

Bamidbar 2015

1.

Was Moshe in or out of the Ohel Moed?

Nachlas Tzvi page 330

“Hashem spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of the meeting (The Ohel Moed)” (1, 1)

"וידבר ה' אל משה במדבר סיני באהל מועד באחד לחודש השני בשנה השנית לצאתם מארץ מצרים לאמר."

Why did Hashem speak to Moshe inside the Ohel Moed, while in the beginning of safer Vayikra Moshe was outside the Ohel Moed when Hashem called and spoke to him from inside the Ohel Moed? The setting of safer Vayikra was during the period where the Jews sinned with the Golden Calf. Additionally it was prior to the inauguration of the Mishkan (the Tabernacle). The Jews were therefore not forgiven. Therefore, Moshe stood outside; he feared entering the Ohel Moed. Dissimilarly, here when the Mishkan was erected and Hashem forgave them for the sin of the golden calf, Moshe was fitting and unafraid to enter the Ohel Moed.

2.

Peace and Unity

Parparos LaTorah page 10

The Chida says that the gematria (numerical value) of במדבר (248) סיני (130) is 378. The word בשלום also has a gematria of 378. The Jews were at this lofty level when they received the Torah, as the pasuk (Shemos 19, 2) states "ויחן שם ישראל נגד ההר." "Israel encamped there, opposite the mountain." Why is this pasuk in the singular tense, seemingly it would be much more logical for this pasuk to be in the plural tense after the fact that this pasuk refers to approximately 3,000,000 people camping by the mountain? Rashi quotes the Mechilta that answers and explains that the Jews were like one person with one heart (כאיש אחד בלב אחד). Due to this extreme unity they merited to receive the Torah.

One of the reasons parshas Bamidbar is lained before Shevuos is in order that we will be focused on the important goal of attaining proper unity. The Chida explains that during these days before Shevuos we must be very careful with matters of bein adam l'chaveiro (interpersonal relationships). It is a nice idea to apologize to someone we may have slighted as we do prior to Yom Kippur.