



Cincinnati Torah מסינסי

Vol. III, No. XXXIX

D'varim—Shabbos Chazon

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR RABBI DOVID HEINEMANN

Of Leaders and Followers

This week
in our Beis Midrash ↗

Provide men for yourselves who are wise, understanding, and well-known to your tribes, and I shall appoint them as your heads. (1:13)

“Provide for yourselves” means, “Prepare yourselves for the matter.” (Rashi’s commentary)

WHY DOES RASHI REDEFINE THE EXPRESSION “Provide for yourselves?” What perceived ambiguity is Rashi clarifying? Furthermore, following Rashi’s definition, why does the Torah tell us at this point to “prepare ourselves?” At other points in time, the Torah told the Children of Israel to appoint *Nesi'im* (“Princes”—tribal heads) and other leaders, yet in those places they were not told to “prepare themselves.” What was different about this appointment, that they should prepare for it?

The *chumash* of D'varim is also known as *Mishneh Torah*—a recap of the Torah. One reason that it’s referred to as such is because, during the last few weeks of Moshe’s life, he spent his time with the Jewish People, reviewing most of the laws of the Torah and revisiting all of their travels.

Moshe started this long lesson by telling the Children of Israel to set up judges, people who would show them what to do and how to live.

This is an important idea, but why was this the first topic that Moshe chose to review? Shouldn’t he have

first reviewed the fundamental ideas in Judaism, like idolatry, Shabbos, or *milah* (circumcision)?

Perhaps we can answer these questions if we have a better understanding of what our relationship with our leaders should be.

Sefer haChinnuch, in his preface, says:

Now, if not for the Torah that He gave him, man’s mind would be completely drawn after his material nature, with all its cravings; he would be like “the beasts that perish” (Psalms 49:21), and the work of G-d’s Creation would not be complete.

Man’s connection to Torah gives him supremacy over animals. Along life’s long journey, a person will encounter many situations in which the Torah will, seemingly, dictate how he should think or act. At those points, he has to find somebody who knows and understands the Torah better than he does, to guide him. If he does not do this, any decisions he makes may very well be the results of thinking which is “drawn after his material nature.”

Similarly, an effective leader must know and understand a person who comes to him for advice, in order to ascertain what the Torah would want from that person. When the questioner is willing to accept what his leader decides, and that leader is familiar with the questioner’s capabilities, they can

both channel their actions in the ways of the Torah.

Certainly there will be times when a sage or a rabbi will tell someone something that he agrees with. There will be other times when a person will not necessarily agree with the advice that a Torah authority has given him. Of course, it is no great feat to “accept” a sage’s advice when it just echoes what a person was thinking, anyway—but bear in mind that when someone listens to guidance because he agrees with the advice, he is actually listening not to the sage but to himself! It is precisely when someone disagrees with his rabbi’s line of thought but, despite that, he listens to

— CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE —>

FIRST ANNUAL CCK SUMMER

YARCHEI KALLAH

סוגיא דכלה: מעריב מוקדמת

Topic: Davening Ma'ariv Early

FEATURING

Rabbi Chaim Tzvi Gorelick
Ra'm, Yeshiva of Woodlake Village

Rabbi Shmuel Irons
Rosh Kollel, Kollel Institute of Greater Detroit

Monday, July 27—Friday, July 31, 2015
at the Cincinnati Community Kollel

to join, or for more info,
please contact Rabbi Spetner or Rabbi Minster

Sponsorship & feedback:

parasha@cincynollel.org

we would love to see

your name here

to sponsor an issue, please contact the Kollel office

Cincinnati Torah

is distributed weekly
to local shuls
and the community
e-mail list.



At the Kollel

KEY: 🖐️ Beginners 🖐️ Intermediate 🖐️ Advanced 🧑 for men and women

Looking for a chavrusa? See Coordinator Rabbi Chaim Heinemann!
Chavrusos are available noon–1 PM on weekdays, and 8–9:45 PM Sun.–Thurs.

Sunday *Free brunch!*

🖐️🖐️ **America Runs on Torah**
(Jewish Law & Parasha)
Rabbis Dani Schon
and Yisroel Kaufman.....10 AM
Grand Deluxe breakfast served

Tuesday

🧑🖐️ **Partners in Torah**
at the Mayerson JCC
Rabbi Binyamin Teitelbaum.....8 PM

Wednesday

🧑🖐️ **Torah Treasures for**
Seniors at the Mayerson JCC
Rabbi Yitzchok Preis.....10:30–11:15 AM

🧑🖐️ **Downtown Lunch-n-Learn**
at Strauss & Troy
Rabbi Yitzchok Preis.....12–1 PM

Thursday

🖐️🖐️ **Halacha** (based on the parasha)
Rabbi Chaim Heinemann.....9:10–10 PM
Homemade refreshments served.

Minyanim Daylight Time

Shacharis
Sunday8:15 AM
Monday–Friday7:20 AM
ShabbosN/A

Mincha
Sunday7:45 PM
Monday–Thursday5:45 PM
Shabbos6:30 PM

Ma'ariv
In the Beis Midrash:
Sunday–Wednesday9:45 PM
Thursday10 PM
ShabbosN/A

Every Day

🖐️ **“Dirshu” Gemara Shiur**
(Maseches B'choros)
Rabbi Yitzchok Preis.....
Sunday 7:15–8:15 AM
Monday–Friday 5:50–6:45 AM

🖐️🖐️ **Kollel Yisgaber K'ari**
(amud-a-day of Mishnah B'rurah)
Rabbi Chaim Heinemann.....
Monday–Friday 6:55–7:20 AM

🖐️🖐️ **Kitzur Shuchan Aruch**
Live video conference!
Rabbi Dani Schon.....
Monday–Friday 12:05–12:20 PM

🖐️ **Daf Yomi**
Rabbi Meir Minster.....
Sunday–Thursday 8–8:45 PM
Shabbos (at CZE) 1:00 pre-mincha

🖐️🖐️ **Nightly Halacha Chabura**
Rabbis Dani Schon
& Binyamin Teitelbaum
Monday–Thursday 9–9:45 PM

Chavrusa Learning
(private & small groups).....times vary

Of Leaders and Followers CONT'D

the saghe's advice, that one can say that he truly has *emunas chachamim*, faith in Torah authorities.

Moshe, our Great Teacher, was giving the Jewish People an introduction to D'varim: “Before I discuss anything with you, you must realize that, without leaders to direct you, knowing the fundamentals and the finer details of the Torah will not be enough!”

Hence, Rashi elucidates the expression, “Provide leaders for yourselves,” as meaning, “Prepare yourself to accept what those leaders will tell you. Prepare yourselves to ask questions when you are not sure what to do—and to listen, even if you disagree.”

This lesson of following Torah sages and religious leaders is a requisite attitude, which Moshe felt we should inculcate in ourselves before all else. 🧭

This week
at the kollel



Rabbi Fishman
finishes
Maseches Z'vachim

