



Ki Tetze

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 21:10 – 25:19

Parshat Ki Tetze is the last great collection of laws in the *Torah*. The *Sefer HaChinuch*, one of the most important books on the *Mitzvot*, written in the Middle Ages, explains that of the 613 *Mitzvot* in the *Torah*, 74 of them, almost 12%, are found in *Ki Tetze*!

Among the laws in this week's *Parshah* are the proper treatment of women captured in war, the rights of the first born in a polygamous family, and the punishment of an insubordinate son. This section is followed by several miscellaneous domestic laws including the returning of lost property, the importance of returning lost animals, and building a protective barrier around our roof.

The *Parshah* teaches laws concerning marital and sexual misconduct. It also delineates the list of forbidden marital relationships.

The rudiments of Jewish divorce are also found in *Ki Tetze*. Verse 24:1, concerning the writing of a divorce document, is the scriptural basis for *Gittin*, the complex set of rules which guides the writing of a divorce document (*get*). Once a private act between a husband and a wife, Jewish divorce has evolved to a state whereby the dissolution of a Jewish marriage must be supervised by experts in the particular area of Jewish law.

Ki Tetze also contains the *Mitzvah* to send a mother bird away before removing the eggs from a nest. This law, (22:7), is one of only two *Mitzvot* in the *Torah* which have rewards specifically for them. Can you identify the other one?

The *Parshah* concludes with the warning to remember "what Amalek did to you on your journey after you left Egypt" (25:17-19). These several verses comprise the special *Maftir* reading read on *Shabbat Zachor*, the *Shabbat* immediately preceding Purim.



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