



DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

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The English name for the book of *Bamidbar* - Numbers - reflects at least the first two *parshiyot* we are reading right now. In *Parshat Bamidbar*, we read about the count of almost all of *Bnei Yisrael* (besides the tribe of Levi), and in *Parshat Naso*, we start counting the families of the sons of Gershon and Merari for work in the *Mishkan* (tabernacle). Why did *Chazal* see fit to make sure these *parshiyot* bookend the holiday of Shavuot? What is it about counting that aligns so well with the theme of *Matan Torah*?

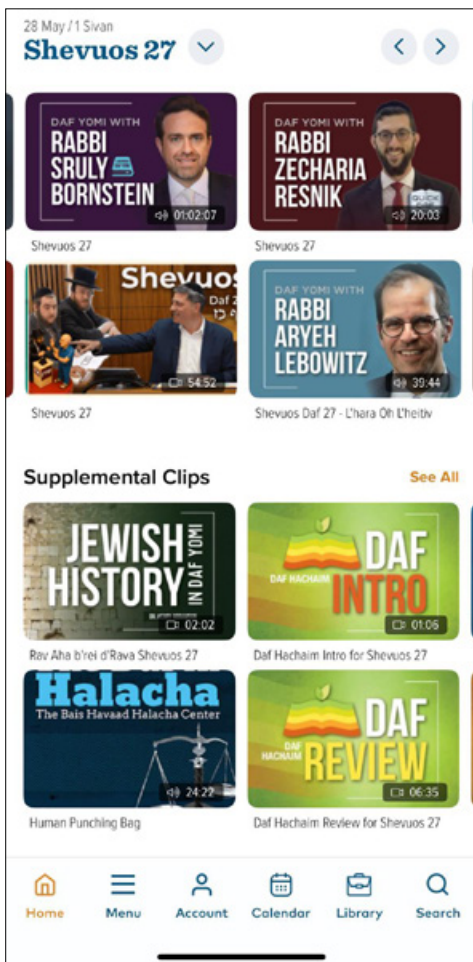
I think the answer is that the Torah is trying to help us see the importance of each person's unique talents in *Klal Yisrael*. The Torah says that they should be counted, "*ish al diglo*," every person at his or her flag. Everyone has their flag, their *tafkid*, something only they can do for *Klal Yisrael* and the world. This is why many of us stay up late learning Torah on Shavuot night. Each of us wants to receive our special and unique Torah on this night.

Every year, I have the *zechut* to give *shiurim* all over Givat Ze'ev. It is such a beautiful experience for me to have the chance to see and experience the different Jewish communities that make up Givat Ze'ev. We have *Sefardi shuls*, Yemenite *shuls*, *Dati Leumi shuls*, *Chareidi shuls*, and even a group of Karliner *chassidim* who come for Shavuot to spend time with their Rebbe. I was able to see it all, walking out of a *shiur* I gave in one shul in English, and then to give a class at Bnei Akiva, and on the way back to my house to do a Shavuot-night *oneg* for younger kids.

Every shul is doing something different. Whether it's the *Sefardi shuls* reading the beginning and end of every single *parsha* and *sefer* throughout Tanach as part of *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, or it's the *Ashkenazi shuls*, where it's *shiur* after *shiur* with some *chavrutot* on the side. I love to see how *Klal Yisrael's* excitement to receive the Torah has resulted in each community developing their own unique way of how they want to receive the Torah. Shavuot night has become a time that is so meaningful, so passionate, and so embracing of *Hakadosh Baruch Hu* and His Torah, in everyone's unique way. I know that there are even learning programs on Shavuot night for people who consider themselves secular.

The *gemara* teaches us, "A person can only be expected to learn the Torah that his heart desires" (Avoda Zara 19a). The fact is that different people connect to different parts of the Torah, and different communities connect in ways unique to them. When my son Mordechai accompanied me on my tour of the Givat Ze'ev shuls on Shavuot night, I had the chance to show him how beautiful this really is. We all have one passion – to connect to *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* and show Him, on Shavuot night, how much we love the Torah and how much we want the Torah.

One of the purposes of the *chagim* is to take an idea, focus on it, and charge us to take it into the rest of the year. So, we ask ourselves: How are we taking our unique Torah learning from Shavuot and incorporating it into our lives? For example, I think that Torah Tidbits has



really become a learning tool that many people use to learn Torah every single week. Some people have even told me that the only Torah they learn all week is from Torah Tidbits. This is really a testament to the tremendous talent of the Torah Tidbits team and volunteers, who work so tirelessly to make sure Torah Tidbits is an enjoyable publication and that the Torah found in Torah Tidbits consistently inspires its readers. Let me take the opportunity to give thanks and a tremendous *yasher koach* to our Torah Tidbits team and volunteers for making this happen.

For those who want more Torah in your lives, and we should all want more, I encourage you to seek out Torah apps that allow people to connect, in their unique way, to the Torah. At the OU, we have developed the AllDaf app, as well as AllParsha, AllMishna, and AllHalacha. Each of these apps can be personalized to exactly what you want to study, all in one place. I believe that more than 10,000 people listen to *Daf Yomi* on OU's AllDaf app. OU Israel's Shiurim YouTube channel ([youtube.com/ouisraelshiurim](https://www.youtube.com/ouisraelshiurim)) provides 10+ new Shiurim of Torat Eretz Yisrael every week.

Only five hundred years ago, owning books in one's home was pretty rare. Today, not only are *seforim* available everywhere at relatively modest prices, but every kind is available - with translation, without translation, with big letters, with small letters - you name it. The digital world has opened this world of learning even wider, allowing us to study *Daf Yomi*, or the *parsha*, or *halacha*, or the *Mishna*, with a teacher that speaks to us. I have tremendous *hakarat hatov* to the OU apps for the endless Torah that I have the merit to listen

May the Torah learned
from this issue of Torah Tidbits be
in loving memory of and לעלוי נשמת

Rabbi David Rebibo z'l

הרב דוד יעיש

בן יוסף ואסתר ז"ל

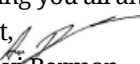
On his first Yahrzeit - סיון '

Deeply missed by his wife,
children, grandchildren,
great-grandchildren and
great-great-grandchildren

The Rebibo Family

to wherever I happen to be, whether driving, walking, even on the plane traveling to the next place to speak about what we're doing at OU Israel. These learning apps are easy to access, and they are uplifting, inspiring, and ultimately have the power to change our entire year. Why not take our Shavuot learning and bring it further, continue it and learn more than ever before?

Beyond this, I suggest we all take upon ourselves, no matter our age, to learn more with our children, with our friends, our neighbors, our nieces, nephews, or grandchildren. Through this, we can show *Hashem* that Torah is not just something that we want one day a year, or something that we are happy to learn one night because everybody else is doing it, but it's something that we want to have as part of our lives on a daily basis. I am sure that anybody who adopts these suggestions will uplift his/her life.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,

 Rabbi Avi Berman

**In memory of our
 beloved parents, grandparents
 and great-grandparents**

**עלקא ג'אנה בת חיים שלום הכהן ע"ה
 נפטרה טז סיון תשע"ג**

Elaine Zimmerman a"h

and

ישעיה יצחק בן מנדל אריה הלוי ז"ל

Dr. Charles I Cohen z"l

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 and family***

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