



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

# SHABBOS DELIGHTS

## TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L

*It is an honor to present this week's Torah Minute from our archives.*

*The following was penned by our founder, Rabbi Kalman Winter ZT"L, in 2011*

Following the plague that killed 24,000 Jews, the Torah, in this week's portion of Pinchas, details the census of the remaining Jews. Chapter 26 verse 41 records the count of the tribe of Benjamin as 45,600. Just a few verses later, the Torah records the count of the tribe of Dan as 64,400.

It is startling that Dan, the son of Jacob, had only one child, whereas Benjamin had a total of ten children. Yet over the course of time, the tribe of Dan had 15,800 more offspring than Benjamin. The Rabbis draw a lesson in life from this historic anomaly. There is neither counsel nor wisdom, save for G-d's own determination. Whether in matters of financial security, life, or pleasure and joy from our children and grandchildren, there is no trajectory other than the mercy and will of the Creator above.

Though Dan had but one child, he was not to be denied. History and time shined their grace upon him, and his progeny developed into one of the most populous tribes. So too, we should not be dismayed nor deterred. Though our fortunes might appear bleak, there is a greater wisdom than ours that directs and guides our future. King David in Psalms chapter 27 best expressed our aspirations: "Place the hope in G-d, strengthen yourself and He will instill courage in your heart."

*Have a wonderful Shabbos!*

*Rabbi Menachem Winter*

## TABLE TALK

### POINTS TO PONDER

**And on the matter of Cozbi... who was slain on the day of the plague, in the matter of Peor (25:18).**

*If one takes a non-Jewish woman, if a zealot kills him he is praised, as we see from the story of Pinchas, who killed Zimri and Cozbi (Rambam, Hilchos Issurei Biah 12:4).*

Was Cozbi killed because of her being with Zimri, as implied by the Rambam, or because of the idolatry of Peor, as indicated in the verse?

### PARSHA RIDDLE

**My covenant of peace (25:12).**

*A pledge that Pinchas would not be harmed by supporters of Zimri (Ibn Ezra).*

Who else did Hashem assist so that they would not be killed for killing?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

**Last week's riddle:** *Bilaam arose in the morning and saddled his she-donkey... (22:21)*

*Hashem said, "Wicked one, Avrohom preceded you, as it says "And Avrohom got up early in the morning and saddled his donkey" (Vayeira 22:3) (Rashi).*

*Who else got his animals ready for riding, even though it should have been done by his servants?*

**Answer:** Yosef and Pharaoh

## HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

### HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

*Parshas Pinchas (Bamidbar 27:1-11)* relates the petition of Tzelophechad's daughters to inherit the property of their father, who had died leaving no sons. Hashem's response, endorsing their request, constitutes the Torah's systematic statement of the rules of inheritance, which, as supplemented and interpreted by the Oral Torah, are as follows (*Shulchan Aruch choshen mishpat siman 276*):

- Sons are first in line to inherit (except in the case of a married woman, who is inherited by her husband). If there are no (surviving) sons, daughters inherit. If there are no (surviving) daughters, the father inherits. If the father is deceased, the father's father inherits, followed by the father's father's father, etc.

- For any heir in line to inherit, if he or she is deceased but has surviving descendent, they inherit in his or her place, and have precedence over any heirs lower in the hierarchy. For example, a decedent's deceased son's surviving sons or daughters will inherit their father's share of his father's inheritance (sharing the inheritance with any of their grandfather's other sons) and take precedence over their grandfather's daughters and father. Similarly, if the decedent has no surviving descendent, and his father, too, is deceased, but has left behind a child (i.e., a sibling of the decedent), that child inherits. If the decedent's father has no surviving children, but has surviving grandchildren (i.e., nephews or nieces of the decedent), they inherit. Only where the decedent's father has no surviving descendent at all does the inheritance pass to his father (the decedent's grandfather), as above.

One additional rule, set forth in *Parshas Ki Seitzei (Devarim 21:15-17)*, is that a firstborn male heir is entitled to a double portion of the inheritance, i.e., if there are  $n$  brothers, the inheritance is divided into  $n+1$  equal portions, with the firstborn receiving two portions, and the others receiving one each.

PRESENTED BY  
**RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH**

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

#### #1 WHO AM I?

1. Rabban Shel Yisroel
2. I started with my father
3. I died with "Pure"
4. I am on the inside
5. There is a vineyard named for me

#### #2 WHO AM I?

1. I was one of twelve
2. I was protected by the blessing
3. I was given a letter
4. I am referred to as the moon

#### Last Issue's Answers:

**#1 Rav Chaim Ben Atar**, who died in 1743, was known as the Ohr HaChaim HaKadosh. His student was the Chida. Among other seforim, Rav Chaim wrote the Ohr HaChaim on Chumash and the Pri Toar on Halacha (I died in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, I am known as holy, My student was a riddle, I am in the Mikraos Gedolos, I gave you a Light and Beautiful Fruit).

**#2 Shiva Asar b'Tamuz** (I will be when I will not be, Delayed this year, I am referred to as "... of the fourth", I am the beginning of the end).

All children  
13 and under  
who answer a  
"Who Am I?"  
correctly will  
be entered  
into a raffle to

Win a  
pair of  
Spy Spec.  
Video  
Glasses!



The next  
raffle will  
be  
August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Visit [www.gwckollel.org](http://www.gwckollel.org) to submit your answers. Answer as many as you can because each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning.

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