

# BJC Wensa

“WENSA” MEANS “FUN” IN JUDEO-ARABIC!

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MISHPATIM

SHABBAT ENDS 5:47PM

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## PARSHA OF THE WEEK....

### MISHPATIM

Following the revelation at Sinai, G-d legislates a series of laws for the people of Israel. These include the laws of the indentured servant; the penalties for murder, kidnapping, assault and theft; civil laws pertaining to redress of damages, the granting of loans and the responsibilities of the “Four Guardians”; and the rules governing the conduct of justice by courts of law.

Also included are laws warning against mistreatment of foreigners; the observance of the seasonal festivals, and the agricultural gifts that are to be brought to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem; the prohibition against cooking meat with milk; and the mitzvah of prayer. Altogether, the Parshah of Mishpatim contains 53 mitzvot—23 imperative commandments and 30 prohibitions.

G-d promises to bring the people of Israel to the Holy Land, and warns them against assuming the pagan ways of its current inhabitants. The people of Israel proclaim, “We will do and we will hear all that G-d commands us.” Leaving Aaron and Hur in charge in the Israelite camp, Moses ascends Mount Sinai and remains there for forty days and forty nights to receive the Torah from G-d.

So this parshah is basically a list of things you gotta do and can't do. Here goes:

#### Servants

The Torah gives very exact instructions about how one should treat his servant. The Torah says that he must treat the servant like the others in his household—the same good food, clean bed, etc. The master must also support and provide these things for the servant's wife and children.

#### Crimes Against Others

The punishment for murder, kidnapping, and hitting or cursing one's parents is the death penalty. Someone who accidentally kills somebody else must go to a special city called an Ir Miklat or City of Refuge, and he is exiled there.

#### Taking Care of Someone Else's Stuff

If someone else's property is in our possession, we have to do everything we can to take care of it, and if we are irresponsible and something happens to it, we must pay for it.

An unpaid guardian is doing the guy a favor and watching his thing for him, so he's not responsible if something happens to it. A paid guardian is responsible if it gets lost or stolen, but not if it's stolen in an armed robbery. A borrower is responsible no matter what happens to it, except if the owner is with him when the object gets stolen or broken. The last type of guardian is a renter.

#### Different Ways We Must Be Nice

The Torah demands that we be extra nice to strangers, widows, and orphans. These defenseless people especially deserve our kindness. When we lend money to somebody, we are not allowed to charge interest. Jews are only allowed to give interest-free loans!



#### Laws for Courts and Judging

Never testify falsely against somebody, and don't accept a false testimony from somebody else. Even if someone is very poor, you're not allowed to rule in his favor just because you feel bad for him. Justice is justice no matter what our feelings are. Don't accept bribery.

#### Shemittah and the Holidays

For six years we can work on the land--prepare the land, plant seeds, take care of the plants, and harvest the fruits and vegetables. But the seventh year, called shemittah, we must give the land a break and not do any work on it.

Six days of the week we can do work, but on the seventh day, Shabbat, we must rest. There are three important festivals throughout the year: Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot.

#### Meat and Milk

Finally, the last mitzvah given in this parshah is that we keep meat and milk separate. That's why kosher kitchens have two sets of everything, dishes, sinks, counters--one for meat and one for milk!

#### Conclusion

G-d promises the land of Israel to the Jews and Moses goes up the mountain to get the Tablets from G-d. He remains there for forty days and forty nights.



# BJC CHILDREN HAPPENINGS...



We celebrated Tu B'shevat with our BJC children on Sunday Jan. 19.  
The children had a great time thanks to our organizers Dina Dallal Khani and Desiree Sarraf Sheena.



## UN cancels Jewish exhibit at last minute on Arab complaints

Published January 17, 2014

Contributed by Jackie Cohen

FoxNews.com: A United Nations agency pulled an exhibit on the Jewish people's "3,500-year relationship" to the land of Israel, after the Arab League lodged a last-minute protest, according to a report.

The exhibit, entitled "People, Book, Land – The 3,500 Year Relationship of the Jewish People and the Land of Israel," was created jointly by the Jewish human rights group the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, and was scheduled to open Jan. 20 at UNESCO's Paris headquarters. But less than a week before it was to open, UNESCO informed the SWC it was canceling it because the Arab League had claimed the exhibit "could create potential obstacles related to the peace process in the Middle East," the U.S.-based Jewish newspaper The Algemeiner reported. Invitations had already gone out, and the fully prepared exhibition material was already in place, the paper reported. The display was co-sponsored by Israel, Canada and Montenegro. Rabbi Marvin Hier of the Wiesenthal Center, called the move was an "absolute outrage."

