





Parsha Pix

explanations

The fun way to go over the weekly sedra with your children, grandchildren, Shabbat guests



YITRO

One Unexplained

Finally on it.

This was a sneaky one, in the style of cryptic crossword puzzle clues. Finally - the final (last) word of the sedra. Which is ALAV, which means "on it".

Mishpatim-Sh'kalim

Scales and gavel represent Justice. In this case, MISHPATIM. In addition to the broad idea of justice, see what else can be found in the sedra (by yourself, your grand/children, Shabbat guests...) for which the scales of justice would be an appropriate representation. An eye for an eye, literally, an eye UNDER (TACHAT) an eye, is depicted here as money under an eye, according to our Oral law and Tradition. The GR"A made an interesting observation: The letters that are under each letter of the word AYIN in the Alef-Bet are PEI under AYIN. KAF under YUD and SAMACH under NUN. These three letters rearrange to spell KESEF. Tooth is referred to in the mitzvot related to injuring an EVED K'NAANI and being required to free him. It is also one of the forms of damages. Also, there is a

tooth for a tooth • Fist is referred to as one of the weapons that can injure or kill a person • Bull and fire are two potential causes of damages - one of the many key topics of the sedra. We have the bull with horns, the tooth, the feet of the bull, the fire, and the pit (peach) representing the hole-in-the-ground meaning of the word • the infinity symbol for VAAVADO L'OLAM (which is not really forever, just until Yovel - referring to the Eved Ivri who chooses to remain with this master beyond the regular 6 year limit) • Mortar & pestle is for V'RAPO Y'RAPEI • TZIR'A (wasp) that G-d will send into the Land to help slowly drive out some of the nations there • The sneaking thief was caught in the cellar • Guard at his post represents the whole topic of the FOUR SHOMRIM • The hands pulling the money out of the wallet are about to lend money at 0% interest • Or, perhaps, they are about to offer a bribe. Which will blind the judge receiving it... • The Three Regalim, Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot, are pictorially represented by the Seder plate, Moshe with the Luchot on the Har, and the people in the Sukka • the Wicked Witch of the West stands for the 3-word pasuk which requires Sanhedrin to rid society of witches (just a representation - there are many differences between the broom-flying image of a witch from fiction and what the Torah means by

KISHUF and M'CHASHEIFA) • Har Sinai pix for Shavuot also corresponds to the end of Mishpatim • The quill and scroll is for Moshe writing down "all of G-d's words" • the cheeseburger is for the isur of cooking milk & meat together, LO T'VASHEIL G'DI... • Cloud is covering Har Sinai (end of the sedra) • Happy dog, to receive our TREIF meat, as stated in Sh'mot 22:30 • Tzedaka box - but highest form of Tzedaka is lending those in need of financial assistance - as commanded in the sedra • Otzar HaAretz logo is for the mitzva to observe Sh'mita • Overloaded donkey which we are commanded to help unload • basket of grapes represents the mitzva of Bikurim • Three items that go together: G-d says that He will give Moshe the tablets of stone AND the Torah AND the mitzvot... (represented by s'farim) • Half-shekel coin - old and current - represent the Maftir of Sh'kalim. • Happy 7th birthday is for Yeho'ash who was hidden until his 7th birthday, when he ascended the throne • the stool has SHALOSH R'GALIM • the baseball team logo is for the Angels - see the beginning of Shishi in the Sedra which references an angel • Three Unexplaineds