

Parsha Pearls

Shoftim

“Right-rulers or Judges”

Deuteronomy 16:18 - 21:9
Katan Bet/Gadol



In This Edition:
48.1 - Leadership
Deuteronomy 16:18 - 21:9



Table of Contents

Parsha Pearls is a comprehensive resource that allows for complete customization by the parent. We understand that if you were to strive to accomplish all aspects of each lesson in one day it would be unrealistic and also overload for the child. It is our intention that this be used 'a la carte' so that it suits your specific needs. Our site caters to printing only the pieces you choose.

This page will provide quick links to get to the portion of the document for which you are looking. When you hover over the title a finger will appear. Click on it and you will be taken directly to that page.

If you are new to Parsha Pearls, we have created an [Introduction](#) document outlining how to use our lessons, as well as a [Scriptural Inspiration](#) document, which explains our titles and the Scriptural inspiration for them. We pray that Parsha Pearls blesses your home and that your children will grow to love the Word and to never depart from keeping Torah. As always, feel free to email us at parshapearls@mtoi.org if you have any questions.

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Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Deut. 16:18 - 17:20	Right-rulings regarding judges, kings and idolaters
Tuesday:	Deut. 18	Right-rulings regarding Lewites, abominable practices and prophets; Promises of the Prophet who is to come
Wednesday:	Deut. 19	Right-rulings regarding escaped murderers, property boundaries and witnesses
Thursday:	Deut. 20	Right-rulings regarding warfare
Friday:	Deut. 21:1-9	Right-rulings for removing guilt for an unsolved murder

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, Mosheh continues to prepare this next generation for heading into the land of Kena'an without him. Here he instructs the people on laws dealing with their leaders; they are to inquire of them and follow their decisions. Now, let's read selected verses in *Deut. 16-21.

*Please note that some subject matter in these chapters is graphic in content. We recommend that parents choose which parts you want to discuss with your children. The main point of this lesson is to show that Yahweh appointed leaders in Yisra'el, to whom the people could appeal for leadership and guidance.

PARSHA POINTS

Judges and Officers

- Appoint judges and officers *within all your gates*, which Yahweh your Elohim is giving you, according to your tribes. They shall judge the people with righteous right-ruling - 16:18



Priests, Lewites and Judges

- When any matter of strife *within your gates* arises which is too hard for you to judge between (17:8):
 - blood and blood
 - plea and plea
 - stroke and stroke
- Then you shall (17:8-9):
 - rise and go up to the *place which Yahweh your Elohim chooses*
 - approach the priests, the Lewites, and the judge who is in those days, and inquire about matters too hard to judge



- They shall declare to you the word of right-ruling - 17:9
- You shall (17:10-11):
 - do according to the word which they declare to you from that *place which Yahweh chooses*
 - guard to do according to all that they instruct you
 - do according to the Torah in which they teach you
 - do according to the right-ruling which they say to you
 - NOT turn to the right or to the left from the word which they declare to you



- And the man who acts arrogantly, so as NOT to listen to the priest who stands to serve there before Yahweh your Elohim, or to the judge, that man shall die. So you shall purge the evil from Yisra'el. And let all the people hear and fear, and no longer do arrogantly - 17:12-13

Sovereigns (Kings)

- When you come to the land which Yahweh your Elohim is giving you, and shall possess it and shall dwell in it, and you shall say, 'Let me set a sovereign (**melek**) over me like all the gentiles that are around me' - 17:14
- You shall (17:15):
 - certainly set a sovereign over you whom Yahweh your Elohim shall choose
 - set a sovereign over you from among your brothers
 - NOT set a foreigner over you, who is NOT your brother



- The sovereign is NOT to (17:16-17):
 - increase horses for himself
 - cause the people to return to Mitsrayim to increase horses (**susim**), for Yahweh had said to them, "Do NOT return that way again"
 - increase wives (**nashim**) for himself, lest his heart turn away
 - greatly increase silver and gold for himself



- When the sovereign sits on the throne of his reign, he shall (17:18-20):

- write for himself a copy of this **Torah** (teaching and instruction) in a book, from the one before the priests, the Lewites, and it shall be with him
- read it all the days of his life, so that he learns to fear Yahweh his Elohim
- guard all the Words of this Torah and these laws, to do them, so that his heart is NOT lifted up above his brothers, and so as NOT to turn aside from the command, right or left, so that he prolongs his days in his reign, he and his children, in the midst of Yisra'el



Prophets



- Yahweh your Elohim shall raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brothers (18:15-16):
 - listen to Him, according to all you asked of Yahweh your Elohim in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me NOT hear again the voice of Yahweh my Elohim, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die'
- And Yahweh said (18:17-20):
 - what they have spoken is good
 - I shall raise up for them a Prophet like you out of the midst of their brothers
 - I shall put My Words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him
 - the man who does NOT listen to My Words which He speaks in My Name, I require it of him
 - the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My Name, which I have NOT commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other mighty ones, even that prophet shall die
- And when you say in your heart, 'How do we know the word which Yahweh has NOT spoken?' - when the prophet speaks in the Name of Yahweh and the word is not, or comes NOT, that is the word which Yahweh has NOT spoken, the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. Do NOT be afraid of him - 18:21-22
- When anyone hates his neighbor, and shall lie in wait for him and rise against him and smite the life from him so that he dies, then he shall flee to one of these cities, and the elders of his city shall send and bring him from there, and give him into the hand of the revenger of blood, and he shall die. Your eye shall NOT pardon him, but you shall purge the blood of innocent blood from Yisra'el, so that it might be well with you - 19:11-13

Yahweh, Priests and Judges

- When a malicious witness rises up against any man to accuse him of turning aside, then both men who have the dispute shall stand before (19:16-17):
 - Yahweh
 - the priests
 - the judges who serve in those days
- And the judges shall diligently search and see if the witness is a false witness, who has falsely accused his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother. Thus you shall purge the evil from your midst. And let the rest hear and fear, and never again do this evil matter in your midst - 19:18-20



- And let your eye NOT pardon (19:21):
 - life for life
 - eye for eye
 - tooth for tooth
 - hand for hand
 - foot for foot
- When you go out to battle against your enemies, and shall see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do NOT be afraid of them, for Yahweh your Elohim, who brought you up from the land of Mitsrayim, is with you - 20:1
- And it shall be, when you draw near to the battle, that the priest shall come and speak to the people, and shall say to them (20:2-4):
 - Hear, O Yisra'el: You are drawing near today to battle with your enemies
 - Do NOT let your heart faint
 - Do NOT fear, or tremble, or be afraid before them
 - Yahweh your Elohim is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you

Officers

- And the officers shall speak to the people, saying (20:5-8):
 - Who is the man who has built a new house and has NOT dedicated it? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man dedicate it
 - Who is the man who has planted a vineyard and has NOT begun to use it? Let him also go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man should begin to use it
 - Who is the man who is engaged to a woman and has NOT taken her? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man take her
 - Who is the man who is afraid and tender of heart? Let him go and return to his house, lest the heart of his brothers faint like his heart
- It shall be, when the officers have finished speaking to the people, that they shall appoint commanders of the divisions to lead the people - 20:9



Elders and Judges

- When anyone is found slain, lying in the field in the land which Yahweh your Elohim is giving you to possess, and it is NOT known who smote him, then your elders and your judges shall go out, and they shall measure the distance from the slain man to the cities round about - 21:1-2
- And it shall be that the elders of the city nearest to the slain man shall (21:3-4):
 - take a heifer (female cow) which has NOT been worked and which has NOT pulled with a yoke, and the elders of that city shall
 - bring the heifer down to a wadi with flowing water, which is neither ploughed nor sown
 - break the heifer's neck there in the wadi



