the Kohanim, we demonstrate that we are aware of His benevolence. This recognition, in and of itself, is our part in the cycle of blessing which then earns us further merit and increased abundance. However, when a farmer gives all his gifts to one Kohen only, the farmer shows that he is fond of this one man, and that he wishes to provide him with his needs for sustenance. His mitzvah of removing terumah and ma’aser is thereby clouded with personal interests. Once the mitzvah is not being fulfilled in its complete sense, for the sake of heaven, it fails to achieve its goal of bringing blessing and more abundance to the world.

This is what our sages meant when they said that the farmer’s giving gifts to one Kohen results in famine. In this case, the abundance that was guaranteed as a reward for this mitzvah has now been diminished or lost due to the mitzvah’s not being performed properly.

****************************

TAKING IT TO HEART

In the Gemara (Sotah 2a), Rabbi Mayer Rubman, points out that the Gemara says,
“Anyone who sees a Sotah...”, including even righteous people. He then wonders why it was necessary for a tzaddik to become a Nazir just because he witnessed this event of the Sotah. Does such a holy person have to be worried that he would be involved in a similar situation?

Rabbi Rubman explains that Chazal are teaching us an important lesson in human nature. The tzaddik is supposed to contemplate the situation and understand that this situation that caused the Sotah to be brought to the Beis HaMikdash was not a one-time occurrence, where she acted on a whim. Rather, it was the culmination of a series of events that caused her to fall progressively further and further away from serving Hashem, until she ultimately committed a severe sin of disastrous proportions. Each and every step brought her closer to having an affair, until finally she became a Sotah. All of us, including the holiest and most righteous of people, must see this as a lesson that we can never be complacent with our level of service of Hashem. If we become complacent, we run the risk of slowly falling further and further away from Hashem and His mitzvos. Therefore, we must all heed the lesson of the Sotah and use it to strengthen our service of Hashem and constantly be concerned whenever we may slip, to make sure that it does not continue and snowball into much worse.

************************************************************************

DEMONSTRATING UNITY

Sforno explains that the fact that there was a wagon for every two of the princes was an indication of the brotherhood that existed among them. The princes were certainly wealthy enough that each one could bring his own wagon. The reason that two shared one wagon was to demonstrate the unity which reigned in their midst.

The Sanctuary is called Mishkan, indicating the Shechina dwells therein. It was especially appropriate for the Shechina to reside in the Mishkan due to the spirit of unity among the Jews, as we learn (Devarim 33:5): “And there was a king in Yeshurun when the heads of the people were gathered.” This is in sharp contrast to the situation that is presented in Hoshea (10:2): “Their heart is divided; now shall they bear their guilt.” Tragically, when there is strife and friction in Israel the Shechina departs.

************************************************************************

TWELVE UNIQUE GIFTS

“This is the offering of Nachshon, son of Aminadav.” BeMidbar 7:17

The Torah signs off the offering of each prince with the confirmation “This was the offering of so-and-so.” Reb Simcha Bunim of Parshischa points out that this teaches us that each and every prince compiled his own independent series of items and animals as his personal tribute as part of the dedication of the Mishkan. No one simply copied the actions of another. “This was the offering of...”, for the offering was due to his own volition and based upon his own choice.

In elaborating upon the significance of each and every item brought in the tribute of Nesanel ben Tzuar, Rashi attributes many hints and insights to the numbers and specific animals brought. For example, Rashi points out that the numerical equivalent of “עֲשֵׂנִי” is 930, which is the same as the years in the lifespan of Adam HaRishon. Why, though, does Rashi only cite these insights in commenting upon the offering of Nesanel, who brought his offerings on the second day? Why doesn’t Rashi offer his comments in explaining the tribute brought by Nachshon, whose offering was brought first? Certainly, Nachshon had many reasons for his gifts, and we need to know them as well.

Chiddushei HaRim explains that the point is that since the second prince ended up bringing exactly the same gifts as did the first prince, it is now at this point that we would begin to wonder why their offerings were identical. In fact, we would assume that Nesanel, the second prince, simply copied that which he saw brought by his colleague. This is why Rashi points out the insights and intentions of Nesanel, the second prince, as being unique and original in every aspect.

