



Project: Sermon Resource for Shluchim
Distribution Date: May 15, 2007/ כ"ז אייר תשס"ז
Parsha: Shavuot Day 2 / יום ב דחג השבועות

ב"ה

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1. Does anyone know where Mt. Sinai is?
 I've seen pictures of what is said to be Mt. Sinai but how can you be sure?
 I saw a stone with engraving of bushes that is said to be from Mt. Sinai.
 -Until we find pieces of the broken tablets or Moses' sandals I remain a skeptic.



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2. The Temple Mt.:
 Never mentioned by name in the Torah.
 The most famous place on earth.

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3. Mt. Sinai:
 Mentioned 16 times in the Torah
 Every child knows its name
 Schools, shuls hospitals and children are named for it
 We have no idea where it is. Why?



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4. It is no longer holy.
 Torah states, "At the sound of the blast of the Shofar, they can ascend this mountain."
 For when G-d's presence departed, none of the holiness remained.
 Why?



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5. We will recite the Yizkor in a few moments:
 Yizkor brings back the memory of a departed one.
 Many people visit the gravesites of dear departed ones.



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6. This custom dates back to when Jacob buried Rachel at the side of the road.
 He saw that as his descendents would be led into exile they would stop by her grave to pray.
 Caleb also prayed at the gravesites of our forefathers.



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7. This tradition has lasted until today.
 Today thousands of people pray at the Rebbe's gravesite.
 This is how we know where the Tzaddikim are buried.



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8. Yet we don't know where Moses is buried. Why?



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9. Some people are named Sinai.
 Our sages used "Sinai" to describe R' Yosef
 R' Yehoshua used "Sinai" to describe R' Eliezer ben Hurknus's seat
 (See full sermon)



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10. The same applies to "Moshe" - countless people are named Moshe
 R' Safra once said to Rava, "Moshe you have spoken well!"
 Meaning, that Rava was to his generation as Moses was to his.

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11. Zohar states, "Every generation has an extension of Moses" i.e. its own "Moses" who would teach it and lead it in the ways of the Torah.



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12. Perhaps this is why we don't know where Moses and Mt. Sinai are.
 Talmud: "It is the Man who brings honor upon the place."
 Whenever a Jew studies Torah, he is Moses and the place is Mt. Sinai.



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13. We are about to say Yizkor in memory of our parents. We also say Kaddish to honor them. We also give charity in their merit of departed souls. But did you know the custom to study Mishnah (same letters as "Neshamah") for them?



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14. I would like to make a suggestion. The best way to honor one's parents, on Shavuot, is to resolve to study Torah in their honor. When you study, their souls in heaven study right along with you.



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