Priests

- And the priests, the sons of Lewi, shall come near, for Yahweh your Elohim has chosen them to serve Him and to bless in the Name of Yahweh, and by their mouth every strife and every stroke is tried - 21:5



Elders

- And let all the elders of that city nearest to the slain man (21:6-8):
 - wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the wadi
 - answer to Yahweh:
 - Our hands have NOT shed this blood, nor have our eyes seen it
 - Forgive Your people Yisra'el, whom You have redeemed
 - Do NOT allow innocent blood in the midst of Your people Yisra'el
- And the blood-guilt shall be pardoned to them. Thus you purge the guilt of innocent blood from your midst when you do what is right in the eyes of Yahweh - 21:1-9



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- This parsha talks a lot about human government (judges, elders, officers, priests, Lewites, kings). Discuss the job description of these positions as well as how they are appointed. Are any appointed by the people? Talk about these various offices and give Scriptural examples of both bad leadership and good leadership.
- Although the 12 tribes would be operating more independently of one another in the land of Kena'an, discuss how Yahweh still expected His people to follow His commands.
- In Deuteronomy 16:18, it says that these judges and officers were to judge the people with righteous right-ruling (mishpat tzadek). Find the Scriptural instructions that these leaders were to follow. Who is the ultimate and final righteous right-ruler?
- Beginning in 17:8, we find instruction about matters that may seem too difficult for a local court to judge. These hard matters were to be brought to a *place which Yahweh your Elohim chooses*. Could it be that Yahweh set in place a higher court system, consisting of priests and Lewites who understood the law better and could make the ultimate call in cases that were beyond the scope of a tribe? Once a case was brought here, what was the all-encompassing command? (17:11)
- In this parsha we see that Yahweh places upon kings these 4 boundaries: horses, wives, silver and gold. Where did the best horses come from? Why would a king want multiple wives? Could it be to make political alliances? How does a king get wealth? Would taxing the people be within the realm of possibility? Can you recall any kings who did NOT heed this instruction? What were their fates?
- The first duty for a king is to take the time to write all the words of the Torah for himself. What a beautiful instruction Yahweh gave to His leaders! Discuss how different our government would be if every president (ruler) did this.
- Discuss Yahweh's instruction that the people listen to the prophets as He puts His words in their mouths. Did Yisra'el listen to the prophets?
- A false witness incurred the just punishment of life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand and foot for foot. Do you think that just knowing this consequence might deter someone from committing such a crime?
- Discuss the 4 sound reasons for excusing a warrior from fighting in a battle (20:5-8)
- Discuss blood-guilt and the atonement for the shedding of innocent blood. Notice how the leadership themselves had to do the atoning for an unsolved crime. Does Yahweh take murdering seriously? Is murdering the same as killing?



Searching Out Hebrew

Parents/Teachers can print out the '[Hebrew Pronunciation Guide](#)' to help with the pronunciation of Hebrew names and words. They can be cut out and used in conjunction with the Flashcards.

WORDS

Parents/Teachers see the following page for 3 x 5 card cut outs of the words from this week's parsha. If printed on cardstock, they can be kept in a box to reinforce learning.

Melek (מֶלֶךְ) - sovereign/king

Susim (סוּסִים) - horses

Nashim (נָשִׁים) - wives

Torah (תּוֹרָה) - teaching and instruction

NUMBERS

Parents/Teachers can print out these numbers to have as additional resources. These can be found under the 'Resources' tab on the YMTOI website.

There are no numbers in this lesson

WORD MATCH

Match this week's Hebrew words to their correct definition.

Melek

Horses

Nashim

Sovereign/King

Susim

Teaching and Instruction

Torah

Wives



FLASHCARDS

סוסים

Susim

Sus-im

horses

תורה

Torah

To-rah

teaching and instruction

מלך

Melek

Me-lek

sovereign/king

נשים

Nashim

Na-shim

wives

WRITING HEBREW

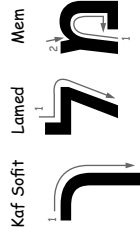
Susim (horses)

סוסים



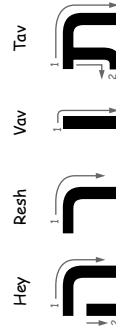
Melek (sovereign/king)

מלך



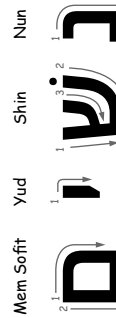
Torah (teaching and instruction)

תורה



Nashim (wives)

נשים



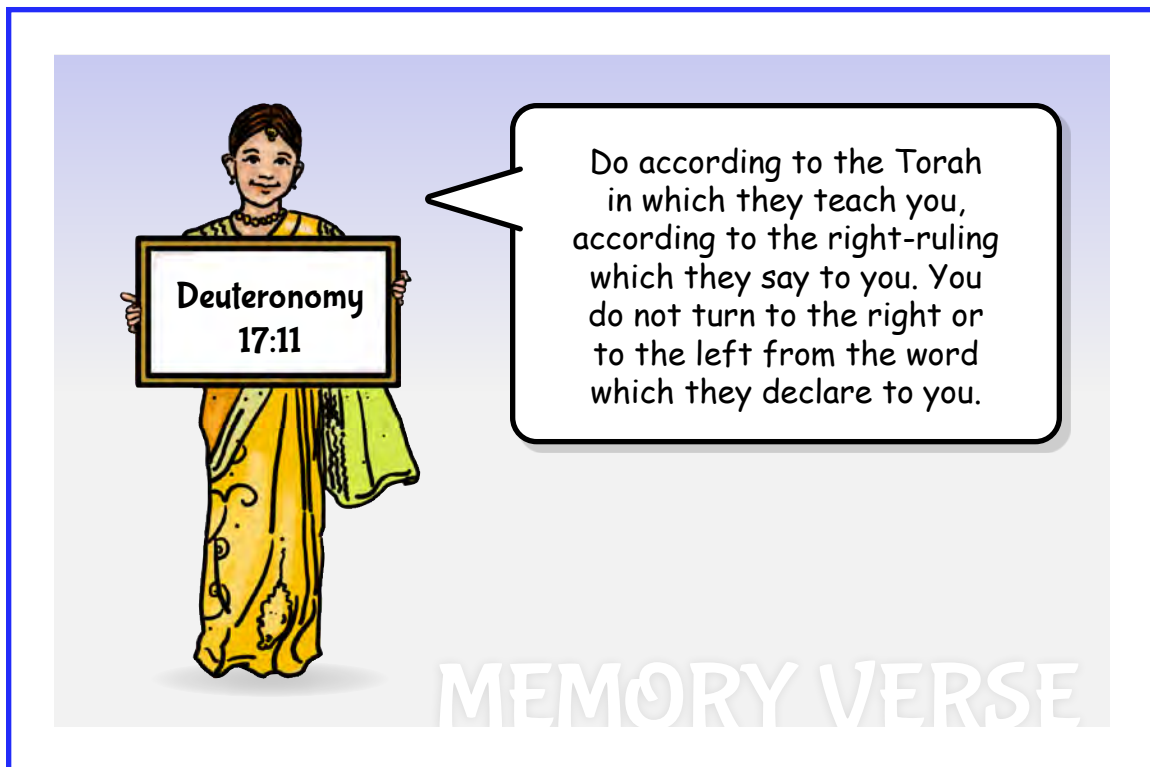


Counting What You Gained

This next section is intended to be reinforcement of the lessons learned during this parsha. Choose the activities that best fit your child.

STORING UP TREASURE IN MY HEART

The Katan Bet and Gadol memory verse is Deuteronomy 17:11. You can review the verse with them by reciting it out loud, acting it out, putting it to music...whatever works for you.



Deuteronomy
17:11

Do according to the Torah
in which they teach you,
according to the right-ruling
which they say to you. You
do not turn to the right or
to the left from the word
which they declare to you.

MEMORY VERSE

SEEKING TREASURE



1.

Who did Yahweh put in place to uphold and judge the people with righteous right-ruling?

Circle the correct choices.

Lewites mayors officers governors

priests Senators judges

House of Representatives

(16:18; 17:9)



2.

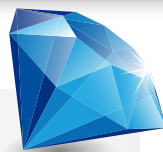
"Do according to the _____ in which they teach you, according to

the _____ - _____ which they say to you.

You do NOT turn to the _____ or to the _____

from the _____ which they declare to you."

(17:11)



3.

What did Yahweh say that a sovereign was NOT supposed to have too much of?

Circle the correct choices.

gold cars horses

friends wives

chocolate silver

(17:16-17)



4.

Who does Yahweh tell the children

of Yisra'el to listen to in 18:15?



5.



When 2 men have a dispute, they are supposed to appear before the priests, the judges, and Yahweh.

T / F

(19:17)

6.



"For Yahweh your Elohim is He who _____ with you, to _____ for you against your enemies, to _____ you."

(20:4)

7.

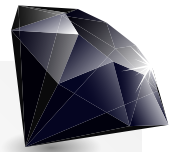


In Deuteronomy 20:5-8, what is the action a warrior should take for any of the 4 circumstances mentioned.

Circle the correct choice.

- continue in battle return to his house
- run for the hills

8.



The priests, the sons of Lewi, are chosen to serve Yahweh.

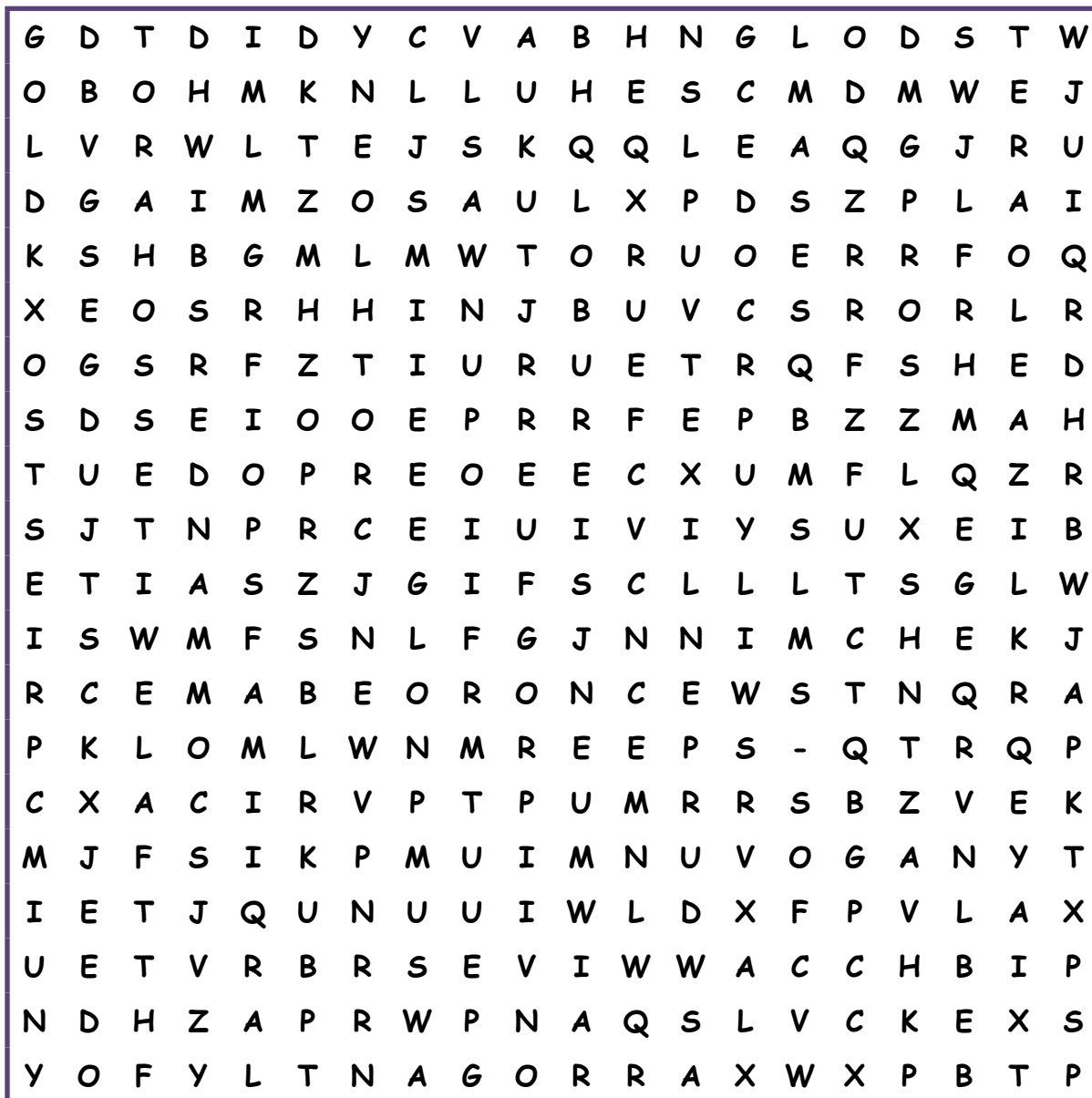
Yes / No

(21:5)



WORD SEARCH

Search for the hidden words from this week's parsha.



