

חומש עם רש"י • בְּהַעֲלֹתָהּ • שְׁנִי

Complete Word-for-Word Interlinear • Navy & Gold Edition

BEHA'ALOTCHA • 2ND ALIYAH

CHAPTER PREVIEW

In this aliyah, we continue learning about the special avodah of the Levi'im. After their purification process and being designated as an elevation offering, they are finally ready to enter the Mishkan to perform their sacred service. Hashem explains that the Levi'im are formally assigned to Him in place of the firstborn of Bnei Yisrael, whom Hashem had consecrated to Himself when He smote the firstborn in Mitzrayim.

We also learn about the age limits set for the Levi'im in their service. The Torah establishes the years during which they are fit for the heavy labor of the Tent of Meeting, and at what age they must retire from this physical work and transition to assisting their brothers by standing guard.

All introductions, summaries, and contextual notes are the editor's commentary and are not part of the original text.

פסוק א

Pasuk 1

וְאַחֲרֵי כֵן יָבֹאוּ הַלְוִיִּם לַעֲבֹד אֶת אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְטַהַרְתָּ אֹתָם
them and you shall purify Meeting the Tent of — to serve the Levites shall come that And after
וְהִנַּפְתָּ אֹתָם תְּנוּפָה:
as a wave offering them and you shall wave

פסוק ב

Pasuk 2

כִּי נְתָנִים נְתָנִים הָמָּה לִּי מִתּוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל תַּחַת פֶּתַח כָּל
every the opening of in place of Yisrael the children of from among to Me they are given given For
רָחֵם בְּכוֹר כָּל מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לָקַחְתִּי אֹתָם לִּי:
for Myself them I have taken Yisrael from the children of all the firstborn of womb

רש"י

נתנים נתנים. נתונים למשא, נתונים לשיר:
to sing given for carrying given given Given

רש"י

פֶּתַח. פְּתִיחַת:
the opening of opening of

פסוק ג

כִּי לִי כָּל בְּכוֹר בְּבִנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאָדָם וּבְבִהֶמָּה בְּיוֹם הַכֹּתִי
 of My smiting on the day and among beast among man Yisrael among the children of firstborn every to Me is For
 כָּל בְּכוֹר בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם הִקְדַּשְׁתִּי אֹתָם לִי:
 to Me them I consecrated Mitzrayim in the land of firstborn every

רש"י

כִּי לִי כָּל בְּכוֹר. שְׁלִי הָיוּ הַבְּכוֹרוֹת בְּקוֹ הַדִּין, שֶׁהִגַּנְתִּי עֲלֵיהֶם
 them because I protected justice by the line of the firstborn they became Mine firstborn every to Me For
 בֵּין בְּכוֹרֵי מִצְרַיִם וְלִקְחֹתִי אוֹתָם לִי — עַד שֶׁטָּעוּ בְּעֵגֶל, וְעַכְשָׁיו
 and now with the Calf that they erred until for Me them and I took Mitzrayim the firstborn of distinguishing between
 "וָאֶקַּח אֶת הַלְוִיִּם":
 the Levites — and I took

פסוק ד

וָאֶקַּח אֶת הַלְוִיִּם תַּחַת כָּל בְּכוֹר בְּבִנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
 Yisrael among the children of firstborn every instead of the Levites — And I took

פסוק ה

וָאֶתַּנֵּה אֶת הַלְוִיִּם נְתָנִים לְאַהֲרֹן וּלְבָנָיו מִתּוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לַעֲבֹד
 to perform Yisrael the children of from among and to his sons to Aaron as presents the Levites — And I gave
 אֶת עֲבֹדַת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וּלְכַפֵּר עַל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
 Yisrael the children of for and to atone Meeting in the Tent of Yisrael the children of the service of —
 וְלֹא יִהְיֶה בְּבִנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל נֶגֶף בְּגִשֶׁת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵל
 to Yisrael the children of when drawing near a plague Yisrael among the children of will be so there not
 הַקֹּדֶשׁ:
 the Sanctuary

