#### Source Sheet - Likkutei Sichos 23, Matos

### **Project Likkutei Sichos**

#### Parshas Matos, Chap. 31

- **2** "Take revenge for the children of Israel against the Midianites; afterwards you will be gathered to your people."
- **3** So Moses spoke to the people, saying, "Arm from among you men for the army, that they can be against Midian, and carry out the revenge of the Lord against Midian.
- **9** The children of Israel took the Midianite women and their small children captive, and they plundered all their beasts, livestock, and all their possessions.
- **10** They set fire to all their residential cities and their castles.
- 11 They took all the booty and all the plunder of man and beast.
- **27** And you shall divide the plunder equally between the warriors who went out to battle and the entire congregation.
- **28** And you shall levy a tax for the Lord from the soldiers who went out to battle: one soul out of every five hundred, from the people, from the cattle, from the donkeys, and from the sheep.
- **29** You shall take from their half and give it to Eleazar the kohen as a gift to the Lord.
- **30** From the half belonging to the children of Israel you shall take one part out of fifty of the people, of the cattle, of the donkeys, of the sheep, and of all animals, and you shall give them to the Levites, the guardians of the Mishkan of the Lord."

# פ' מטות פרק לא

בּ נְקֹם נִקְמַת בְּנִי יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֵת הַמִּדְיָנֵים אַחַר תַאַסֵף אַל־עַמֵּיה:

ג וַיְדַבֶּר משָׁה אֶל־הָעָם לֵאמֹר הַחֶלְצְוּ מֵאִתְּכֶם אֲנָשִׁיִם לַצְּבָא וְיִהְיוּ עַל־מִדְיָן לָתַת נִקְמַת-יִהֹנָה בְּמִדְיֵן:

ט וַיִּשְׁבּוְ בְנֵי־יִשְּׂרָאֵל אֶת־נְשֵׁי מִדְיַן וְאֶת־ טַפָּם וְאֵת כָּל־בְּהֶמְתָּם וְאֶת־כָּל־מִקְנַהֶם וְאֵת־כָּל־חֵילָם בָּזֵזוּ:

י וְאֵת כָּל־עֲרֵיהֶם בְּמְוֹשְׁבֹתֶם וְאֵת כָּל־ טִירֹתָם שַׂרְפוּ בָּאֲשׁ:

יא וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־כֶּל־הַשְּׁלֶּל וְאֵת כָּל־הַמַּלְקוֹחַ בַּאַדָם וּבַבִּהֵמֵה:

כז וְחָצִיתָ אֶת־הַמַּלְקוֹחַ בֶּין תְּפְשֵׁי הַמִּלְחַמֵּה הַיִּצָאִים לַצָּבָא וּבֵין כַּל־הַעֵּדָה:

כח וַהֲרֵמֹתָ מֶּכֶּס לֵיהֹוָה מֵאֵת אַנְשֵׁי הַמִּלְחָמָה הַיִּצְאָים לַצָּבָּא אֶחָד נֶּפֶשׁ מֵחֲמֵשׁ הַמֵּאֹות מִן־הֵאָדָם וּמִן־הַבָּּקָּר וּמִן־ הַחֵמֹרִים וּמִן־הַצִּאן:

> כט מִפַּחָצִיתָם תִּקָּחוּ וְנֵתַתָּה לְאֶלְעָזֶר הַכֹּהֵן תִּרוּמַת יִהֹנֵה:

ל וּמִמַּחֲצִּתְ בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל תִּקַּח | אֶחָד | אָחָז מוְ־הַחֲמִשִּׁים מִוְ־הֵאָדָם מִוְ־הַבָּקָר מִוְ-הַחֲמוֹרִים וְּמִוְ־הַצֹּאוֹ מִכָּל־הַבְּהַמָּה וְנֵתַתָּה אֹתָם לֵלִוִים שִׁמִרֵּי מִשְׁמֶרֶת מִשְׁכֵּוְ יִהֹוָה:

### Mishne Torah, Laws of Shmita, Chap. 13

10 The entire tribe of Levi are commanded against receiving an inheritance in the land of Canaan, and they were commanded against receiving a share in the spoil when the cities are conquered, as it states: "The priest and the Levites - the entire tribe of Levi - should not have a portion and an inheritance among Israel." "A portion" [refers to a portion] of the spoil; "an inheritance" refers to [a portion of] the land. And: "You shall not receive a heritage in their land, nor will you have a portion among them," i.e., in the spoil. If a Levite or a priest takes a portion of the spoil, he is punished by lashes. If he takes an inheritance in Eretz [Yisrael], it should be taken from his possession.