Nevertheless, although each prince had his own approach and each injected his own reasoning and thoughts into compiling his tribute for the dedication of the Mishkan, it turned out that each offered the precise package as did the others. The Midrash does elaborate for each prince, and thus indicates the secrets and insights which every item represented for each prince.

************************************************************************
SPECIAL ATTENTION

Why does the Torah elaborate and repeat the offerings of each and every one of the princes? It would have been adequate to list the gift of one of the princes, and then to simply report that each of the princes offered an identical tribute.

In Darchei Musar, Rabbi Yaakov Naiman explains that the Torah wants to teach us that "There is joy and satisfaction in the accomplishments of each individual as if he were the only one in the world.

Man is limited in how he attends to his matters. If a man has but one son, he focuses all his emotional resources towards that one child. If a man has many children, his love and attention are necessarily extended among all of his children. God, however, possesses infinite love for His people, and there is no element of His dividing the love He has for one member of the nation due to the fact that millions of other Jews are also deserving of sharing in the care and concern which He has for us.

The Torah vividly demonstrates that the gifts of Nachshon, the first of the representatives of the tribes, created a spirit of complete celebration and satisfaction before God. This same feeling was once again elicited every time the other princes brought their offerings as well, just as if each of them was the first one to dedicate his special items.

*******************************************************************************

Halachic Corner

Krias Shma - Sat. 9:03
Tefilla - Sat. 10:19
Sunset 8:27
9:55
8:27
5:15
Sunrise 5:15
5:15
8:27

Whenever entering a room, even in one’s home, a person should not burst into the room, but rather enter quietly (see Pesachim 112a). How much more so when entering the room of a sick person, who may not be up to receiving visitors. When visiting a sick person, one should enter the room in a cheerful mood that displays an aura of confidence and hope in the recovery of the patient, for if one enters the room with a serious or fearful expression, it could sadden the patient and intensify any feelings of depression or fright he may already be experiencing. By entering the room exhibiting a smiling countenance and exuding confidence in and hope for his speedy recovery, the patient’s morale may be boosted and his spirits lifted. This can actually be beneficial towards his recovery.

Halachic Corner is dedicated to Benyomin Freeman in memory of his father, Gedalia Freeman, whose dedication to quality education for his family began their eighteen-year relationship with HTC. May his memory be for a blessing.

*******************************************************************************

Questions for Thought and Study

1. Why does the Torah use the term "אברוס אתין" ("their fathers’ house") regarding the family of Gershon but not regarding any of the other families of Levi? See Malbim 4:20
2. Why does the Torah use the word "אמרון" ("saying") in Pasuk 6:23 when it is already used in Pasuk 6:22 regarding the blessings of the Kohanim? See Ohr HaChaim 6:22
3. Why doesn’t the Torah say that Nachshon was a “נשיא”, as it does in connection with all the other leaders of each tribe? See Ohr HaChaim 7:12
4. What very hard task did Moshe do every day of the inauguration of the Mishkan that he stopped doing on the eighth day? See Rashi 7:1
5. What unusual thing did the nesi'im add to the מזלות (sin) offerings that each of them brought? See Rambam 7:13
6. How does Avidan, the Nasi of Binyamin, allude to prominent future leaders of the tribe of Binyamin? See Ohr HaChaim 7:60

*******************************************************************************

This Week Likutei Peshatim is Sponsored

By Hebrew Theological College wishing mazal tov to HTC Board of Governors member Steve Miretsky and his wife Malka on the engagement of their son Ephraim to Zahava Rothberg; to Rabbi & Mrs. Aharon Cardash on the birth of a granddaughter, born to Faigy & Avi Schwartz; to Rabbi & Mrs. Gavriel Bachrach on the birth of a grandson, born to Chana & Rephoel Kerzner; to Rabbi & Mrs. Ben-Zion Rand on the birth of a grandson, born to Shifra & Moshe Kaganoff; and to HTC Board of Regents member Dr. Yudi Garden and his wife Phyllis on the birth of a grandson, born to Dr. Benjamin & Chaya Garden.