"The Arabs don't want the world to know that the Jews have a 3,500-year relationship to the Land of Israel."

- Rabbi Marvin Hier, Simon Wiesenthal Center

In a letter to Irina Bokova, president of UNESCO, Abdulla al Neaimi, from the United Arab Emirates, expressed "deep worry and great disapproval" over the program showing the age old connection between Israel and the Jewish people.

### **MOTHER'S LOVE**

A little boy came up to his mother in the kitchen one evening while she was fixing supper, and handed her a piece of paper that he had been writing on. After his Mom dried her hands on an apron, she read it, and this is what it said:

For cutting the grass:	\$5.00
For cleaning up my room this week:	\$1.00
For going to the store for you:	\$.50
Baby-sitting brother while you went shopping:	\$.25
Taking out the garbage:	\$1.00
For getting a good report card:	\$5.00
For cleaning up and raking the yard:	\$2.00
<b>Total owed:</b>	<b>\$14.75</b>

Well, his mother looked at him standing there, and the boy could see the memories flashing through her mind. She picked up the pen, turned over the paper he'd written on, and this is what she wrote:

For the nine months I carried you while you were growing inside me:	No Charge
For all the nights that I've sat up with you, doctored and prayed for you:	No Charge
For all the trying times, and all the tears that you've caused through the years:	No Charge
For all the nights that were filled with dread, and for the worries I knew were ahead:	No Charge
For the toys, food, clothes, and even wiping your nose:	No Charge

Son, when you add it up, the cost of my love is: No Charge. When the boy finished reading what his mother had written, there were big tears in his eyes, and he looked straight at his mother and said, "Mom, I sure do love you." And then he took the pen and in great big letters he wrote: "PAID IN FULL".

#### **Lessons:**

You will never know your parents worth till you become a parent. Be a giver not an acquirer, especially with your parents. there is a lot to give, besides money.

**BECAUSE MONEY IS THE WORST WAY OF MEASURING HAPPINESS...♥**

A 9 Year Boy went to an ICE CREAM shop .

Waiter:- What do you want?

Boy:- How much a CONE ICE CREAM costs?

Waiter:- \$3.50

Then the BOY checked his pocket & asked cost of small cone?

Irritated Waiter angrily said:- \$3.00

Boy ordered a small cone, had it, paid bill & left.

When the waiter came to pick the EMPTY PLATE tears rolled down from his eyes.

The boy had left \$.50 as Tip for him.

**"MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY WITH SOMETHING YOU HAVE".**

**That's Life...**

### **THINKING "OUT OF THE BOX"**



Many hundreds of years ago in a small Italian town, a merchant had the misfortune of owing a large sum of money to the moneylender. The moneylender, who was old and ugly, fancied the merchant's beautiful daughter so he proposed a bargain. He said he would forgo the merchant's debt if he could marry the daughter. Both the merchant and his daughter were horrified by the proposal.

The moneylender told them that he would put a black pebble and a white pebble into an empty bag. The girl would then have to pick one pebble from the bag. If she picked the black pebble, she would become the moneylender's wife and her father's debt would be forgiven. If she picked the white pebble she need not marry him and her father's debt would still be forgiven. But if she refused to pick a pebble, her father would be thrown into jail.

They were standing on a pebble strewn path in the merchant's garden. As they talked, the moneylender bent over to pick up two pebbles. As he picked them up, the sharp-eyed girl noticed that he had picked up two black pebbles and put them into the bag. He then asked the girl to pick her pebble from the bag.

What would you have done if you were the girl? If you had to advise her, what would you have told her? Careful analysis would produce three possibilities:

1. The girl should refuse to take a pebble.
2. The girl should show that there were two black pebbles in the bag and expose the moneylender as a cheat.
3. The girl should pick a black pebble and sacrifice herself in order to save her father from his debt and imprisonment.

The above story is used with the hope that it will make us appreciate the difference between lateral and logical thinking.

