

מצוות
עשה
#80

 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Mishpatim: (שמות ל"ב)

בְּכוֹר בְּנֵיךָ תִּתֶנּוּ לִי

We need to give our firstborns as presents to Hashem! We don't actually give them the firstborn, instead we redeem the firstborn — giving money to the *kohen* and keeping the firstborn ourselves.

Pidyon HaBen: For a firstborn baby boy we pay the *Kohen* 5 *sela'im*. The father is the one who has the *chiyuv* to do this *mitzvah*.

 The details of this mitzvah are explained in Mishnayos & Gemara:
Mesechta Bechoros

Bechorim

The *kohanim* and *Leviim* have a special job to work in the *Mishkan* and *Beis Hamikdash*.

At the time of *Makas Bechoros*, Hashem chose ALL of the firstborns to do these important jobs. But since the rest of the *bechorim* were part of the *aveira* of the *Cheit Ha'egel*, Hashem gave this special job only to *Shevet Levi* to do.

In the Midbar, Moshe Rabbeinu counted the bechorim to make sure that there was someone from Shevet Levi working instead of each bechor from the other shevatim.

There were 22,300 Leviim, but only 22,000 of them could work in the Mishkan instead of a bechor. That's because 300 of the Leviim were bechorim themselves! That left 273 bechorim who didn't have a Levi working instead of them.

Those bechorim had to pay Shevet Levi 5 shekels (20 gera), the same amount that Yosef (Rachel's bechor) was sold for.

Moshe Rabbeinu made a lottery for the bechorim to decide which ones would need to pay.

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 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Ki Sisa: (שמות ל"ב)

וּפֶטֶר חָמוֹר תְּפַדֶּה בְּשֵׂה

A firstborn donkey also belongs to Hashem!

Peter Chamor: For a firstborn boy donkey, we give the *kohen* a sheep instead, or pay what the donkey is worth.

Leviim don't have to give their firstborns to Hashem.

 The details of this mitzvah are explained in Mishnayos & Gemara: **Mesechta Bechoros**

Rambam: Hilchos Bikurim

PEREK TES

There are parts of each animal we *shecht* that are “*Matanos*” — given as a present to the *kohanim*. (This was yesterday’s *Sefer Hamitzvos*.) We learn which kinds of animals we need to give *Matanos* from, and what happens if we aren’t sure if they were given.

PEREK YUD

We give the *kohen* part of the wool of a sheep the first time we cut its hair, called *Reishis HaGeiz* (yesterday’s *Sefer Hamitzvos*). This *mitzvah* makes sure that the *kohanim* will have wool to make clothes!

PEREK YUD-ALEF

The Rambam teaches us about the *mitzvah* of *Pidyon HaBen*, paying the *kohen* so we can keep our firstborn boys. We do this *mitzvah* after the baby is thirty days old. The Rambam teaches us what makes a baby called a firstborn — for example, if the first baby was a girl, there is no *Pidyon Haben* in that family.