



# The sorts of tidbits

my father, R' Meir Zlotowitz zt'l, made sure his family was up to date on  
*from the mundane, to the profound, to the 'thanks for reminding me!'*



In Memory of Rav Meir Zlotowitz z"l

Parashas Shoftim • August 21st  
Rosh Chodesh Elul 5780



## Reminders

On the second day of Rosh Chodesh Elul Nusach Ashkenaz begins adding LeDavid Hashem Ori beginning at Maariv; Nusach Sefard begins by Shacharis. The Shofar is sounded prior to reciting LeDavid at Shacharis. Many Sephardim begin saying Selichos on the second day of Elul.

The first opportunity for Kiddush Levana is this Motzaei Shabbos, August 22nd. The final opportunity is Tuesday night, September 1st.

Daf Yomi: Friday - Eiruvin 12.

Pirkei Avos: Chapter 6 (Chapter 1 in E"Y)

Make sure to call your parents, in-laws, grandparents and Rabbi to wish them a good Shabbos. If you didn't speak to your kids today, make sure to do the same!



## Next on the Calendar

Selichos begin on Motzaei Shabbos, Sep. 12th.

Rosh Hashana begins Friday night, Sep. 18th.

The Fast of Tzom Gedaliah is on Monday, Sep. 21st.

Yom Kippur is on Monday, Sep. 28th.



## Parshah in a Paragraph

**SHOFTIM:** Penalties for idolatry • The Sanhedrin • The laws of Kings • The Leviim will receive no portion in the land, as Hashem is their portion • A Levi's right to serve in the Beis Hamikdash at all times • Do not engage in sorcery like the gentiles, Hashem has granted you prophecy • Laws of witnesses • Preparation and laws of war • Taking captives only from distant Cities • See Taryag Weekly for more.

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## Taryag Weekly

**SHOFTIM:** 126 Pesukim • 14 Obligations • 27

## Prohibitions

1) Do not appoint Judges and Officers. 2) Do not plant trees in the courtyard of the Beis Hamikdash. 3) Do not create an altar from a single stone. 4) Do not sacrifice a blemished animal. 5-6) Heed the Beis Din Hagadol; do not disobey them. 7) Appoint a King. 8) Do not appoint a non-Jewish born King. 9) A King may not possess too many horses. 10) Do not return to settle in Egypt. 11-12) A King must not have too many wives, nor amass treasures beyond his needs. 13) A King should write a Sefer Torah and carry it with him. 14-15) Shevet Levi should not get a portion of the land nor share in the booty. 16-18) Give a Kohen specific portions of a slaughtered animal, Terumah and the first shearings of wool. 19) Kohanim and Leviim should serve on rotation. 20-25) Do not engage in clairvoyance, magic, casting spells, Ov V'Yidoni, or speak with spirits of the deceased. 26) Heed true Nevi'im. 27-28) Do not prophesy falsely, or in the name of Avoda Zara. 29) Do not be fearful to execute a false Navi. 30) Establish Arei Miklat for accidental murderers. 31) Beis Din shall not be merciful to a murderer. 32) Do not infringe on another's property's boundaries. 33) A single witness's testimony shall not be used to render judgment. 34) Punish false witnesses with the punishment they tried to impose. 35) Do not fear opposing nations. 36) Anoint a Kohen for war. 37) Attempt peaceful outreach before attacking the nations. 38) Do not allow survivors in war with the 7 nations. 39) Do not needlessly cut down a fruit tree. 40) Perform the rite of Eglah Arufah. 41) Do not utilize the area where the Eglah Arufah rite was performed.



## For the Shabbos Table

"Tamim Tihyeh Im Hashem Elokecha"

"You shall be wholehearted with Hashem your God" (Devarim 18:13)

Rashi explains that this Passuk is commanding us to place our trust in

Hashem and not try to delve into the future. Rather, whatever comes upon you shall be accepted wholeheartedly; and by doing so you will be with Hashem and of His portion.

Rav Moshe Feinstein z"l explains that this command extends to not seeking mystical answers and supernatural revelations beyond the realm of our Mesorah. Rather one should seek counsel and advice from Gedolei Torah and heed their instruction, as this is how Hashem wishes that we live our lives. Through wholehearted faith in our leaders, we attach ourselves to Him and merit divine assistance.

A woman who was childless came before Rav Moshe Feinstein ztz"l, and demanded, "For years now, we have been praying and coming to you for berachos that we be blessed with children. Yet, our prayers still have not been answered. Therefore, I request that the Rosh Yeshiva make a declaration that we will have children, for, as Chazal say, "A Tzaddik declares and HaKadosh Baruch Hu fulfills." "You want me to make such a statement?" asked R' Moshe. "What power do my words have in this regard?". "Yes, the Rosh Yeshiva can make such a statement ... you can ..." said the woman with tears rolling down her cheeks. Then she began to cry so bitterly that R' Moshe finally said to her, "I can't make such statements, but what I can say is that seeing your utter faith in the Rabbis you definitely deserve a child." Those words certainly brought comfort to the broken-hearted woman. With pure faith, she believed that her request was destined to be fulfilled. "When?" she asked R' Moshe innocently. R' Moshe thought for a moment and replied, "Immediately after Chanukah." Indeed, on the last day of the next Chanukah, the woman went into labor and gave birth to a baby boy that evening.

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