11 It appears to me that the above applies only with regard to the land for which a covenant was established with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, their descendants inherited it and it was divided among them. If, however, other lands will be conquered by a king of Israel, the priests and the Levites have the same rights as the entire Jewish people.

12 Why did the Levites not receive a portion in the inheritance of Eretz Yisrael and in the spoils of war like their brethren? Because they were set aside to serve God and minister unto Him and to instruct people at large in His just paths and righteous judgments, as it states: "They will teach Your judgments to Jacob and Your Torah to Israel." Therefore they were set apart from the ways of the world. They do not wage war like the remainder of the Jewish people, nor do they receive an inheritance, nor do they acquire for themselves through their physical power. Instead, they are God's legion, as [ibid.:11]: states: "God has blessed His legion" and He provides for them, as it states: "I am your portion and your inheritance."

13 Not only the tribe of Levi, but any one of the inhabitants of the world whose spirit generously motivates him and he understands with his wisdom to set himself aside and stand before God to serve Him and minister to Him and to know God, proceeding justly as God made him, removing from his neck the yoke of the many reckonings which people seek, he is sanctified as holy of holies. God will be His portion and heritage forever and will provide what is sufficient for him in this world like He provides for the priests and the Levites. And thus David declared: "God is the lot of my portion; You are my cup, You support my lot."

## רמב"ם הל' שמיטה ויובל, פרק יג

י כֶּל שַׁבֶט לֵוִי מֻזְהָרִין שֶׁלֹא יִנְחֵלוּ בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנַעַן. וְכֵן הֵן מֻזְהָרִין שֶׁלֹא יִטְלוּ חֵלֶק בַּבִּזָּה בְּשָׁעָה שֶׁכּוֹבְשִׁין אֶת הָעָרִים שָׁנֶּאֱמַר (דברים יח א) "לֹא יִהְיֶה לַכּהֲנִים הַלְוִיִם כָּל שַׁבֶט לֵוִי חֵלֶק וְנַחֲלָה עִם יִשְׂרָאַל". חֵלֶק בַּבָּזָה וְנַחֲלָה בָּאֶרֶץ. וְכֵן הוּא אוֹמֵר (במדבר יח כ) "בְּאַרְצָם לֹא הִנְחָל וְחֵלֶק לֹא יִהְיֶה לְךְּ בְּתוֹכָם" בַּבִּזָּה. וְבֶן לֵוִי אוֹ כֹּהֵן שֶׁנָטַל חֵלֶק בַּבְּזָה לוֹקָה. וְאָם נָטַל נַחֲלָה בְּאָרֶץ מַעֲבִירִין אוֹתָהּ מִמֵּנוּ:

יא יֵרְאֶה לִי שָׁאֵין הַדְּבָרִים אֲמוּרִים אֶלֶּא בָּאָרֶץ שָׁנִּכְרְתָה עֻלֶּיהָ בְּרִית לְאַבְּרָהָם לְיִצְחָק וּלְיַעֲקֹב וִירָשׁוּהָ בְּנֵיהֶם וְנִתְחַלְּקָה לָהֶם. אֲבָל שְׁאָר כָּל הָאֲרָצוֹת שָׁכּוֹבִשׁ מֶלֶךְ מִמַּלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הֲרֵי הַכּּהֲנִים וְהַלְוִיִם בְּאוֹתָן הָאַרָצוֹת וּבְבִּזְּתָן כְּכָל יִשְׂרָאֵל:

יב וְלָמָה לֹא זָכָה לִוִי בְּנַחֲלַת אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל
וּבְבָזְתָה עִם אֶחָיו מִפְּנֵי שָׁהָבְדַּל לַעֲבֹד אֶת
ה' לְשָׁרְתוֹ וּלְהוֹרוֹת דְּרָכִיו הַיְשָׁרִים
וּמִשְׁפָּטִיו הַצַּדִּיקִים לְרַבִּים שָׁנָּאֱמֵר
(דברים לג י) "יוֹרוּ מִשְׁפָּטִיךְ לְיַעֵקֹב
וְתוֹרָתְךְ לְיִשְׂרָאֵל". לְפִיכָךְ הְבְּדְלוּ מִדַּרְכֵי
הָעוֹלֶם לֹא עוֹרְכִין מִלְחָמָה כִּשְׁאָר יִשְׂרָאֵל
וְלֹא נוֹחֲלִין וְלֹא זוֹכִין לְעַצְמָן בְּכֹחַ גּוּפָן.
אֶלֶא הֵם חֵיל הַשָּם שֶׁנֶאֱמֵר (דברים לג
יִא) "בָּרַךְ ה' חֵילוֹ". וְהוּא בָּרוּךְ הוּא זוֹכֶה
לָהֶם שֶׁנֶאֱמַר (במדבר יח כ) "אֲנִי חֶלְקְךְּ

יג וְלֹא שֵׁבֶט לֵוִי בִּלְבֵד אֶלֶא כָּל אִישׁ וְאִישׁ מִכָּל בָּאֵי הָעוֹלֶם אֲשֶׁר נַדְבָה רוּחוֹ אוֹתוֹ וָהֱבִינוֹ מַדָּעוֹ לְהִבָּדֵל לַעֲמֹד לִפְנֵי ה' לְשָׁרְתוֹ וּלְעָבְדוֹ לְדֵעָה אֶת ה' וְהָלַף יָשָׁר כְּמוֹ שֶׁעֲשָׂהוּ הָאֱלֹהִים וּפָּרַק מֵעַל צַנָּארוֹ עַל הַחְשְׁבוֹנוֹת הָרַבִּים אֲשֶׁר בִּקְשׁוּ בְּנֵי הְאָדָם הֲרֵי זֶה נִתְקַדֵּשׁ קֹדֶשׁ קָדָשִׁים וְיִהְיֶה הְיִלְכָה לוֹ בָּעוֹלֶם הַזֶּה דָּבָר הַמַּסְפִּיק לוֹ כְּמוֹ שָׁזָּכָה לִכּבְּהִים לַלְוִים. הֲרֵי דָּוִד עָלָיו הַשָּׁלוֹם אוֹמֵר (תהילים טז ה) "ה' מִנְת הַלָּקִי וְכוֹסִי אַתָּה תּוֹמִיךְ גּוֹרַלִי":

### Mishne Torah, Laws of Kings, Chap. 6

**7** When a siege is placed around a city to conquer it, it should not be surrounded on all four sides, only on three. A place should be left for the inhabitants to flee and for all those who desire, to escape with their lives, as it is written: "And they besieged Midian as God commanded Moses." According to tradition, He commanded them to array the siege as described.

# רמב"ם הל' מלכים, פרק ו'

ז כְּשֶׁצָּרִין עַל עִיר לְתָפְשָׂהּ. אֵין מַקּיפִין אוֹתָהּ מֵאַרְבַּע רוּחוֹתֶיהָ אֶלָּא מִשָּׁלשׁ רוּחוֹתֶיהָ. וּמַנִּיחִין מָקוֹם לַבּוֹרֵחַ וּלְכָל מִי שָׁיִּרְצֶה לְהִמָּלֵט עַל נַפְשׁוֹ. שָׁנֶאֱמֵר (במדבר לא, ז) "וַיִּצְבְּאוּ עַל מִדְיָן כַּאֲשֶׁר צִּנָה ה' אֶת משָׁה". מִפִּי הַשְּׁמוּעָה לָמְדוּ שָׁבְּכָךְ צִנָהוּ: