

# **The Daily Portion**

## **- Sivan Rahav Meir**

### **Five ideas about this week's Torah portion**

Translated by Janine Muller Sherr

1) This week's parasha, Shoftim, is the fifth parasha in the Book of D'varim. It continues Moshe Rabbeinu's parting speech to the people, his personal will for that generation and for all future generations, including our own.

2) This parasha features 41 mitzvot, including the mitzva of a king's writing a Sefer Torah, the rules of war, the struggle against idol worship, and more.

3) The following are two of the most beautiful and notable passages from this week's parasha: "Justice, justice you shall pursue", and "You shall be wholehearted with the Lord, your God."

4) Following the Torah reading, we read the Haftara from the words of the prophets. At this time of year, over the course of several weeks, we read a series of Haftarot of Nechama (Consolation), which include the stirring words: "Rouse, rouse yourself! Arise, O Jerusalem... Clothe yourself in splendor; Put on your robes of majesty, Jerusalem, holy city... Arise, shake off the dust... For

God will comfort His people, Will redeem Jerusalem."

5) Finally, this is the first parasha we are reading this year during the month of Elul. On Tuesday and Wednesday, we marked Rosh Chodesh Elul – the start of a month of rectification, growth, and of new beginnings as we head towards the New Year.

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