

PARSHAS BEHAR BECHUKOSAI

ת"ס

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with R' Ori Strum



PARSHAH OVERVIEW

Behar opens as Moshe hears Hashem's voice in the Mishkan at the foot of Mt. Sinai, commanding him to convey the laws of Shemita and Yovel to the Jewish people. Bechukosai discusses the blessings and curses, and the laws of Erchin.



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QUOTABLE QUOTE

"The history of my family is where my identity begins."
Rabbi Lord J. Sacks zt"l

PARSHAH STATS

Behar	Bechukosai
Pesukim - 57	Pesukim - 78
Words - 737	Words - 1,013
Letters - 2,817	Letters - 3,992
Mitzvos - 24	Mitzvos - 12



GEMATRIA



The gematria of ערך (which means value; see end of Bechukosai) is 290, which happens to be the same as רץ, which means: run. Passionate Judaism is in the realm of רץ, running to do the will of Hashem. And this type of lifestyle is what provides us the most value!

THOUGHTS IN CHASSIDUS

Rebbe Yaakov Abichatzeira, in his Sefer Machsof HaLavan, says something amazing. When the Torah discusses Erchin, it says ערך - your value, and the number amount given in the Torah is small. This is because it's talking only about the value of the physical body. The value of the Jewish soul, however, knows no bounds!



DID YOU KNOW



Research in psychology has shown that knowing your own value is essential for mental health, goal-setting, resilience, relationship satisfaction, and career success. By understanding your strengths and weaknesses, you can set realistic goals, communicate effectively, and build fulfilling relationships.

QUICK VORT

The Torah tells us that the קללות (curses) come, חס ושלום, when the Jewish people are in the realm of קרי; when they serve Hashem with casualness. No relationship. No passion.

Ironically, after discussing the curses, the Torah speaks about the laws of Erchin, which highlights and pinpoints the value of each person.

The connection is so clear. When people start to think that what I do doesn't really matter, they start acting more casual. Does Hashem really need my prayers? I am struggling reading, is Hashem really interested in my learning? Does my shaking a lulav have value?

The placement of Erchin right after the curses, perhaps, teaches us that in Judaism, we must realize our inner value; our immense greatness. And when we do this, we will live with passion, fervor, and meaning.

Have a holy Shabbos!