



Project: Sermon Resource for Shluchim
Distribution Date: February 5, 2008 / כ"ט שבט
Parsha: Terumah - תרומה

בי"ה

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1. The Rebbe's Tefillin campaign upset many in the orthodox Jewish world.

- The right way to don Tefillin is to wash your hands and recite the morning blessings in preparation.
- Putting on Tefillin while jogging down the street - unheard of!



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2. The events in Torah are often not recorded in chronological order.
 Example A: "Terah (Abraham's father) died in Haran" at the end of Parshas Noach.
 However Lech Lecha begins, "And G-d told Abraham, 'Leave your land..." though it happened sixty years before Terah died.



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3. Rashi explains:
 "The order of these events was switched so that no one might say, 'Abraham didn't honor his father" and use it as an excuse to abandon their aging parents.



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4. Midrash:
 G-d assured Abraham that
 a. he was absolved of his duty to his father and he wouldn't be desecrating G-d's name.
 b. the order would be switched



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5. Example B:
 Isaac's passing is recorded before the Josef's sale when, Josef was actually sold twelve years before Isaac's death.

This time Rashi simply states:
 "Torah is not written in chronological order."



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6. In our Parsha (and next week) G-d instructs Moses in the construction of the Mishkan. Then comes the story of the Golden Calf.

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7. Rashi writes that the instructions to build a temple were issued after the sin of the golden calf, as atonement.

Why then does the Torah switch the order?



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8. People often approach me with suggestions about whom I should invite to services saying, "This guy has done so many wrongs he really needs to do a mitzvah."

-It seems that mitzvos are atonement for sinners while righteous people don't need them so much.



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9: Torah records the instructions before the sin to teach us that it is not only the sinners who must build a dwelling place for G-d, rather it is incumbent upon all Jews alike.



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10: The construction of the Mishkan teaches us that it is our mission to take the physical world and use every part that we encounter in the service of G-d.

This is essentially every Jew's mission, even the Tzaddik has to build a Mishkan.

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11: So it OK to ask a Jew to put on Tefillin without any preparation because Torah is not locked into sequences. "Torah is not in chronological order."



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12: A Jew on his way back to Judaism must grab every mitzvah that comes his way -sequence or not.



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