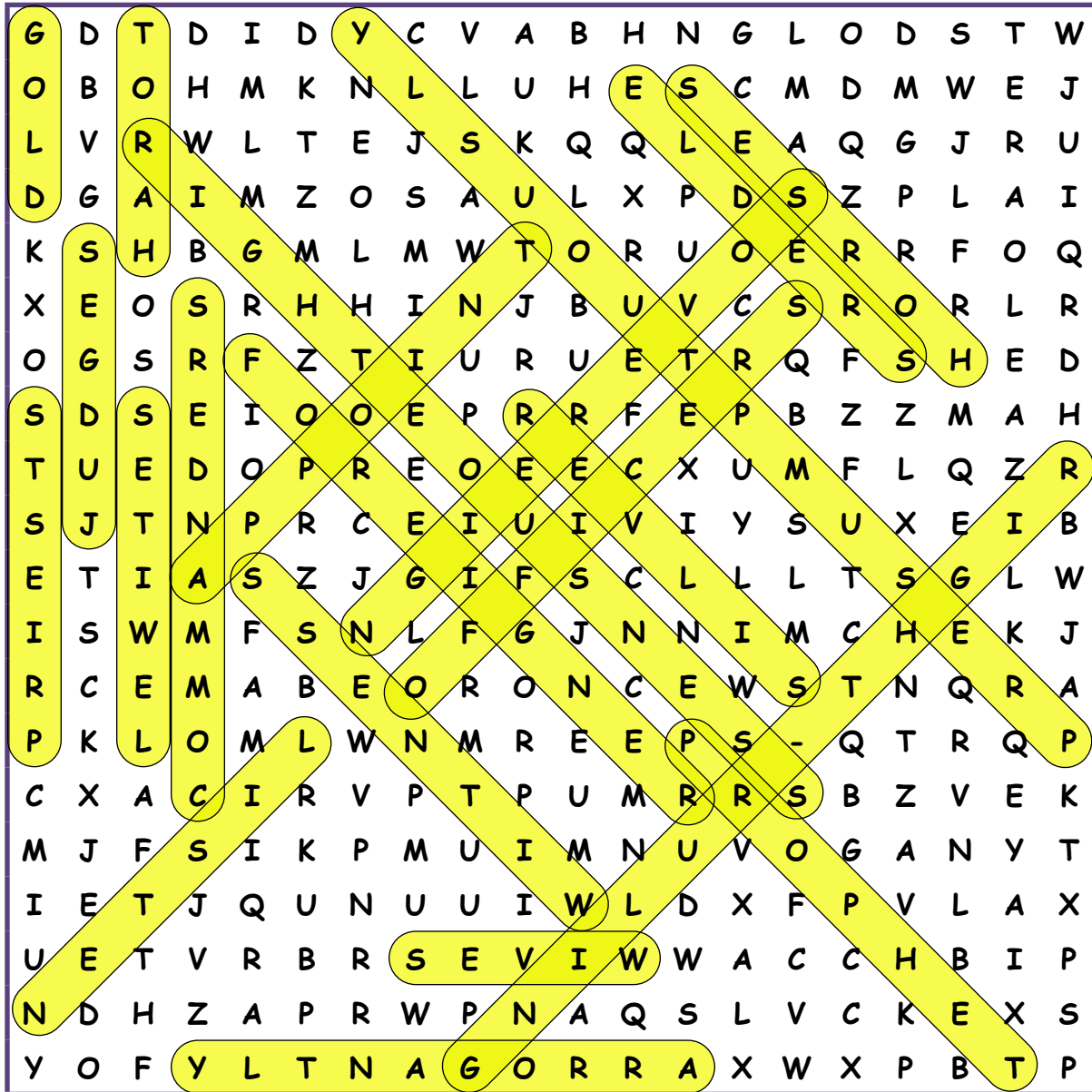
APPOINT
 JUDGES
 OFFICERS
 PRIESTS
 LEWITES
 RIGHTEOUSNESS
 RIGHT-RULING

ARROGANTLY
 SOVEREIGN
 FOREIGNER
 HORSES
 WIVES
 SILVER
 GOLD

TORAH
 PROPHET
 LISTEN
 PRESUMPTUOUSLY
 WITNESS
 COMMANDERS
 ELDERS



Answer Key



APPOINT
 JUDGES
 OFFICERS
 PRIESTS
 LEWITES
 RIGHTEOUSNESS
 RIGHT-RULING

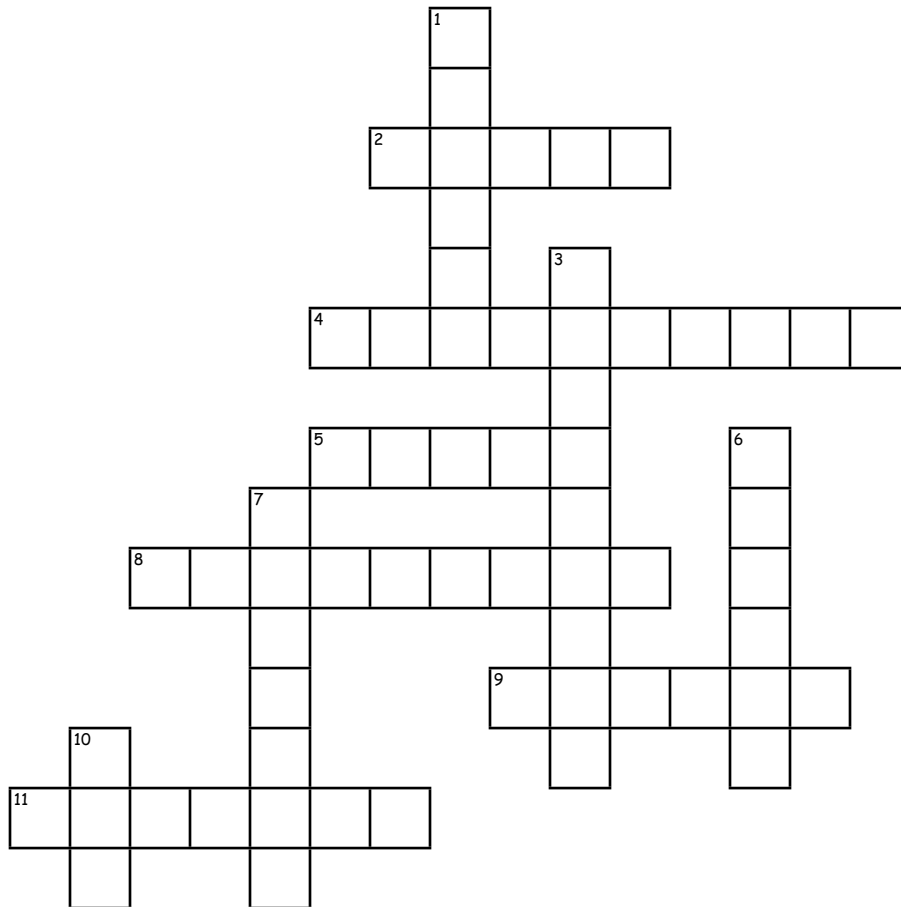
ARROGANTLY
 SOVEREIGN
 FOREIGNER
 HORSES
 WIVES
 SILVER
 GOLD

TORAH
 PROPHET
 LISTEN
 PRESUMPTUOUSLY
 WITNESS
 COMMANDERS
 ELDERS



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Complete the crossword using words from this week's parsha.



Down

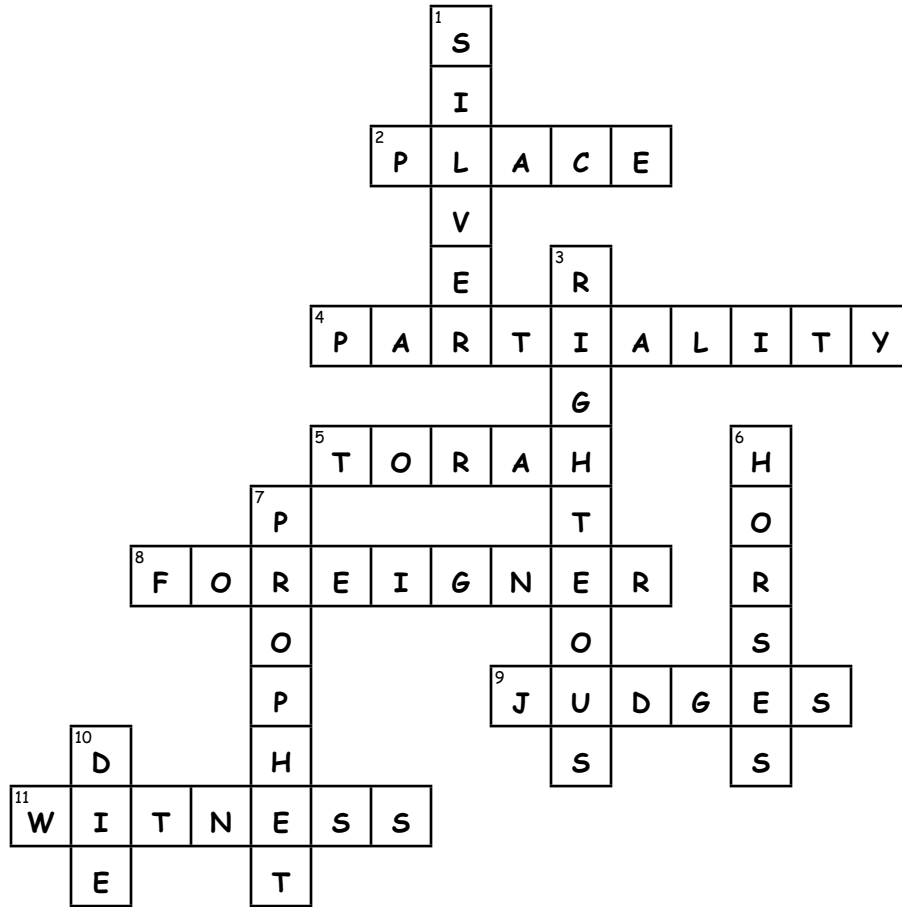
1. The sovereign is NOT to increase _____ or gold for himself.
3. They shall judge the people with _____ right-ruling.
6. The sovereign is NOT to increase _____ or wives for himself.
7. Listen to the _____ that speaks My words.
10. The man who does NOT listen to the priest, that man shall _____.