By Blitstein Institute of Hebrew Theological College Commencement Event will take place this Sunday, June 16th, at 10:00 AM, at Wilmette Park District, 3000 Glenview Road. Mazal tov to all our upcoming graduates!
On Thursday, June 27th, the community is cordially invited to Ignite the Night 2019 to benefit Fasman Yeshiva High School. Enjoy a laid-back summer’s evening over dinner, handcrafted cocktails and a glass blowing demo at the Ignite Glass Studios rooftop and garden venue. Ignite your evening with an inspiring Farbrengen led by world-renowned speaker, Rabbi YY Jacobson, accompanied by the soulful melodies of Zusha. RSVP & Sponsorships: ignitethenightHTChicago.com or 847-982-2500.

- Hebrew Theological College’s Gourmet Torah at Shallotts Bistro will take place this Thursday, June 20, 12:35-1:15. Speaker: Rabbi Tzvi Haskell. Complimentary appetizers as well as a discounted menu available for shuir participants. Men and women invited to attend. For more info: Rabbi Joshua Zisook at 847-982-2500 or jzisook@htc.edu.

- Blitstein Institute welcomes home all of the Seminary students returning from a year in Israel. Registration is still open for Summer Semester. Contact Mrs. Lipshitz at 773-973-0241. Summer Semester begins Monday, June 24, and ends Thursday, August 1. Fall Semester classes begin Tuesday, September 3. New Student Orientation will take place Wednesday and Thursday, August 28 and 29. Looking forward to greeting you at Blitstein Institute.

- By Hebrew Theological College wishing mazal tov to the graduates of our Beis Midrash and College Program for Men and Blitstein Institute for Women. We are so proud of all their accomplishments and we wish them much hatzlachah in their future endeavors!

- By Fasman Yeshiva High School wishing mazal tov to the Class of 2019 on their recent graduation. We are extremely proud of your achievements at FYHS and we wish you much hatzlachah in your continued education in Israel and in post-high school studies. Mazal tov!


- Park Plaza Senior Living Community enriches the quality of life for our residents through daily shuirim, live music, exercise classes, lectures, outings and much more. Park Plaza also has beautifully furnished apartments for rent: daily, weekly and long term or for your simcha. For more information, visit our website at park-plaza.org or contact Adina@park-plaza.org.

- TAG Chicago is here to help! Offering filtering solutions for smart phones, tablets and computers. We offer free volunteer assistance to keep your devices safe. Visit tagchicago.org, call 847-920-8245 or email Help@TAGChicago.org to book your appointment. 8150 Central Park, Skokie. Remember - “Call before you buy!” We will help guide you.

- Attention all parents of eligible Title I children: Come join Reach for a fun-filled parent educational fair Sunday, June 23rd, from 7:00-9:00 PM. Great tips, hints, activities, free food, giveaways and prizes. For registration and details please call the Reach office 773-973-2009.

- JCC Chicago seeks outstanding Early Childhood Lead and Assistant Teachers for Fall 2019. Be part of a team of educators, social workers and specialists who support the whole child through a developmentally appropriate curriculum embracing Jewish life and complementing the home. We’re looking for those who are enthusiastic about guiding each child to their potential towards future success. Visit www.jccchicago.org/careers for more information and to apply online.

- JCC Chicago is now hiring dynamic and engaging Day Camp Staff for the following positions: Early Childhood Counselors (college seniors or older), Senior Counselors (male), at Apachi Rogers Park, and Senior and Junior Counselors, Drama Specialist and Song Leader at Apachi Skokie/Evanston! Learn more and apply online at https://www.jccchicago.org/about/careers.

- Yachad is honored to pay tribute to Stan & Marshie Gertz with the Lev Zahav Award, and Debra & Ira Katz; with the Community Stars Award, on June 24, at the newly-renovated Holiday Inn & Suites North Shore (Skokie). Please join us as we highlight a wonderful year of growth and success in Inclusion of Adults with Disabilities in Yachad’s innovative programs. Signature reception, showcase buffet, short program. Email ChicagoYachadDinner@ou.org for more info. #BecauseEveryoneBelongs.

