



Jewish Literacy Programme

Year 5 ~ Week 24

סִדְרָה:

English Translations	Chumash Words / Phrases
to you (masc. sing.) / they bowed down to You	אליך וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ אֶלְיךָ
to him / He spoke to him from the mountain	אליו וַיֹּאמֶר אֶלְיוֹ מִן הַר
to her / Avraham called to her	אליה וַיִּקְרָא אֶבְרָהָם אֶלְיהָ
to you (masc. pl.) / He gave a blessing to you	אליכם וַיִּתְּנוּ בָרָכה אֶלְיכֶם
to them (masc.) / He came to them in the night	אליהם וַיָּבֹא אֶלְהָם בְּלִילָה
from me / the man stood far from me	מןנִי וַיַּעֲמֹד הָאִישׁ רָחוֹק מִמֶּנִּי

(Adapted from: 'The World of Tefillin & Mezuzos', Rabbi Zeev Rothshild - C.I.S. pub.)

Explanation

סֻפֶּרֶת

G.K. Words

סֻפֶּר



A **סֻפֶּר** is a man who has studied all the many laws of writing holy texts: **Sifrei Torah, Tefillin, Mezuzot and Megilat Esther**. He has to know many laws for every letter of the **הֲלָכָה** in order to write them according to the **הֲלָכָה**. **Not only must he be knowledgeable, he must also be a person who fears Heaven**. This is because there are many ways in which Tefillin can be made פָּסָול (unfit) and still appear to be Kosher.

For example, the letters in תְּפִילִין must be written in the order in which they appear in the Torah. Even the letters must be written in the correct order. Therefore, if the סֻפֶּר noticed a mistake in a letter he wrote earlier in the parchment he may not go back and correct it. The whole parchment is now פָּסָול. A dishonest סֻפֶּר might be tempted to correct the earlier mistake. If he did so and then sold this parchment the buyer would be wasting his money and also saying wasted berachot every time he put on his Tefillin.

The Sefer Torah - a Torah Scroll, contains the laws of the Torah, hand-written on parchment (animal skin). It is the holiest of all books of Tanach.

סֻפֶּר
תּוֹרָה

A Sefer Torah is kept in the Aron Kodesh in the Shul, and portions are read from it publicly on Mondays and Thursdays, Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh, Yom Tov, Chol Hamo'ed, Fast Days, Chanukah and only in the presence of a minyan (at least ten Jewish males above the age of thirteen). On these different days we call up different numbers of men, from three on regular Mondays and Thursdays to seven on Shabbat. Being called up is called an 'aliyah' - 'going up.'

- **A Sefer Torah must be written by a סֻפֶּר** (a specially trained scribe). All materials used for the Sefer Torah must be Kosher.
- **There are over 4000 laws a סֻפֶּר must know** before he starts writing the Torah!
- **There are 304,805 letters in a Sefer Torah.**
If only one letter is missing the whole Torah is פָּסָול (not Kosher).



(Adapted from: <http://www.torahotios.com/torah/sefertorah.htm>)

Producing תְּפִילִין involves a number of skilled craftsmen who are experts in different areas of Torah law. **A pair of Tefillin consists of two units, the שֶׁל רָאשׁ ("for the head") and the שֶׁל יָד ("for the hand")**. The שֶׁל רָאשׁ has one compartment containing one scroll of parchment with four פְּרִשְׁיוֹת written on it. The שֶׁל יָד has four separate compartments (all made out of one piece of leather). It contains four separate פְּרִשְׁיוֹת, one in each compartment.

תְּפִילִין



A Mezuzah consists of the two parashiot of שְׁמַע and וְהַיָּה אַمְשַׁע written on one piece of parchment. The same laws that apply to the writing of Tefillin also apply to the writing of a Mezuzah. The Mezuzah is rolled up, usually placed in a decorative case, and fixed on most doors in the house. It is placed 2/3 of the way up, at the bottom of the top third of the doorpost, with its top leaning towards the doorway. The Sefardi minhag is to place it straight, vertically.

מְזוּזָה



(Adapted from: 'The World of Tefillin & Mezuzos', see above)