Across

2. When a matter arises that is too hard for you to judge, you shall go up to the _____ which Yahweh your Elohim chooses.
4. Do not show _____, nor take a bribe.
5. When he sits on the throne, he shall write for himself a copy of this _____ in a book.
8. The sovereign is NOT allowed to be a _____.
9. Appoint _____ and officers within all your gates.
11. The judge shall search and see if the _____ is a false _____.



Answer Key



Down

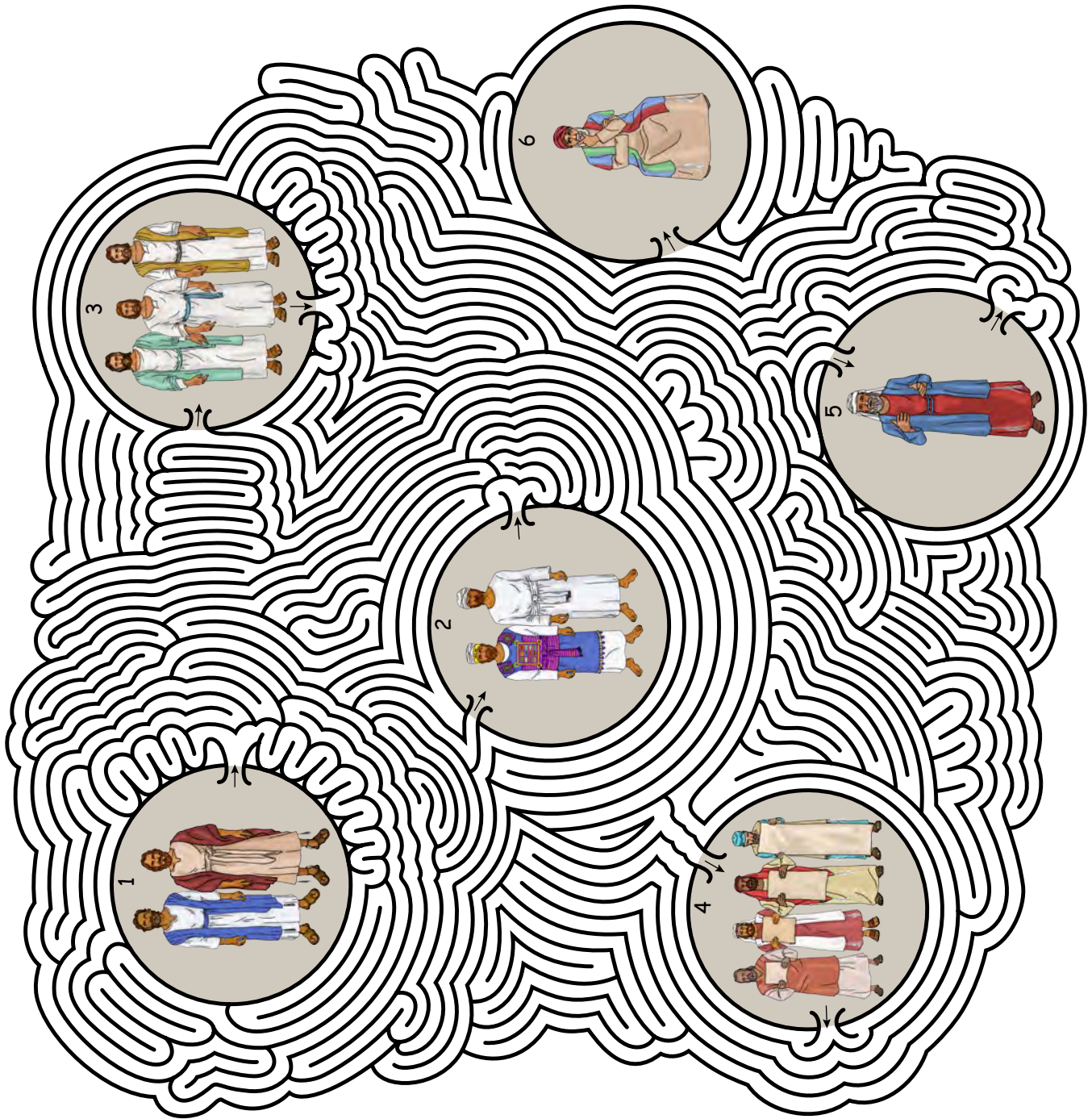
1. The sovereign is NOT to increase **silver** or gold for himself.
3. They shall judge the people with **righteous** right-ruling.
6. The sovereign is NOT to increase **horses** or wives for himself.
7. Listen to the **prophet** that speaks My words.
10. The man who does NOT listen to the priest, that man shall **die**.

Across

2. When a matter arises that is too hard for you to judge, you shall go up to the **place** which Yahweh your Elohim chooses.
4. Do not show **partiality**, nor take a bribe.
5. When he sits on the throne, he shall write for himself a copy of this **Torah** in a book.
8. The sovereign is NOT allowed to be a **foreigner**.
9. Appoint **judges** and officers within all your gates.
11. The judge shall search and see if the **witness** is a false **witness**.



MAZE



Precious Possessions

NOTEBOOK PAGE

Do's & Don'ts for Kings

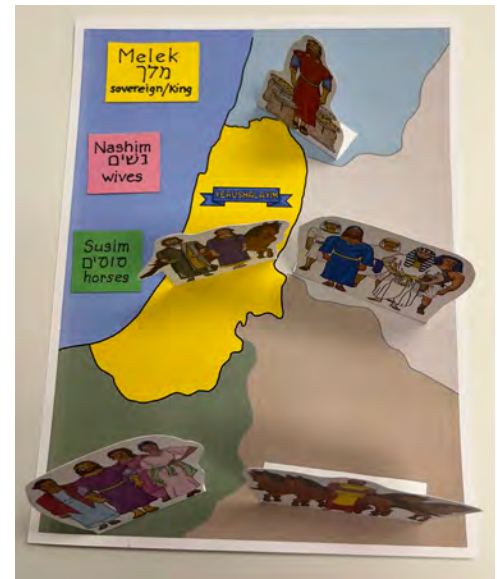
Deuteronomy 17:14-17

Materials:

- Cardstock - white
- Ruler - to assist in folding tabs
- Double-sided tape
- Scissors
- Coloring pencils, crayons, or markers
- Notebook Page Templates: Main Page & A (BW) or Main Page & B (color)

Parent/Teacher Preparation:

- Print Notebook Page Templates of choice on white cardstock.

