

שְׁלַח

SHLACH QUIZZER!



What did Bnei Yisrael say to Moshe before entering Eretz Yisrael?

1

1. "Let's send spies to check out the land."
2. "We can't wait to see the land with our own eyes!"
3. "Let's go back to Egypt."
4. "Come back with some of their famous, amazing falafel."

How many spies were sent to Eretz Yisrael?

2

1. Some Rabbis say 12, others say 13.
2. Some Rabbis say 12, others would rather not get involved.
3. 12.
4. Nobody knows for sure.



Why did Moshe add the letter Yud to Hoshea the Spy's name, changing it to Yehoshua?

3

1. Yud is the smallest letter and Yehoshua was the shortest spy.
2. Yehoshua wanted a name change.
3. The Yud represents HaShem. Moshe hoped it would protect him from the spies' evil plans.
4. Why not?

יְהוֹשֻׁעַ

While the spies checked out the land, Kaleiv made a detour to...

4

1. Chevron, where our great ancestors are buried.
2. Tel Aviv, where our great ancestors are not buried.
3. the holy Western Wall.
4. the Coca Cola factory in Bnei Brak.

TASTE OF SHAZAK

FUN FACTS!

Why No Spy?

Each Shevet sent one spy to scout out Eretz Yisrael, except Shevet Levi.

Why? Some say it is because they knew that they would not get a portion of the land. Others say they simply had more faith in HaShem and did not feel the need to send a scout.

יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן נֹון

Ben and Bin

In Hebrew, the word Ben means "son." So you would call Yitzchak the son of Avraham, for example, "Yitzchak ben Avraham." The one exception in the entire Torah is Yehoshua the son of Nun, who is called "Yehoshua bin Nun."

Great Grapes

The Torah tells us that the spies picked up a cluster of grapes that was so big that they carried it on a shoulder pole. Our Sages tell us that it was so enormous that it actually took 8 spies and 4 poles to transport it.



What type of people did the Meraglim meet in Eretz Yisrael?

5

1. Tiny midgets.
2. Giant midgets (huh?).
3. Gigantic giants!
4. Just plain people... who liked eating falafel.

What did Bnei Yisrael say after the spies gave over their horrible report about Eretz Yisrael?

6

1. "What nonsense and lies the spies have told us!"
2. "Let's go to Hawaii instead!" (Others wanted to go to Miami Beach.)
3. "How will we ever conquer the land? No Eretz Yisrael for us!"
4. "The land is good... very, very good!"



What did Yehoshua and Kaleiv say to Bnei Yisrael?

7

1. "Stop kvetching!"
2. "Start kvetching!"
3. "The land is good... very, very good!"
4. "Relax. Calm down. Take two aspirins and get a good night's sleep."

Tzitzis reminds us...

8

1. to learn Shazak Parsha every week.
2. to honor your parents.
3. of the 613 Mitzvos.
4. of the Mitzvah of Tzitzis.



TASTE OF SHAZAK FUN FACTS!



The Night for Crying

Hearing from the spies how they would not be able to conquer Eretz Yisrael, the people cried all night, complaining that they wanted to go back to Egypt. "You cried for nothing tonight," HaShem said. "Trust me that I'll give you reason to cry on this very night." Yes, that night was 9 Av, the very night when we sit and mourn the destruction of the Bais HaMikdash.



The Saddest Day

Throughout our history, many sad things happened on 9 Av. In 1290, that was the day when all Jews were expelled from England. And in 1492, it was the day when all Jews in Spain had to have either converted to Christianity or left the country. In 1914, Britain and Russia declared war on Germany and World War I began on that very same day, 9 Av.

Tzitzis: White and Blue

Before sending him off as the spy for the Tribe of Ephraim, Moshe changed the name of his prized student from Hoshea to Yehoshua. The added Yud represented HaShem and gave Yehoshua the spiritual power he needed to be strong in his mission. Where did the Yud come from? Directly from Sarah, who dropped that letter when HaShem changed her name from Sarai.



שְׁלַח לְךָ נְשִׁים!

“Shlach” The Women!

Over 400 years ago, the insightful Rabbi Shlomo Ephraim Luntschitz looked into the opening words of Parsha and read between the lines:

HaShem was being very specific when He said to Moshe, “Shlach Lecha Anoshim – ‘Send men according to your understanding.’

This is what HaShem was saying: “In My opinion sending women is a much better idea. They love the land more than the men, that’s why I trust the ladies to see the good in the Land and bring back a good report. But if you, Moshe, trust the men, by all means, go ahead – Shlach Lecha – send the men... it’s your decision.”

Indeed, in just a few Parshiyos from now, we see the great love of the women towards Eretz Yisrael – it’s the episode of the 5 righteous daughters of a man named Tzelafchad who pleaded and begged for a portion of the Holy Land.



יום לשנה

**The Punishment
One Year Per One Day**

Remember how the spies managed to go through the land super-fast? They traveled a distance of around 1,000 miles – don’t forget that they had to go back and forth, checking out every place of the land.

So this super-fast trip of 40 days was an amazing blessing. Consider this - the punishment was “one year per one day” – so if it would have taken the spies 200 days to check out the land, that would have held up Bnei Yisrael 200 years in the desert!



מְרַגְלִים

**The Hidden Code
A Shazak Original!**

This tragic episode is known as the Sin of the Meraglim.

Now, let’s look at the six Hebrew letters of the word “Meraglim” and we’ll discover the entire story. YES, the entire story!

מְרַגְלִים = מ דגל י ם

מ – The letter Mem – מ – equals 40, the amount of days the spies were in the Land of Israel. Look carefully at the shape of the Mem. It has an opening – the spies were able to enter the land easily and exit without any problem.

דגל – Regel – means “foot.” The spies walked the entire land – by Regel (foot) – checking it out. But they weren’t just looking around. They were planning to give a bad report. In fact, Rashi in Parshas Kedoshim tells us that a person who goes around spreading evil rumors is called a “Rachil goer.” What’s a Rachil (רַכִּיל)? Rashi shows how, that, with a quick switch of the letter ג (Gimel) with the letter כ (Chof), you get the word רגל, meaning foot. Get it?

י – Next comes the letter Yud – י – which equals 10. Ten out of 12 messengers failed their mission – only Yehoshua and Kaleiv held strong.

And finally...

ם – The last letter – ם – is the same as the first one... almost. It’s a Final Mem, also equaling 40. The final result of this episode was the punishment – 40 years in the desert, with no way to get out – just like the Final Mem (ם) which has no way out. Once you are in, you’ll find yourself walking around in circles looking for the exit.

So there you have it – a secret uncovered –The entire Meraglim story – in one word! HOW EXCITING!

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