- Time is running out! Limited tickets available! Chicago Mikvah Association Tickets for Tuition. You could win a $50,000 Educational Scholarship. Good for any tuition or camp bills. Drawing held Sunday, June 23rd, from 7:00-9:00 PM. Great tips, hints, activities, free food, giveaways and prizes. For more info: Rabbi Katz; Tickets for Tuition.

- We are extremely proud of your achievements at FYHS and we wish them much hatzlacha in their future endeavors!

- By Hebrew Theological College wishing mazal tov to the graduates of our Beis Midrash and College Program for Men and Blitstein Institute for Women. We are so proud of all their accomplishments and we wish them much hatzlachah in their future endeavors!
• Please join us for a Shabbos of Song and Spirit in memory of Aviva Esther Miretzky, z"l, featuring Eitan Katz, June 21-22, at Congregation Adas Yeshurun. Carlebach Kabbalat Shabbos (Mincha 6:40 PM); Oneg Shabbos (9:45 AM); Musaf at 8:45 AM Shacharis minyan; Women's shiur in conjunction with YUTMK, given by Mrs. Miriam Prero (5:30 PM at the home of Deena Stein); Pirkei Avos (Rabbi Cohen 6:30 PM); Eitan Katz shiur (7:15 PM). – Malka and Steve Miretzky and Family

• Darchei Noam Glenbrook (DNG) welcomes Rabbi Haim Jachter as our scholar-in-residence, June 21-22. For more information or a need for Shabbos housing, contact our office 224-306-9364.

• The new Chicago Orthodox Student Union continues its Summer Learning Program directed by the YU Torah Mitzvot Kollel this Tuesday, June 18, at KINS, 7:45 PM Dinner - 8 PM Shuir. CLICK - “College Learning Initiative at KINS” - Shuir: “Midrashim”, led by Rabbi Michael Friedman. Meat/vegetarian food included! Questions? Please email chicagoothodoxstudentunion@gmail.com.

• Together We Are Building Worlds! Join us this Wednesday for a Bonei Olam Men’s Event with a musical adventure by Dudi Knopfler and fine delectable cuisine. Be inspired by Rabbi Schlimo Bochner, Bonei Olam Founder. Bonei Olam provides financial support, medical advice and guidance to couples struggling with infertility. Come show your support! Wednesday, June 19, 2019, at the home of Abie & Ronit Gutnick. Let’s build worlds together!

• Shabbos of Achdut in Skokie with acclaimed Chassidic musicians of Zusha! Shabbat, June 28-29. Parashat Shelach. Friday Night Kabbalat Shabbat at KCT, 9220 Crawford, at 7:00 PM; Friday Night Oneg at the home of Aviva Esther Miretzky, 9100 Kedvale Avenue, at 9:45 PM; Shabbat morning davening at Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, 4059 Dempster Street, at 9:00 AM; Seudah Shlishit at KCT, following 8:05 Mincha.

• Hillel Torah (Skokie, IL) is seeking a Preschool Lead Teacher. Our ideal candidate will have a background in early childhood education, be committed to providing a nurturing and developmentally appropriate classroom experience, and have knowledge and background with Judaic curriculum. Send résumé and cover letter to resumes@hilleltorah.org.

• The cRc is proud to announce this year’s winners of the Rebbetzin Shoshana Schwartz, a”h, Torah Essay Contest. First Place: Shana Grunwald (Bais Yaakov High School). Our Runners Up are: Chaya Renae Goldwag (Bais Yaakov High School) and Chana Schusterman (Lubavitch Girls High School). We congratulate the winners on their excellent work, and wish them and all who participated great success as they continue their Torah education in Israel.

