

PARSHAS SHOFTIM

ת"ס

Motiv8

M8

with R' Ori Strum



PARSHAH OVERVIEW

The appointment of judges and police. Prohibited structures, and punishment for idol worship. Authority of the High Court, the Bais Din. The appointment of the king. The rights of the priests and levites. Prohibition against fortune telling. True and false prophecy. Cities of refuge. Laws relating to witnesses and prep for war. The eglarufa.



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PARSHAH STATS

Pesukim - 97

Words - 1,523

Letters - 5,590

Mitzvos - 41



GEMATRIA

My favorite Elul gematria:



The numerical value of אני לדודי ודודי לי is 185, which is the same as the Hebrew word for coffee: קפה. This is a time - like coffee - to awaken us from our slumber!

THOUGHTS IN CHASSIDUS

In Likkutei Sichos, the Lubavitcher Rebbe explains why Rabbi Akiva rejected the notion that a person may exempt himself from the army since he is afraid of his sins." The fact that he is afraid, shows he has regret, which shows he began Teshuva. As such, he has nothing to worry about and should go to battle!



DID YOU KNOW



A 2010 study found that caffeine helps you feel more alert, think clearly, make good decisions, focus, and solve complex problems. It also improves short-term memory and athletic ability. In short, coffee can really give you a boost if necessary!

QUOTABLE QUOTE

When G-d is at the center of our lives, we open ourselves up to the glory of creation and the beauty of other people.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks zt"l

QUICK VORT

Parshas Shoftim discusses the cities of refuge. When a person makes a mistake and kills someone unintentionally, the Torah provides him with a place of safety.

It's interesting and not by chance that this Parshah is always read during this time of year, as we approach the High Holidays.

We understand that we've made mistakes and were imperfect. We understand we could have and should have spoken less gossip, wasted less time, and not have gone to that place.

But just as the city of refuge provides a place of safety for the "sinner," so to us, during Elul - when Hashem is in the fields - He wants us to come to Him, to approach Him.

When we are in a relationship with Hashem, it is like that city of refuge, which allows for protection and safety.
Have a holy Shabbos!