

## **The Dibrot – Commandments or Statements**

Outline for Torah in Motion class # 3/ by Menachem Leibtag -

### **I. Review of first two classes -**

Matan Torah - a 'gift' or an 'obligation'

**Proposition and its two sides - in chapter 19**

ג ומנשה עלה, אל-הָאֱלֹהִים; וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו יְהוָה, מִן-הָהָר לֵאמֹר:

**כֹּה תֹאמַר לְבֵית יַעֲקֹב, וְתִגִּיד לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:**

ד אַתֶּם רְאִיתֶם, אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי לְמִצְרָיִם; וְאִשָּׁא אֶתְכֶם עַל-פְּנֵי  
נְשָׁרִים, וְאָבֵא אֶתְכֶם אֵלַי.

ה וְעַתָּה:

אם-שְׁמוֹעַ תִּשְׁמְעוּ בְּקֹלִי, וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם, אֶת-בְּרִיתִי— IF

וְהֵייתֶם לִי סִגְלָה מִכָּל-הָעַמִּים, כִּי-לִי כָּל-הָאָרֶץ.

וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיוּ-לִי מִמְּלַכֶּת כְּהַנִּים, וְגוֹי קָדוֹשׁ: THEN

אֵלֶּה, הַדְּבָרִים, אֲשֶׁר תִּדְבֹר, אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

What should happen next -

Ratification 19:7-8

Then HOW to accomplish that goal

The need for a 'contract' [chapter 20 - the Dibrot]

& instructions for how to become that nation

But before we receive the 'guide-book' -

How will God speak to His people?

Directly, or via Moshe Rabeinu (as up until now)

To begin this week's shiur, let's identify the units

[To clarify the confusion]

[See PDF file of the units]

## A. The 'Ten Commandments' - who are they for?

I. I am the LORD thy God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt...

II. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

Thou shalt not make unto you a graven image...

thou shalt not bow down unto them, nor serve them;

**for I the LORD thy God am a zealous God... to they that hate Me;**

**& showing mercy unto... they that love Me ...**

III. Thou shalt not carry the **NAME** of the LORD thy God in vain...

IV. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy....

V. Honour thy father and thy mother...

VI. Thou shalt not murder.

VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII. Thou shalt not steal.

IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house; **{S}** thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is thy neighbour's.

## B. Statements or Commandments or Terms - see Devarim 4:9-15

דברים פרק ד . יא וְתִקְרְבוּן וְתַעֲמְדוּן, תַּחַת הַהָר; וְהָהָר בְּעֵר  
בְּאֵשׁ, עַד-לֵב הַשָּׁמַיִם--חֲשֹׁךְ, עָנָן וְעָרָפֶל. יב וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה  
אֵלֵיכֶם, מִתּוֹךְ הָאֵשׁ: קוֹל דְּבָרִים אֲתֶם שֹׁמְעִים, וְתִמוּנָה  
אֵינְכֶם רֹאִים זוּלָתִי קוֹל. יג וַיִּגַּד לָכֶם אֶת-בְּרִיתוֹ, אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה  
אֶתְכֶם לַעֲשׂוֹת--עֲשֶׂרֶת, הַדְּבָרִים; וַיְכַתְּבֵם, עַל-שְׁנֵי לְחוֹת  
אֲבָנִים.

## II. Units of laws that we find later in the Torah

A. Parshat Mishpatim - sampling of Jewish law [see Ramban]

Primarily "nezikin" [damages] and basic ethics of behavior

B. Vayikra 19 - inserted in the center of Sefer Vayikra

C. The Laws of Sefer Devarim- the primary collection of laws:

How to become God's NATION- i.e. a goy kadosh

## III. The themes of "shem Hashem" & "ot brit"

To explain commandments three & four

See separate source sheets