רש"י

וַאֲתַנֵּה וגו'. חֲמִשָּׁה פְּעָמִים נֶאֱמְרוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִקְרָא זֶה, לְהוֹדִיעַ
 to make known this in a verse Yisrael the children of are mentioned times Five etc. And I have given
 חֲבֵתוֹ, שֶׁנֶּכְפַּל אֲזְכָּרוֹתֵיהֶן בְּמִקְרָא אֶחָד בְּמִנְיָן חֲמִשָּׁה חֲמִשִּׁי תוֹרָה,
 Torah books of the the five corresponding to the one in a verse their mentions that is repeated their belovedness
 וְכִּי רָאִיתִי בְּבִנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל נֶגֶף בְּגִשֶׁת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵל
 in Bereishis Rabbah Isaw and so

רש"י

וְלֹא יִהְיֶה בְּבִנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל נֶגֶף. שְׁלֹא יִצְטָרְכוּ לְגִשֶׁת אֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ, שְׂאֵם
 for if the Sanctuary to to approach they will need so that not a plague Yisrael among the children of there shall be and not

יִגְשׁוּ יְהִי נִגָּף:
a plague there will be they approach

פסוק ו

Pasuk 6

וַיַּעַשׂ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן וְכָל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְלוֹיִם כְּכֹל
according to all to the Levi'im Yisrael the children of the congregation of and all and Aharon Moshe And did
אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֶת מֹשֶׁה לְלוֹיִם כִּי עָשׂוּ לָהֶם בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
Yisrael the children of to them did so concerning the Levi'im Moshe — Hashem commanded that

רש"י

וַיַּעַשׂ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן וְכָל עַד וּגו'. מֹשֶׁה הֶעֱמִידוּ וְאַהֲרֹן הִנִּיפּוּ, וְיִשְׂרָאֵל
and Israel waved them and Aaron presented them Moshe etc. the congregation of and all and Aaron Moshe And did
סָמְכוּ אֶת יְדֵיהֶם:
their hands — placed

פסוק ז

Pasuk 7

וַיִּתְחַטְּאוּ הַלְוִיִּם וַיִּכְבְּסוּ בְּגָדֵיהֶם וַיִּנָּף אַהֲרֹן אֹתָם תְּנוּפָה
as a wave-offering them Aharon and waved their clothes and they washed the Levites And they purified
לִפְנֵי יְהוָה וַיַּכְפֹּר עֲלֵיהֶם אַהֲרֹן לְטַהֲרָם:
to purify them Aharon for them and made atonement Hashem before

פסוק ח

Pasuk 8

וְאַחֲרֵי כֵן בָּאוּ הַלְוִיִּם לַעֲבֹד אֶת עֲבֹדָתָם בְּאֹהֶל מוֹעֵד לִפְנֵי אַהֲרֹן וּלְפָנָיו
and before Aharon before Meeting in the Tent of their service — to perform the Levites came that And after
בְּנֵיו פֶּאֶרְאֵר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֶת מֹשֶׁה עַל הַלְוִיִּם כִּי עָשׂוּ לָהֶם:
to them they did so the Levites concerning Moshe — Hashem commanded as his sons

רש"י

כֹּאשֶׁר צִוָּה ה' ... כֵּן עָשׂוּ. לְהַגִּיד שִׁבְחָה הָעוֹשִׂין וְהַנֶּעֱשִׂה בָהֶן,
upon them and those performed those who performed the praise of to tell they did so Hashem commanded As
שְׁאֵחָד מֵהֶם לֹא עָכַב:
delay did not of them that one

פסוק ט

Pasuk 9

וַיִּדְבֹּר יְהוָה אֶל מֹשֶׁה לֵּאמֹר:
saying Moshe to Hashem And spoke

פסוק י

זֹאת אֲשֶׁר לְלוֹוִים מִבֶּן חָמֵשׁ וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וְיָמָעְלָה יָבוֹא
 he shall enter and upward years and twenty five from the age of applies to the Levites is that which This
 לְצִבָּא צָבָא בַּעֲבֹדֶת אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד:
 Meeting the Tent of in the service of the legion to join