The girl put her hand into the moneybag and drew out a pebble. Without looking at it, she fumbled and let it fall onto the pebble-strewn path where it immediately became lost among all the other pebbles.

"Oh, how clumsy of me," she said. "But never mind, if you look into the bag for the one that is left, you will be able to tell which pebble I picked." Since the remaining pebble is black, it must be assumed that she had picked the white one. And since the moneylender dared not admit his dishonesty, the girl changed what seemed an impossible situation into an advantageous one.

**MORAL OF THE STORY:** Most complex problems do have a solution, sometimes we have to think about them in a different way.

# Jewish JOKES

## Helpful Handyman!

A man buys a fabulous home in Beverly Hills, California. He brings in a local workman to decorate the place. When the job is finished, the homeowner is delighted but realizes that he's forgotten to put mezuzahs on the doors. He goes out and buys 50 mezuzahs and instructs the decorator how to place them on the right hand side of each door except bathrooms and kitchens. He's really worried that the decorator will chip the paint work or won't put them up correctly. However, when he comes back a few hours later, he sees that the job has been carried out to his entire satisfaction.

He's so pleased that he gives the decorator a bonus. As the decorator is walking out of the door he says, "Glad you're happy with the job.....By the way, I took out all the warranties in the little boxes and left them on the table for you!"



## A Small Story

A boy and a girl were playing together. The boy had a collection of marbles. The girl had some sweets with her.

The boy told the girl that he will give her all his marbles in exchange for her sweets. The girl agreed.

The boy kept the biggest and the most beautiful marble aside and gave the rest to the girl. The girl gave him all her sweets as she had promised.

That night, the girl slept peacefully. But the boy couldn't sleep as he kept wondering if the girl had hidden some sweets from him the way he had hidden his best marble.

### Moral of the story:

If you don't give hundred percent in a relationship, you'll always keep doubting if the other person has given his/her hundred percent ... This is applicable for any relationship like love, friendship, employer-employee relationship etc.

Give your hundred percent to everything you do and sleep peacefully.

## A Mezuzah?

Contributed by: Mirra Zara

A mezuzah man who has finally made it in business treats himself to a new Lamborghini! After buying it, he feels guilty so he goes to the Orthodox Rabbi and asks for a mezuzah for the Lamborghini. "You want a mezuzah for what?" the Rabbi asks.

"It's a Lamborghini,"

"What's a Lamborghini?" asks the Rabbi.

"A sports car."

"What? That's blasphemy!" the Rabbi shouts. "You want a mezuzah for a sports car? Go to the conservatives!"

Well, the man is disappointed, but goes to the conservative Rabbi and asks for a mezuzah.

"You want a mezuzah for what?" the Rabbi asks.

"For my Lamborghini", the man replies.

"What's a Lamborghini?" asks the Rabbi.

"A car, a sports car."

"What kind of sports car?" asks the Rabbi.

"Italian."

"What? That is blasphemy!" the Rabbi shouts.

You want a mezuzah for a Goyishe car? Go to the Reform!"

Again, the man feels guilty and disappointed, but goes to the Reform Rabbi.

"Rabbi," he asks, "I'd like a mezuzah for my Lamborghini."

"You have a Lamborghini?" asks the Rabbi.

"You know what it is?" says the man.

"Of course! It's a fantastic Italian sports car. What's a mezuzah?"



## A Goy is a Goy...

A Jewish couple won twenty-million pounds on the lottery. They immediately set out to begin a life of luxury. They bought a magnificent mansion in Knightsbridge and surrounded themselves with all the material wealth imaginable. Then they decided to hire a butler.

They found the perfect butler through an agency, very proper and very British, and brought him back to their home. The day after his arrival, he was instructed to set up the dining room table for four, as they were inviting the Cohens to lunch. The couple then left the house to do some shopping.

When they returned, they found the table set for eight. They asked the butler why eight, when they had specifically instructed him to set the table for four. The butler replied, "The Cohens telephoned and said they were bringing the Blintzes and the Knishes!"

“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.” –Martin Luther King, Jr.

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### FAMILY SHABBAT DATES:

MAR. 1, 2014      MAY 10, 2014  
APRIL 5, 2014      JUNE 14, 2014

## The Last Tango in Baghdad

by Dr. Albert Khabbaza is available at all online booksellers. For more info visit:

[www.khabbaza.com](http://www.khabbaza.com)