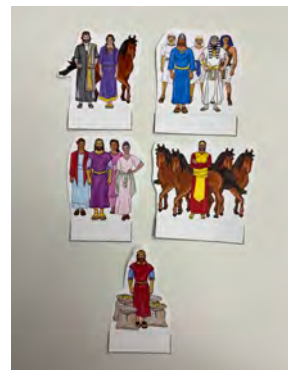


Instructions for the Notebook Page:

- If using BW Templates, color using medium of choice.
- Cut out all Notebook Templates. (P1)
- Using a ruler to assist you, fold the tabs inward on the characters. (P2a, P2b)

Adding the Characters to the Main Page

- Run double-sided tape onto the tabs of the images. (P3)



P1



P2a



P2b



P3

Instructions for the Notebook Page Cont'd:

- Adhere to the land on the Main Page as follows:
 - Yisra'elite king with 1 wife, 1 horse, 1 bag of silver & gold, inside the land (P4a)
 - Pagan kings with lots of silver & gold, outside the land (P4b)
 - Pharaoh and Mitsrites which represent not going back to Mitsrayim, outside the land (P4c)
 - Pagan king with lots of horses, outside the land (P4d)
 - Pagan king with lots of wives, outside the land (P4e)
- Your page is now ready for the Hebrew Words. (P5)



P4a



P4b



P4c



P4d



P4e

Hebrew Words

- Write the following onto a piece of colored cardstock and glue to the page:
 - 1) Melek 2) מלך 3) Sovereign/King (P6)
 - 1) Nashim 2) נשים 3) Wives (P7)
 - 1) Susim 2) סוסים 3) Horses (P8)



P5



P6



P7

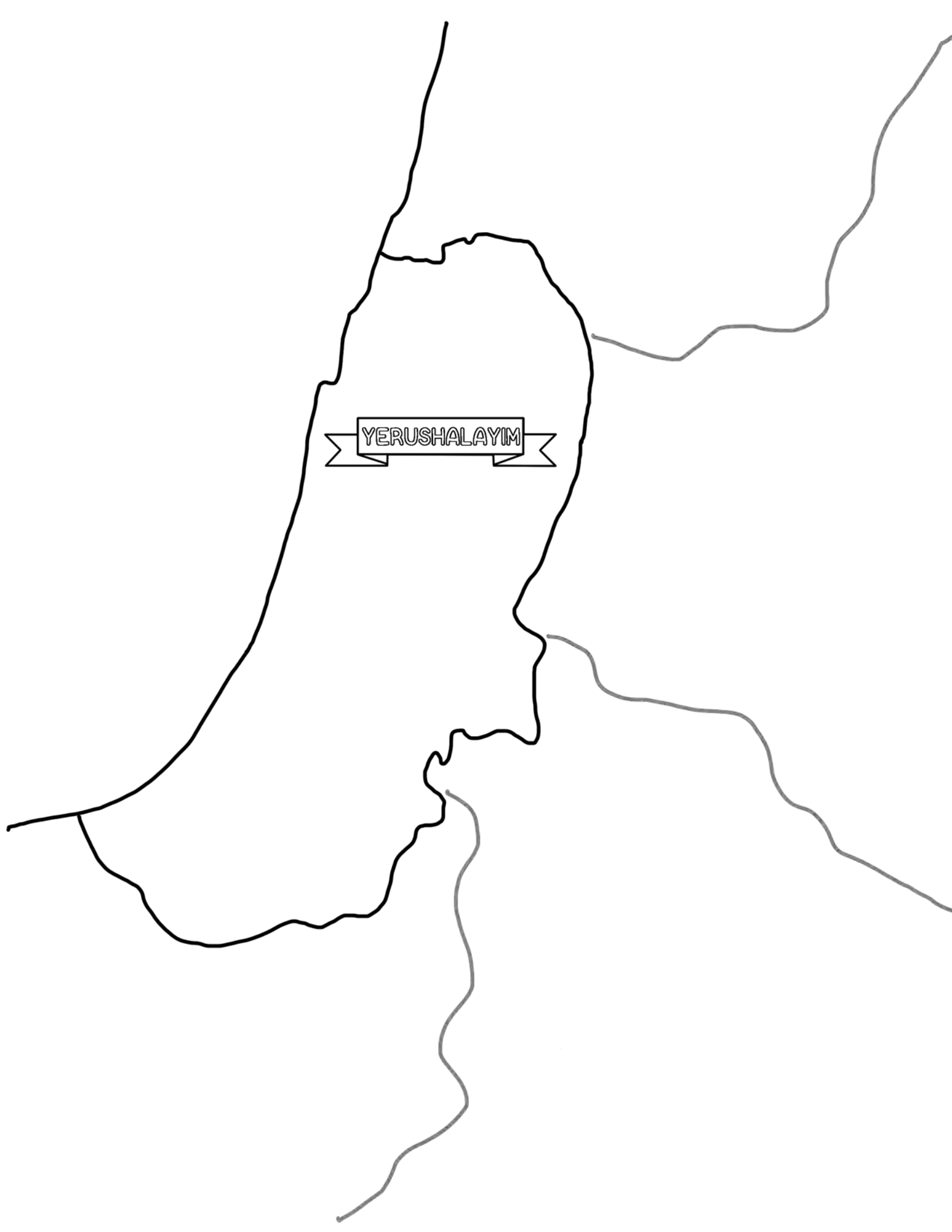


P8

You now have a visual representation of what Yahweh wanted the king of Yisra'el to do and have and what they should not do or have. (P9)

