



TORAH 4 TEENS

BY TEENS

NCSY ISRAEL



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Gush Chapter Director

I Just Can't Wait to be King

In Parshat Shoftim we receive the Mitzvah to appoint a king over the Jewish people in the land of Israel. The Torah gives the following commandment to the king **וְהָיָה כִּשְׂבָתוֹ עַל כֶּסֶף מִמְּלַכְתּוֹ** "וְהָיָה כִּשְׂבָתוֹ עַל כֶּסֶף מִמְּלַכְתּוֹ וְכָתַב לוֹ אֶת מִשְׁנֵה הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת עַל סֵפֶר מַלְפָּנָיִם הַכְהֵנִים הַלְוִיִּם" "And it will be, when he sits upon his royal throne, that he shall write for himself two copies of this Torah on a scroll from [that Torah which is] before the Levitic kohanim." (Devarim 17:18).

A Jewish king is obligated to have two Torah scrolls. Rashi explains the function of each of these Torahs, one the king kept with him at all times wherever he went. This had the clear purpose of constantly reminding the king of the mitzvot of the Torah and the divine standard of the Torah. No matter if he was in a budget meeting or at war as a leader he must keep the Torah at the forefront of his thoughts.

Interestingly, Rashi says the other Torah scroll was kept hidden in the inner chamber of the king and was never removed. The Maor Veshemesh asks what's the point of writing a sefer torah for the king that will sit in a closet somewhere in the palace? He explains as follows: one sefer Torah is needed so that even when the king is dealing with the outside world he will be reminded of the Torah and act in

accordance with the Halacha. However the second sefer Torah must stay hidden in the king's palace, in his inner chamber. This represents that not only on the outside should the king be acting externally in the way of Torah but internally in his pnimiyus the fire of Torah should be burning strong.

We should all be zoche not to just mechanically 'go through the motions' of Judaism, but to strive that passion and inspiration should be blazing within us.



Ometz Shmidman

11th Grade, Alon Shvut

With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility

Anyone in the audience hear the phrase: "With great power comes great responsibility"?

It's a very common phrase that is mentioned in many movies, including spiderman.

I am going to show how this phrase is shown in the Bible in this Dvar Torah.

This Parsha starts off with **שׁוֹפְטִים** "שׁוֹפְטִים וְשׁוֹטְרִים תִּתֵּן לָךְ בְּכָל שְׁעָרֶיךָ". We can trace this back to **בְּמִדְבָּר** when G-D tells Moshe to take 70 **זִקְנִים** to help him lead the nation, albeit not whom. How does Moshe know which people to pick? This Parsha ties everything together. Here we see "שׁוֹטְרִים", where have we seen this before? **שְׁמוֹת!** "וַיְכֹּחַ שׁוֹטְרֵי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל". When the Jews were building the pyramids, if

they didn't finish on time the שוטרי בני " got hit.

Here we can see that "שוטרי בני ישראל" had the power of leading the nation and making decisions in Halachic matters while carrying the responsibility of the nation's actions, not only their own.

Here I would like to sign off by noting how true is the phrase "הפוך בה והפוך בה דכולה בה" – You can find everything in the torah! ■

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