• Rosh Kollel performing as a piano maestro! A symphony-level Chamber Music Concert on Thursday, June 27th, 8:00 PM, with Rosh Kollel Rabbi Dovid Lipson, noted talmid chacham, Rosh Kollel of Aliyos Shlomo (Kollel founded in memory of Rabbi Shlomo Freifeld z”l), at the Albin’s home, 6700 N. Richmond. Proceeds of the concert will fund this Jerusalem Kollel. Unique and memorable! www.aliyosshlomo.org.

• Wishing hatzlochah to Chana Greenberg, “Morah Greenberg”, now offering affordable, sliding scale fees for personalized tutoring in Reading, Writing, & General Studying subjects for students in 1st to 3rd Grade. She is a licensed educator with over 20 years of experience in our day schools. Morah Greenberg wants to help all students realize their potential. If your child is a struggling reader, or needs to “catch up” in general studies, the summer would be a great time to start! Also available for home schoolers. - Ronald Greenberg & the kids.

• The Wi-Fi Chevra recommends that you start your day with a Good Morgan! Good Morgan Café! Located in the Wi-Fi Building on McCormick Blvd., Good Morgan offers a delicious array of breakfast and lunch specials daily. Try their delicious Belgian waffles or omelet specials! Don’t miss their famous fried whitefish sandwich and other tasty sandwiches and wraps. Open daily 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

• By Pearls of Chicago wishing hatzlochah to Kaituz Wigs on the Two-Day Wig Event, Tuesday, June 18th, 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM, and Wednesday, June 19th, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM, to be held at Pearls of Chicago in Lincolnwood. Zissy, Bella, Jewel, Rosemarie, The X, Eva & Chloe, Ronit, Z Line, Kiki, and Shuly. All lengths, all colors on sale; cut and warranty included.

• Wishing mazal tov to our dear children, Rikkie and Eli Sharfman, on the upcoming kiddush in honor of our precious granddaughter, Millie Pauline / מילאא פאלאוינ / מילאא פאלאוינ, this Shabbat. We love you and look forward to sharing many more future smachot. Love, Grandma and Popi, and all your aunts, uncles and cousins joining you this Shabbat.

• By the Feder and Rubinoff families in loving memory of their father and grandfather, Louis Feder, לויוס פאדר, on the occasion of his 14th yahrzeit on 15 Sivan. May his memory be for a blessing. (K.I.N.S., Chesed L’Avraham)

Likutei Peshatim is endowed by Les & Ethel Sutker in loving memory of Max and Mary Sutker and Louis and Lillian Klein, z”l. May their memory be for a blessing.

Answers:
1. Gershon was the oldest and should have gone first. That is why regarding his sons the census is listed as “according to their fathers’ house”.
2. Ohr HaChaim gives three reasons. First, this was to show that the Kohanim’s blessing of Bnei Yisrael is a commandment and not optional. Second, the commandment is not just for Aharon and his sons, but it is everlasting. Lastly, those blessings are a source of distinction for the Kohanim who give them.
3. This was to show that Nachshon was worthy to bring an inaugural offering to the Mishkan even if he was not a nasi. Another explanation is that Nachshon, in his humility, did not think of himself as a nasi, but just a member of his tribe.
4. Moshe dismantled the Mishkan every day after the service and put it back together the next day.
5. The הרס (incense) was not usually brought with a קרבן, but only with the הרס (daily) offering. This was only done during the inauguration to show Bnei Yisrael all the different possible offerings.
6. Avida is an allusion to Shaul, who was nicknamed “Avi” (see Shmuel 24:11) and was judged (ךות) by having his kingdom cut off. It also alludes to Mordechai, who destroyed (ךות) the descendant of Agag, (Human, the descendant of Agag, who caused Shaul to lose his kingdom.

Prepared by Rabbi Ben-Zion Rand, Editor, and Naomi Samber, Managing Editor
To sponsor Likutei Peshatim for a future Shabbos, call Naomi Samber, 847-982-2500, Fax 847-982-2507, email samber@hlc.edu
Details listed in the Sponsorship Section are the responsibility of the sponsors and not of Hebrew Theological College

Likutei Peshatim has Torah content - please treat it respectfully

A partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community