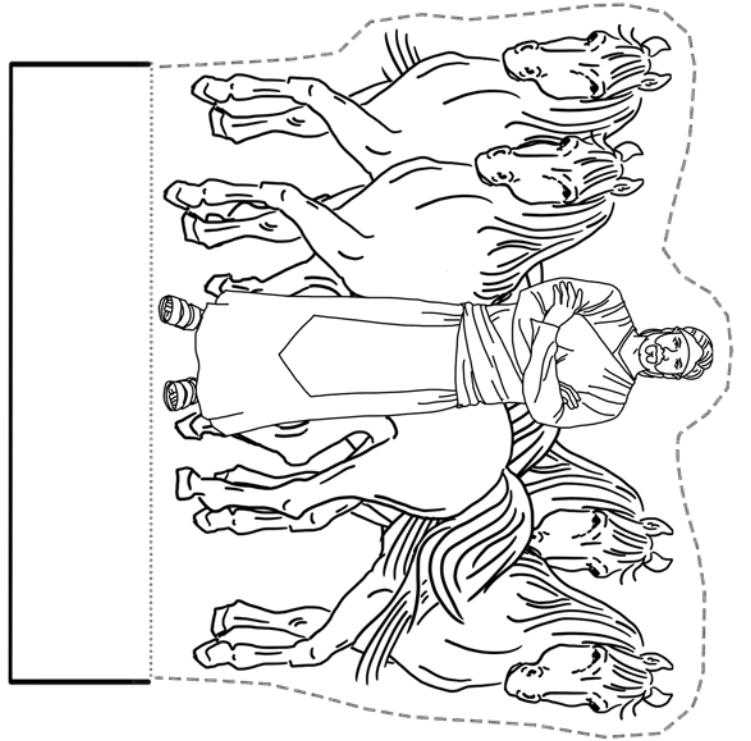
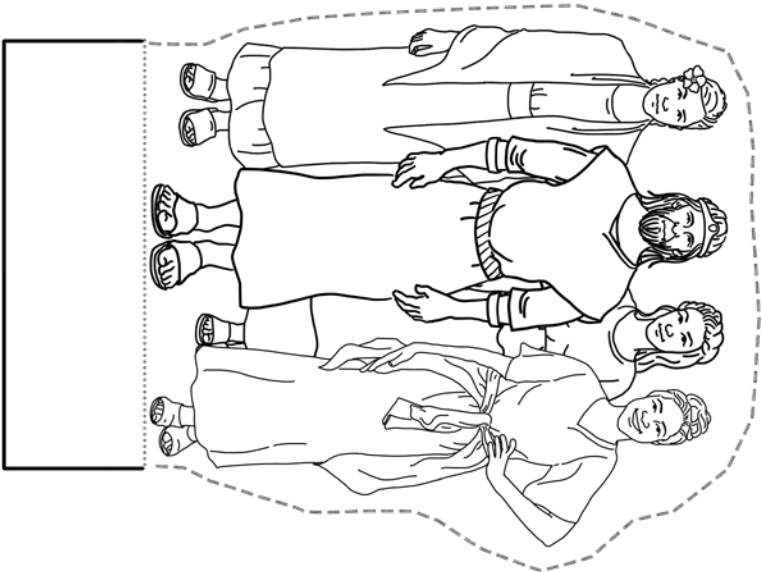
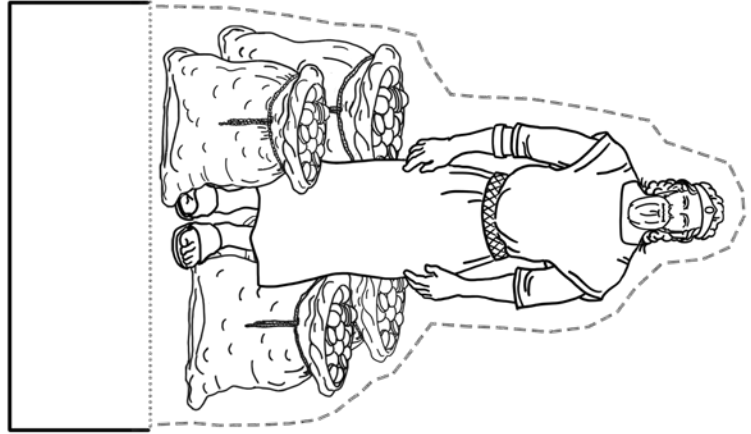
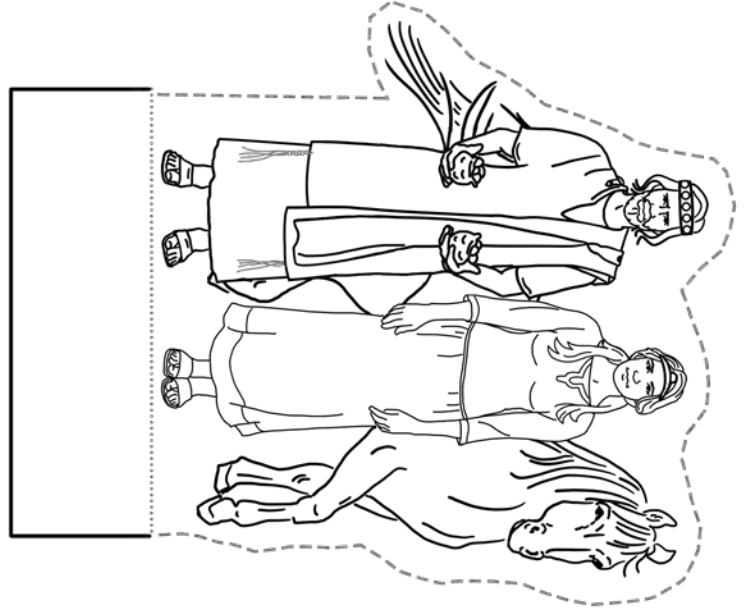
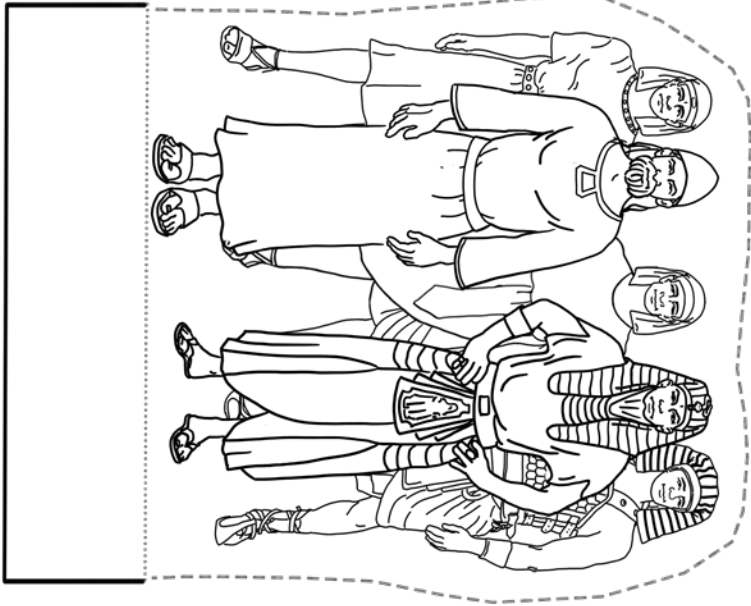


