

מִצְוֹת
עֲשֵׂה
#153

 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Bo: (שמות יב:ב)

הַחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה לָכֶם רֵאשׁ חֹדֶשִׁים

In *Sefer Hamitzvos*, we again learn the *mitzvah* that the *Beis Din* needs to decide the right time for each month to start.

 The details of this mitzvah are explained in Mishnayos & Gemara: Mesechta Sanhedrin perek Alef, Mesechta Rosh Hashana and Brachos

Rambam: Hilchos Kiddush Hachodesh

PEREK VOV

In this *perek*, the Rambam teaches us how we can figure out when the *molad* will be in any month of any year! The *molad* is when the new moon can be seen in Yerushalayim, which shows us when *Rosh Chodesh* should be.

We also learn about the *Machzor* of years, a cycle of nineteen years when the solar year (a year based on the sun) and the lunar year (a year based on the moon) catch up to each other again. In the *Machzor*, there is a pattern of which years are *Peshutah* (regular years) and which years are *Me'uberes* (leap years, with a second *Adar* added). Here are the years that are *Me'uberes* in each *Machzor*: Years #3, #6, #8, #11, #14, #17, and #19.

PEREK ZAYIN

We learn about deciding when the first day of *Rosh Hashana* will be, which is different in each kind of year. There are certain days of the week that can NEVER be the first day of *Rosh Hashana*. We remember these days with an expression: “*Lo Ad”u Rosh*” — the first day of *Rosh Hashana* can not be on any of the days with the *Roshei Teivos* “*Adu*”, meaning Sunday (*Yom Alef*), Wednesday (*Yom Daled*), or Friday (*Yom Vov*).

PEREK CHES

In this *perek*, we learn about the types of months. Some months are *malei* (full), with 30 days, and other months are *chaseir* (missing) with 29 days. During the year the months go in a pattern, one month *malei*, and then one month *chaseir*.

But there are two months that can change — *Cheshvan* and *Kislev*. Sometimes both are *malei*, sometimes both are *chaseir*, and sometimes they follow the regular pattern, with *Cheshvan* being *chaseir* and *Kislev* being *malei*. This kind of year is called “*Kesidran*,” “in order,” because then all of the months follow the pattern!