

Parsha Bullets on Behar-Bechukosai, 5783

All Brothers and Sisters

Rabbi Efrem Goldberg

Find the 3 for 3 [here](#) for a printout of 3 great divrei torah you can share at your shabbos table.

Vayikra 25:20	ויקרא כ"ה:כ'
And should you ask, "What are we to eat in the seventh year, if we may neither sow nor gather in our crops?"	וְכִי תֹאמְרוּ מִה־נֹאכֵל בַּשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁבִיעִת הֵן לֹא נִזְרָע וְלֹא נֶאֱסָף אֶת־תְּבוּאָתָנוּ:

Bullets:

- Why does the Torah elaborate here on the Shemita and the people's concern? Why isn't the beracha just presented. Is Hashem only presenting the beracha as a result of the people's complaints? **R. Zusha** said, in the name of the **Noam Elimelech**, that Hashem creates spiritual pipelines to connect to Him. When we challenge Him, we need a repairman to repair the pipe (the *beracha*).

Leviticus 25:17	ויקרא כ"ה:י"ז
Do not wrong one another, but fear your God; for I Hashem am your God.	וְלֹא תוֹנוּ אִישׁ אֶת־עֲמִיתוֹ וְיִרְאתֶם מֵאֱלֹהֶיךָ כִּי אֲנִי ה' אֱ-לֹהֵיכֶם:

Bullets:

- The **Otzar Peleos HaTorah** quotes a source that one cannot gain more than Hashem wants you to get. If you cheat the system, you will be punished and your ill gotten gains will be taken away ('for I Hashem am your God').

Leviticus 25:36; 39	ויקרא כ"ה:ל"ו
do not exact advance or accrued interest, but fear your God. Let your kin live by your side as such.	אֶל־תִּקַּח מֵאִתּוֹ נֶשֶׁךְ וְתִרְבִּית וְיִרְאתֶם מֵאֱלֹהֶיךָ וְחִי אִחֶיךָ עִמָּךְ:

Bullets:

- **Rashi** says that because man's thoughts are greatly attracted by the idea of taking interest and it comes difficult to him to keep aloof from it, so that he tries to persuade himself that it is a legitimate act. Scripture was compelled to state: "But be afraid of thy God!"
- **R. Yerucham Levovitz**, based on this Rashi, says that trying to find the easiest way out comes from a lack of fear of Hashem.
- The **Otzar Peleos HaTorah** discusses the concept of interest with words. For example, can you say 'thank you' for a loan.
- What is the connection between a snake and lending with interest? **R. Yosef Sorotzkin** says it is connected to the Primordial snake: in both cases we are led away from Hashem.

Vayikra 26:4-5	ויקרא כ"ו:ד-ה'
<p>(4) I will grant your rains in their season, so that the earth shall yield its produce and the trees of the field their fruit.</p> <p>(5) Your threshing shall overtake the vintage, and your vintage shall overtake the sowing; you shall eat your fill of bread and dwell securely in your land.</p>	<p>(ד) וְנָתַתִּי גֶשְׁמִיכֶם בְּעֵתָם וְנָתְנָה הָאֲרֶץ יְבוּלָהּ וְעֵץ הַשָּׂדֶה יִתֶּן פְּרִיָּו:</p> <p>(ה) וְהִשִּׁיג לָכֶם דִּישׁ אֶת־בָּצִיר וּבָצִיר יִשִּׁיג אֶת־זֶרַע וְאָכַלְתֶּם לֶחֶמְכֶם לְשָׂבַע וַיִּשְׁבְּתֶם לְבָטַח בְּאֶרְצְכֶם:</p>

Bullets:

- The **Rachmastrivka Rebbe** understands וְנָתַתִּי גֶשְׁמִיכֶם בְּעֵתָם as saying that Hashem will give us our גשמיית thoughts in the right time, not during davening, for example.
- The **Degel Machane Ephraim** says that וְהִשִּׁיג לָכֶם דִּישׁ means that Hashem will give us time for ourselves.
- The **Chasam Sofer** says we need to not only learn, but we also need to teach and to toil.