

CANDLE LIGHTING

8:33 PM

Friday • Erev Shabbos

SHABBOS ENDS

9:45 PM

Motzaei Shabbos • Sat night

PIRKEI AVOS

Ch. 1

The Chain of Tradition

176 VERSES

Nasso

The longest parsha in the Torah

NEW: THE TREE OF LIFE ESCAPE ROOM — GOES LIVE MOTZAEI SHABBOS! — SEE PG. 2 FOR DETAILS

PARSHAS NASSO • THE LONGEST PARSHA

52 Empty Boats.

On May 18, fifty-two boats flying the banner of the Global Sumud Flotilla sailed from Turkey toward Gaza. Israel's navy intercepted all of them. More than four hundred activists were detained and deported. When the hulls were searched, not a single crate of humanitarian aid was found aboard. Fifty-two boats, the same banners on every mast, and nothing in the hold. They all looked alike on the outside because there was nothing on the inside.

Parshas Nasso records a different kind of uniformity. Twelve tribal leaders come forward, one per day, to dedicate the Mishkan. Each brings the identical offering: a silver bowl weighing 130 shekel, a silver basin of 70 shekel, both filled with fine flour and oil, a gold ladle of incense, a bull, a ram, a lamb for the *olah*, a goat for the *chatas*, and two cattle, five rams, five he-goats, and five yearling lambs for the *shelamim*. The Torah lists every offering in full — all eighty-nine verses. It is the reason Nasso is the longest parsha in the Torah.

Why repeat eighty-nine nearly identical verses? The Torah could have described Nachshon's offering and written: "and the rest did likewise." Rashi explains that the entire plan was designed by one man: Nesanel ben Tzu'ar, *nasi* of Yissachar.¹ The tribe of Yissachar were the Torah scholars of the nation, called "knowers of the times" — masters of the calendar, of knowing which moment carries which meaning. Nesanel drew on that wisdom to encode the milestones of human history into the offerings. The silver bowl's gematria of 930 matches the years of Adam's life; its weight of 130, the age at which he fathered Sheth. The basin's gematria of 520 corresponds to Noach's age at fatherhood plus the twenty years of the flood decree. The seventy shekel stands for the seventy nations.² Every

number was a date; every weight, a chapter in the story of the world.

What do Adam and Noach have to do with the Mishkan? The Mishkan was equivalent to the creation of the world.³ Everything in creation had its parallel in the sanctuary. The offerings therefore encoded the pillars on which the world stands: Adam, Noach, the seventy nations, Torah, the Ten Commandments, the Avos. Every vessel was full to the brim with meaning. Nothing was hollow.

Fifty-two boats, the same banners, nothing in the hold. Twelve offerings, one design, the entire world encoded inside.

Perhaps Nachshon's offering was spontaneous, a free gift that happened to land on these numbers. But when the second *nasi* brought exactly the same, down to the last shekel, that proves it was done with wisdom and intention.⁴ And do not think the later leaders simply copied the first. Each one "brought his offering from his own heart and desire," as independently as Nachshon.⁵ Twelve men, reasoning on their own, arrived at the same truth. The convergence was not conformity — it was confirmation.

That is the difference the Torah sees. When people march under the same flag because none of them has looked inside the cargo hold, their uniformity is a mob. When twelve leaders independently fill the same vessel with the same weight of meaning, their uniformity is a revelation. The flotilla carried matching banners and empty hulls. The *nesi'im* carried identical bowls — and every one was full.

¹ Rashi on Bamidbar 7:18; cf. Bamidbar Rabbah 13:14–16. ² Rashi on 7:19; Bamidbar Rabbah 14:12. ³ Maharal, *Gur Aryeh* on Bamidbar 7:19. ⁴ Chasam Sofer, Torah commentary, Parshas Nasso. ⁵ *Be'er Mayim Chaim* on Bamidbar 7:19.

PIRKEI AVOS · CHAPTER ONE

Received, Not Invented.

"Moshe received the Torah from Sinai and handed it on to Yehoshua." — Avos 1:1

מִלֵּשָׁה קִבֵּל תּוֹרָה מִסִּינַי, וּמִסִּדָּרָה לְיְהוֹשֻׁעַ

With Shavuot just behind us, the summer cycle of Pirkei Avos opens with the chain of transmission. The obvious question arises: this is a tractate of ethics, not law. Why begin with Sinai? Because a person might suppose that the character refinements taught here are the Sages' own philosophy, distilled from observation and experience. The mishna corrects that at the outset: these too were received at Sinai.¹

The chain runs from Moshe to Yehoshua, from Yehoshua to the Elders, from the Elders to the Prophets. At no point does a generation simply discover the teachings for itself. Each link receives from the one before it. Torah is not a text you encounter alone. It is something handed to you by a person who received it from another person, all the way back to the mountain. The chain is the method, and the method is the message.²

1 Bartenura on Avos 1:1. 2 Maharal, Derech Chaim, ad loc.

HALACHIC TIMES · VAUGHAN

Zmanim.

SHABBOS

Candle Lighting	8:33 PM
Sunrise	5:40 AM
Latest Shema	9:25 AM
Chatzos	1:15 PM
Sunset	8:52 PM
Shabbos Ends	9:45 PM

Times for Vaughan, ON, from chabad.org. Confirm locally before relying on any time for halachic observance.

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THE CYCLE OF CHAPTERS

SHABBOS · 14 SIVAN

THREE CHAPTERS

Arachim Vacharamim, ch. 2–4

ONE CHAPTER

Hilchos Shabbos, ch. 9

SEFER HAMITZVOS

Positive Commandments 115, 116, 117

The laws of *arachim*, personal valuations: when a person declares "my value is upon me" to the Beis HaMikdash, the Torah sets a fixed amount according to age and gender. The measure of what you give is defined not by your own estimate, but by the Torah's standard.

ON THE HORIZON

The Weeks Ahead.

- ◆ **Shabbos, June 6** — Parshas Beha'aloscha (21 Sivan). Pirkei Avos, Chapter Two.
- ◆ **June 15–16** — Rosh Chodesh Tammuz (30 Sivan / 1 Tammuz).
- ◆ **Wednesday, June 18** — 3 Tammuz. The Rebbe's Day.

- ◆ **June 27–28** — 12–13 Tammuz. Chag HaGeulah: the liberation of the Previous Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn, from Soviet imprisonment (1927). On 3 Tammuz his death sentence was commuted; on 12 Tammuz, his birthday, he was told he was free; on 13 Tammuz he received the official release documents.
- ◆ **Thursday, July 2** — 17 Tammuz. Fast day commemorating the breaching of the walls of Yerushalayim.



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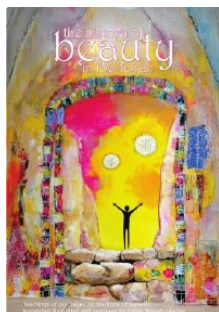
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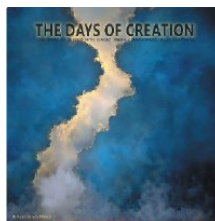
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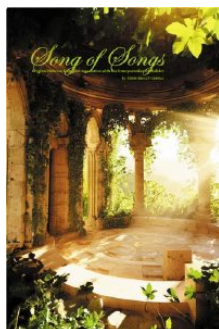


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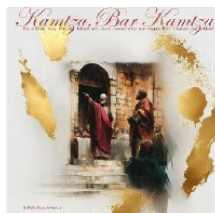


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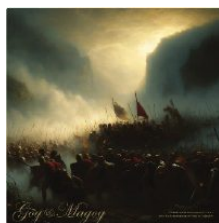


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