P9



YERUSHALAYIM

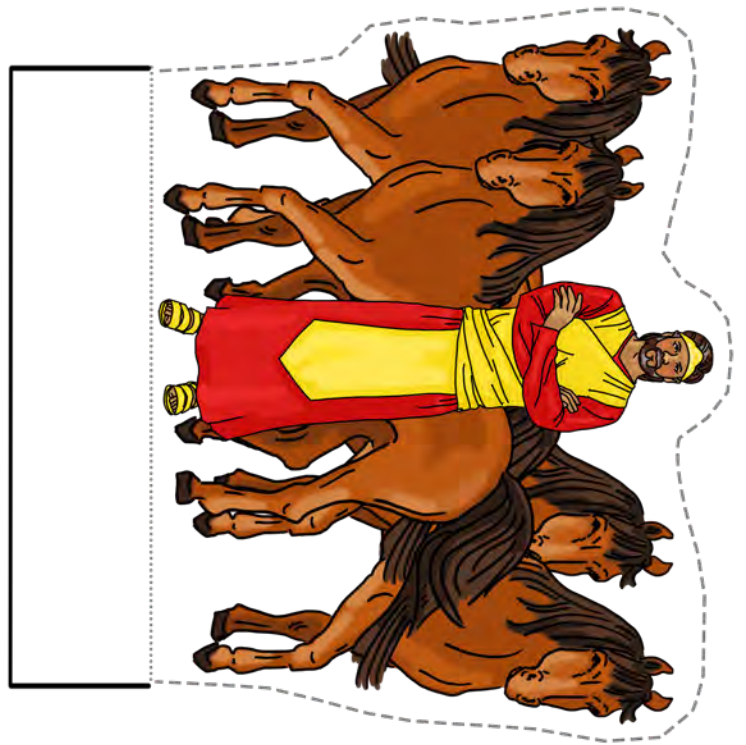
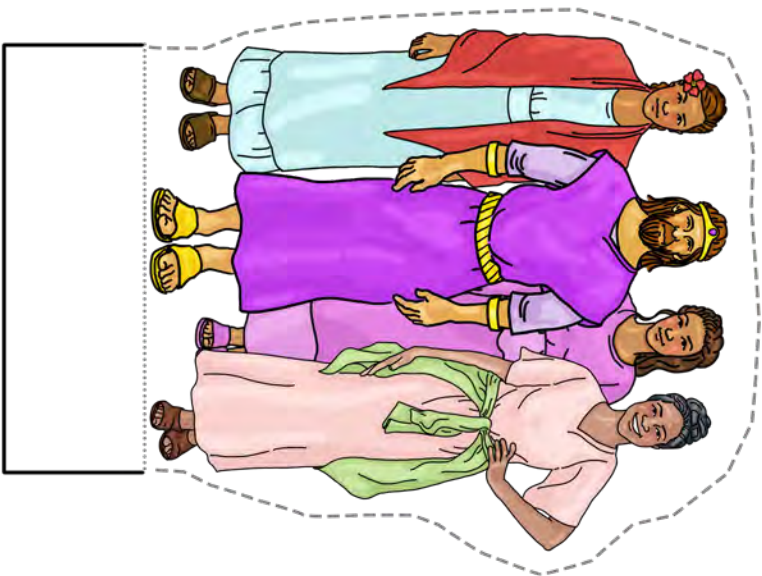
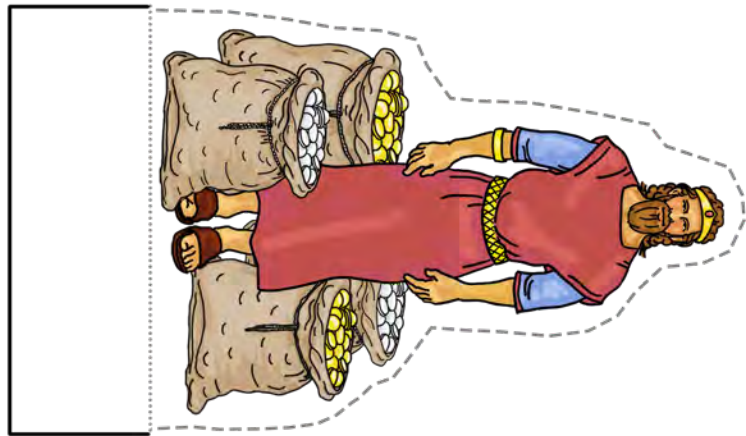
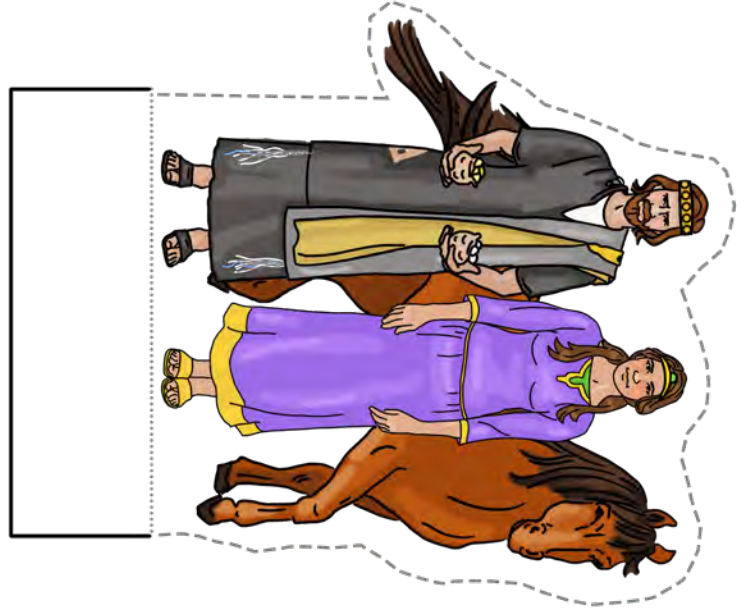
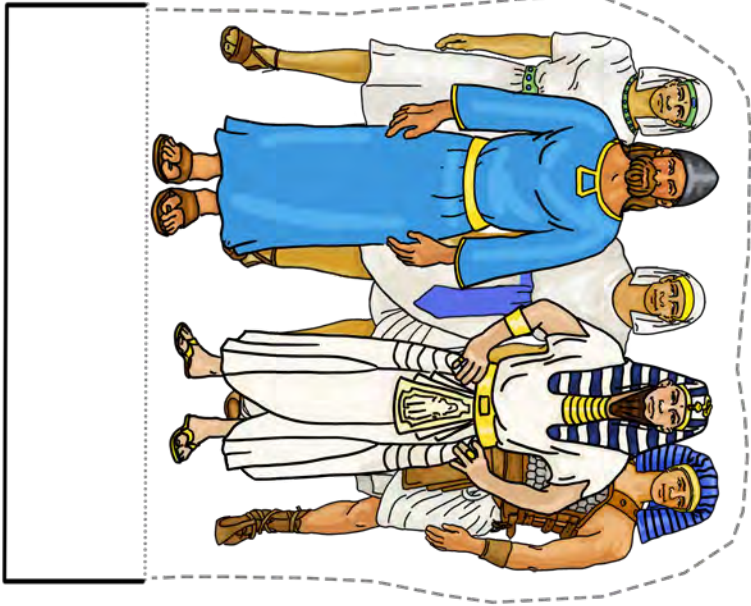
Notebook Template A (BW)



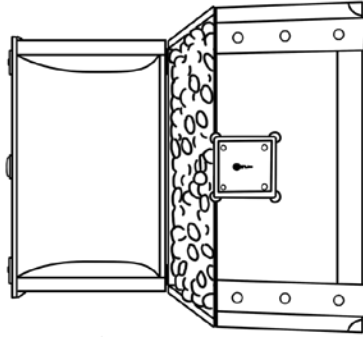
A stylized map of the Holy Land region. The landmass is outlined in black and filled with a light tan color. A large, irregularly shaped area in the center is highlighted in bright yellow. A blue banner with a white border is placed horizontally across the yellow area, containing the text 'YERUSHALAYIM' in yellow capital letters. The surrounding areas are colored in shades of light blue (top left), light green (top right), and light brown (bottom right).

YERUSHALAYIM

Notebook Template B (color)



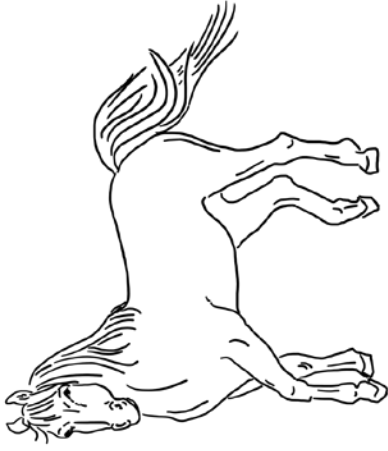
"Set a sovereign over you from among your brothers, you are not allowed to set a foreigner over you, who is not your brothers. Only, he is not to increase horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Mitsrayim to increase horses, for Yahweh has said to you 'Do not return that way again.' And he is not to increase wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor is he to greatly increase silver and gold for himself."



"And it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his reign, that he shall write for himself a copy of this Torah in a book, from the one before the priests, the Lewites..."



"And it shall be with him, and he shall read it ALL THE DAYS OF HIS LIFE, so that he learns to fear Yahweh his Elohim and guard all the Words of this Torah and these laws, to do them..."



Sweetness of Torah

SWEET SOUNDS OF TORAH

(Sing Praises to His Name)

Here is the link for this song:

https://www.podomatic.com/podcasts/steveberkson/episodes/2017-08-20T08_06_31-07_00

This is a fun, catchy traditional song that young Jewish children are taught in Hebrew school. It is usually sung with hand gestures and can be found on YouTube if you desire to learn them.

David Melek Yisra'el

Means, "David, King of Yisra'el Lives and Endures"

David Melek Yisra'el
Chai, Chai, Vekayam

David Melek Yisra'el
Chai, Chai, Vekayam

David Melek Yisra'el
Chai, Chai, Vekayam



(Repeat as much as you like and go faster and faster using hand motions)

SWEET TASTE OF TORAH

This snack relates to this week's parsha. Please take these as suggestions and make necessary changes based on your individual dietary needs.

Pancake Crowns

Deuteronomy 17:15



Ingredients:

- Pancakes (cut to resemble a king's crown)
- Various fruit (represents gems on crown)
- Whipped topping (represents fur trim)

Instructions:

Take a pancake and cut around it to make a crown shape. Add any fruit such as blueberries, strawberries, etc. to decorate the crown. Add whipped topping around edge to represent the fur trim.

Next Week's Treasure Hunt

Next Week's Torah Portion



Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday:	Deut. 21:10-23	Right-rulings regarding female captives, inheritance rights of the first-born, and the sentence upon rebellious children
Tuesday:	Deut. 22	Various right-rulings on dress codes, birds' nests, protective roofing, mixtures of seed or fabric, and sexual sins
Wednesday:	Deut. 23	Various right-rulings on exclusions from the assembly, bodily uncleanness, escapes slaves, making loans and vows, and eating from a field
Thursday:	Deut. 24	Various right-rulings on divorce, taking pledges, paying servants, harvesting and more
Friday:	Deut. 25	Various right-rulings on handling disputes, Levirate marriage, just weights and measures, and more; The command to annihilate Amalek

