

The 12 Stones

Where are you to get the 12 stones from?

1. Middle of the Jordan River
2. Under the *Cohen's* feet

Why the heck would we need 12 stones?

1. It is a **sign**
 - a. *A sign for whom?* It is a sign for the people who crossed the Jordan right now so they don't think that it is because of them that the Jordan split. (So they don't think "It split because I am so amazing.") That is why the rocks are under the feet of the *Cohens*.
2. It is a **memorial**
 - a. *A memorial for whom?* It is a memorial to all the people who were not at the crossing, i.e. for the later generations. *Why would they need a memorial?* To remember what happened here, duh!

National Circumcision

Why didn't Bnei Yisrael do the Circumcision in the desert?

1. It would've been dangerous to do because there was no "Northern Wind" to help the healing process.
 - a. Why was the "Northern Wind" not there? It would've blew away the protecting cloud.
 - i. Why couldn't Hashem make a miracle that the cloud stayed there with the "Northern Wind"? It is b/c Hashem only does miracles when they are necessary.
2. You would need time to rest after the circumcision and Bnei Yisrael did not know if they would have time to rest or if they would have to travel in the desert.
 - a. They would have to rest now because they are going to attack Jericho!!! Why did they do it here because Jericho would've attacked them if they were weakened from the Circumcision? Jericho would not have attacked because they are too afraid of Bnei Yisrael.

What is the Connection between the Land of Israel and the Circumcision?

<u>Circumcision</u>	<u>Land of Israel</u>
To distinguish between the Jews and non-Jews on a personal basis	To distinguish between the Jews and non-Jews on a national basis
It is a constant <i>mitzvah</i> -Always on you.	It is a constant <i>mitzvah</i> -Always living there.
To uplift the mundane to holy-To take the animalistic to holy.	To take the mundane to holy-Israel represents holiness through mundane, i.e. the <i>mitzvot</i> of working the land.

חרפת מצרים-The Embarrassment of Egypt

What was the embarrassment?

1. We were similar to the Egyptians-couldn't do the *Korban Pesach* before a circumcision
 - a. SIDE TOPIC: There are only two positive *mitzvot* that you get the death penalty for not doing. They are the *Korban Pesach* and the circumcision. Why these two? The *Korban* is our national bond and the circumcision is our personal bond.
2. Not having a circumcision the embarrassment-It's a very embarrassing thing if you're a Jew without a circumcision.
3. The Egyptian astrologers said that they see blood in the future of Bnei Yisrael. This scared Bnei Yisrael because they thought that were going to die. This showed a lack of faith in Hashem. That was the embarrassment. Now we see that the blood is the blood of the circumcision, not of death.
4. Before Bnei Yisrael were in Israel they weren't earning any thing by themselves and that is a big embarrassment. Now they are farming and getting food for themselves

When does the manna (מן) stop falling?

It stops falling on the 7th of Adar because that's when Moshe died. This manna lasted for 5 weeks until the Jews got into Israel! That's a big miracle.

Why did the manna have to last for so long?

There is a concept of *חדש וישן*-the new and the old harvests. When you harvest a food, it is considered new. One may only eat food that he harvested after the *Omer* Offering is brought (second night of Passover). This food is considered old now and you may eat it. The *Omer* happened right now so the Jews can eat all what they've harvested now, but they couldn't before so the manna had to last for a while.

Mysterious Man

We have a bunch of questions:

1. **Was Joshua really in Jericho now?**
2. **Why would Joshua approach someone with a sword in his hand coming at him?**
3. **Who's the guy?**
4. **Why does the guy respond so cryptically?**
5. **What message does the guy have?**
6. **Why did he mention only one show?**
7. **Why does the guy say now?**

Most of these questions can be answered in the following two explanations:

The Gemara's Answer

After the circumcision Bnei Yisrael and Joshua did two mistakes: One is neglect their Torah studies and the other is that they performed the *Korban* wrong. When Joshua saw the man with a sword coming he knew that is was an angel. The angel answers him "No" because he is neither on Joshua's side nor Jericho's side. He is on Hashem's side.

Rabbi Horowitz's Answer

Joshua was doing something incorrect. That is that he thought it was only us vs. the people of the land. Hashem is teaching him a lesson that it's really because of me why you're fighting.

1 shoe vs. 2 shoes

When Hashem tells Moshe to take his shoes off he says 2 shoes. Why with Joshua does it say one? The reason is that Moshe is on a more spiritual level and Joshua is on a more physical level.

Conquest of Jericho

Why is the number 7 so important?

It's so we recognize that everything comes from God.

- Examples
 - Shabbat is to recognize Hashem during the week
 - Pesach (freedom) to Shavuot (getting the Torah) [all from Hashem]
 - The first six years build up to Shmitah (Sabbatical Year) so that we recognize all the food is Hashem.

Why do Bnei Yisrael break the Sabbath?

Because Hashem commanded them to! They're bringing Hashem into the world (and recognizing Him)

Was the Cherem (consecrated items) commanded by Hashem or Joshua?

1. Hashem-It just doesn't say
2. Joshua-He said it because he realized that
 - Hashem did everything here
 - It was the first battle and you need to give *trumah*
 - Jericho was conquered on the Sabbath...Everything on Sabbath goes to Hashem

Why are we not allowed to rebuild the city?

1. God conquered it so we're not allowed to rebuild it
2. It is going to be a memorial-If someone rebuilds it, it won't be a memorial anymore.
3. Everything on the Sabbath goes to Hashem!

The Transgressor and the Conquest of Ai

Why would everyone get punished for something one person did???

1. People saw him do it and didn't stop him
2. The one body theory-if one part gets hurt it SOMETIMES hurts something else
3. Crime only happens because of society. People didn't set up a system of being law abiding

GOOD LUCK!!!