רש"י

זאת אשר ללווים. שנים פוסלים ואין המומין פוסלים בהם ספרי; חולין כ"ד:
 24 Chullin Sifrei them disqualify blemishes but not disqualify years belongs to the Levites which This

רש"י

מבן חמש ועשרים. ובמקום אחר אומר "מבן שלשים שנה" במדבר ד', הֲאֵל
 Behold 4 Bamidbar years" thirty "from a son of it says another and in a place and twenty five From a son of
 כיצד? מבן כ"ה בֶּא לְלַמֵּד הַלְכוֹת עֲבוֹדָה וְלִמֹּד חֲמֵשׁ שָׁנִים וּבֶן
 and a son of years five and he studies service the laws of to learn he comes twenty-five from a son of how is this
 שלשים עובד, מפאן לתלמיד שלא ראה סימן יפה במשנתו בחמש שנים שוב
 again years in five in his study good a sign see who did not for a student From here performs service thirty
 אינו רואה ספרי; חולין כ"ד:
 24a Chullin Sifrei see he does not

פסוק יא

וּמִבֶּן חֲמִשִּׁים שָׁנָה יָשׁוּב מִצָּבָא הָעֹבֵדָה וְלֹא יַעֲבֹד עוֹד:
 anymore he shall work and not the work from the service of he shall return years fifty and from a son of

רש"י

ולא יעבד עוד. עבודת משא בכתף, אבל חוזר הוא לנעילת שערים
 gates for the closing of he returns but on the shoulder carrying the service of more serve and he shall not
 ולשיר ולטען עגלות, וזהו ושרת את אחיו — עם אחוהי, כתרגומו:
 like its Targum his brothers with his brothers — and he shall serve and this is wagons and to load and for singing

פסוק יב

וְשָׂרָת אֶת אָחָיו בְּאֹהֶל מוֹעֵד לְשָׂמֵר מִשְׁמֶרֶת וְעֹבֵדָה לֹא יַעֲבֹד
 perform he shall not but service the charge to guard Meeting in the Tent of his brothers — And he shall minister
 כָּכָה תַעֲשֶׂה לְלוֹוִים בְּמִשְׁמֶרֶתָם:
 in their charges to the Levites you shall do so

רש"י

לשמר משמרת. לתנות סביב לאהל ולהקים ולהוריד בשעת המסעות:
 the journeys at the time of and to dismantle and to erect the tent around to encamp the charge to keep

The aliyah describes how Moshe, Aaron, and all of Bnei Yisrael carried out Hashem's command to purify and dedicate the Levi'im, who washed their clothes and were presented by Aaron as an elevation offering to make expiation for them. Once purified, the Levi'im began their service in the Tent of Meeting under the direction of Aaron and his sons. Finally, Hashem commands Moshe regarding the age requirements for the Levi'im, initiating them into the work force from the age of twenty-five, retiring them from active labor at fifty, and permitting them thereafter only to assist their brothers in guarding the sanctuary.

לְמַעַן WHAT TO TAKE HOME

My dear talmid, look at how the Torah describes the life of a Levi. When a Levi reaches the age of fifty, he retires from the heavy physical labor of carrying the Mishkan, but the Torah says he does not stop serving. Instead, he transitions to a new role: he stands guard, he guides, and he assists his younger brothers. Hashem is teaching us a profound lesson about our own avodah. In life, our strengths and situations change. There are times when we can carry heavy loads, and times when our energy or circumstances shift. A Yid never retires from serving Hashem; we simply change how we serve.

Sometimes we feel down because we cannot do a certain mitzvah or learn with the same intensity as we did in our younger years, or perhaps a new life circumstance like parnassah or family needs has shifted our schedule. The yetzer hara wants you to think that if you cannot do what you used to do, your service is no longer valuable. But the Torah shows us the opposite. The older Levites who stood guard and supported others were just as essential to the Mishkan as those carrying the heavy vessels. Every stage of life has its own beautiful, holy mission.

Today, look at your current situation without comparing it to the past or to anyone else. Ask yourself: "What is the unique avodah that Hashem wants from me right now, with the strength and time I have today?" Embrace that specific role with joy, knowing that this is exactly where Hashem wants you to stand guard.