



MASEI



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—◆—
“These are the JOURNEYS
of the Children of Israel
as they left Egypt”

— Numbers 33:1 —

— REBBE'S QUESTION: —

Why JOURNEYS
and not ENCAMPMENTS?





Why JOURNEYS and not ENCAMPMENTS?



Example: Vacation of 5 DESTINATIONS (*not*: TRIPS).

- ▶ **ANSWER:** “*Encampments are also called Journeys*”
(*Rashi, end of Exodus*) as they journey on from there.



BUT: Why emphasize PROCESS rather than GOALS?



- ▶ **EXPLANATION:** All encampments are part of JOURNEY to Promised Land. That's the GOAL!



Example: Relocating - 5 TRIPS (*not* DESTINATIONS).

Digging deeper:



But: It should say JOURNEY (not JOURNEYS)
(Example: Relocating - TRIP to new location, not TRIPS).



Chassidic explanation:

Baal Shem Tov: 42 JOURNEYS = stages of personal growth.



But: ENCAMPMENTS still works better.



Explanation:

‘JOURNEYS’ indicates exponential growth.

THREE TYPES OF GROWTH

NATURAL



עמידה

Standing

INCREMENTAL



הליכה

Walking

EXPONENTIAL



דילוג/נסיעה

Jumping/Journeying

“These are the journeys of the children of Israel as they left Egypt”

Alter Rebbe: Every journey is a form of Exodus.

Additional message:



42 JOURNEYS =

CHALLENGES and SETBACKS of Jewish history –
all part of FORWARD journey towards Moshiach.



Personal application:

CHALLENGES and PITFALLS =
journeys propelling us FORWARD.

Let's review:



Why JOURNEYS, not ENCAMPMENTS?

Explanation: It's all a JOURNEY to Promised Land.



Chassidic Level - 42 Journeys:

- 1 Stages of personal GROWTH;
should be exponential.
- 2 History & Life's CHALLENGES;
they're all journeys forward.