

מצוות
עשה
#78

 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Bechukosai: (ויקרא כז:לב)

וְכֹל מַעֲשֵׂר בְּקָר וּצְאֵן כֹּל
אֲשֶׁר יַעֲבֹר תַּחַת הַשֶּׁבֶט
הָעֲשִׂירִי יִהְיֶה קֹדֶשׁ לַיהוָה

Today's *mitzvah* is to give *Maaser* from our animals!

The tenth one from our animals is special — it is a present for Hashem! We are supposed to take it to Yerushalayim, and bring it for a *Korban*. Then we eat the meat of the *Korban* in Yerushalayim.

Really, we should keep this *mitzvah* nowadays, even without a *Beis Hamikdash*. We can still set aside the *Maaser* and not eat it unless it gets a *mum*. But the *Chachomim* were afraid that people wouldn't wait, and would *shecht* and eat the animal. This is a very serious *aveira* (*chiyuv Kareis*), to *shecht* a *korban* outside the *Beis Hamikdash* (*Shechitas Kodshim Bachutz*). So we will have to wait to keep this *mitzvah* until Hashem builds the *Beis Hamikdash* again.

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

Rambam: Hilchos Bechoros

PEREK HEY

In today's Rambam, we learn more about the *Bechor*, and about giving *Maaser* from our animals!

What happens when we're not sure which animal is really the *bechor*? The Rambam tells us what the *halacha* is in different kinds of cases!

PEREK VOV

In this *perek*, we learn about giving *Maaser* from our animals.

PEREK ZAYIN

Here's how we figure out which animal is *maaser*: We put all the baby sheep into one place, and put the mother sheep outside. We let them go out to their mothers, one animal at a time, and count the tenth one. Every tenth one we mark with paint, and that one will be a present for Hashem.