

Study Schedule for Rambam's Sefer HaMitzvos

21 Elul, 5778-4 Av, 5779 — 38th yearly cycle

Lesson Date Day Mitzvos

1 Elul 21/Sept. 1 Sh *Rambam's* Introduction: From (הספר הזה שאבאר בו...): "This book, in which I will explain..." (שאיכרתו) "that which we have mentioned." (האני עתה מתחיל בוידברין). "And now I will begin in noting the principles" (במוצו עשה) "in the positive *mitzvos*."

Rambam's Introduction

In his Introduction to *Sefer HaMitzvos*, the *Rambam* explains what led him to compose this work. Having first produced his famed Commentary to the *Mishnah*, the *Rambam* then wanted to write a comprehensive *Halachic* text. This is his *Mishneh Torah*, or *Yad HaChazakah*. In order to insure that this work be complete and cover all 613 *mitzvos*, he wanted to first list all these *mitzvos* at the beginning.

However, he was unable to find a list of the 613 *mitzvos* he was satisfied with. The Talmud, although it states clearly that there are 613 *mitzvos*, does not list precisely which count as *mitzvos* and which do not. Those commentaries who did list the *mitzvos* often disagree and are inconsistent, according to the *Rambam*, in the principles they use in determining which laws count in the total of 613.

He concludes, "Therefore, I saw it fitting to precede this book I mentioned (i.e. *Mishneh Torah*) with another work, namely this book, in which I will give the correct list of the *mitzvos* and explain the proper way to count them. I will therefore bring proofs from verses of the Torah and from the explanations of the Sages on them. I'll first give the Principles which should be relied upon in listing the *mitzvos*."

When by using this work, the total comes out correct — clearly proven and without any doubts — the reader will be able to detect the errors of all who used a method other than this to count the *mitzvos*. It will then be unnecessary for me to answer individuals or clarify their errors, for the benefit and goal of this work can be reached by those who seek it without this [individual correspondence]. For I shall explain all of the *mitzvos* and list them individually, bring a proof in any case of doubt or where there is the possibility that someone without deep knowledge of Torah could err. I will eliminate his error and explain all doubts.

However, this work's goal is not to give details of any *mitzvah*, but just to enumerate them. If I do explain some laws when mentioning the *mitzvah*, it will merely be to explain its name — to know what the *mitzvah* or prohibition actually is, and why it was given this name.

After we know the proper enumeration of *mitzvos* according to the proofs in this work, then I will list them briefly at the beginning of the general book [i.e. *Mishneh Torah*] that we have mentioned.

[The Principles]

And now I will begin to discuss the Principles, totaling fourteen, to be relied upon in enumerating the *mitzvos*.

However, I should first mention that the total number of *mitzvos* commanded to us by G-d in the *Sefer Torah* are 613. There are 248 positive commandments, like the number of limbs in the human body; and 365 prohibitions, like the days in a solar year. This count is mentioned in the Talmud in the end of tractate *Makkos*,¹ where our Sages said, "613 commandments were said to Moshe on Mt. Sinai: 365, corresponding to the days in a solar year, and 248, corresponding to a person's limbs." Our Sages² also said a *drash* on the similarity between the *mitzvos* and the number of limbs, that it is as if each limb tells the person, "Do a *mitzvah* with me!"; and on the similarity between the prohibitions and the days of the year that it is as if each day tells the person, "Don't do any prohibition on my day!"

Not a single commentary who lists the *mitzvos* erred in this enumeration [of 613 and the division of 248/365]. They were totally mistaken, however, in what goes into the list, as I will explain in this work. The reason for this [error] was because they did not know the 14 Principles that I will now explain.

The 1st Principle: Do not count Rabbinic Commandments in this list.

The 2nd Principle: Do not include laws which are derived from one of the 13 principles of Torah interpretation³ or from a *ribui*.⁴

The 3rd Principle: Do not count *mitzvos* which are not binding on all generations.

The 4th Principle: Do not count commands which cover all the *mitzvos*.

The 5th Principle: Do not count the reason for a *mitzvah* as an actual *mitzvah*.

1. 23b.
2. *Tanchuma, Ki Seitze*.
3. Of Rabbi Yishmael, as listed in the Daily Prayers.
4. An extra word, letter, etc. in a Scriptural verse.

The 6th Principle: When a *mitzvah* has both a positive commandment and a prohibition, the positive commandment is counted with the positive commandments and the prohibition with the prohibitions.

The 7th Principle: Do not count the details of a *mitzvah* [themselves as *mitzvos*].

The 8th Principle: Do not count a mere negative statement among the prohibitions.

The 9th Principle: Do not count the number of negative or positive statements, but the act which is prohibited or commanded.

The 10th Principle: Do not count the act which precedes [the *mitzvah*] as a *mitzvah*.

The 11th Principle: If one *mitzvah* includes a number of elements, do not count them separately.

The 12th Principle: When commanded to do a certain action, do not count each part of the action separately.

The 13th Principle: Although a certain *mitzvah* is performed for a number of days, this does not affect the number of *mitzvos*.

The 14th Principle: How one counts the modes of punishment as positive *mitzvos*.

- 2 Elul 22/Sept. 2 Su The principles*
- 3 Elul 23/Sept. 3 M The principles*
- 4 Elul 24/Sept. 4 Tu The principles*
- 5 Elul 25/Sept. 5 W P1, N1, P2
- 6 Elul 26/Sept. 6 Th P3, P4, P9
- 7 Elul 27/Sept. 7 F N63, N65, P172
- 8 Elul 28/Sept. 8 Sh N64, P8, P6, P206
- 9 Elul 29/Sept. 9 Su P207, N302, P205, N303
- 10 Tishrei 1/Sept. 10 M N256, N301, N304, N305
- 11 Tishrei 2/Sept. 11 Tu P11
- 12 Tishrei 3/Sept. 12 W P209
- 13 Tishrei 4/Sept. 13 Th N10, N47, N60, N6, N5, N2, N3, N4, N15, P186, N23, N24
- 14 Tishrei 5/Sept. 14 F N16, N17, N18, N19, N20, N21, N26, N28, N27, N29, N14, N8, N9, N7
- 15 Tishrei 6/Sept. 15 Sh N11, N12, N13, P185, N25, N22, N48, N50, N51, N30, N33, N31, N32
- 16 Tishrei 7/Sept. 16 Su N35, N38, N36, N37, N34, N43, N44, N40, N39, N41, N45, N171
- 17 Tishrei 8/Sept. 17 M P73
- 18 Tishrei 9/Sept. 18 Tu P73
- 19 Tishrei 10/Sept. 19 W P73
- 20 Tishrei 11/Sept. 20 Th P73, P10
- 21 Tishrei 12/Sept. 21 F P10, P5
- 22 Tishrei 13/Sept. 22 Sh P5
- 23 Tishrei 14/Sept. 23 Su P5
- 24 Tishrei 15/Sept. 24 M P5
- 25 Tishrei 16/Sept. 25 Tu P5
- 26 Tishrei 17/Sept. 26 W P26, P12
- 27 Tishrei 18/Sept. 27 Th P13
- 28 Tishrei 19/Sept. 28 F P15, P18
- 29 Tishrei 20/Sept. 29 Sh P17
- 30 Tishrei 21/Sept. 30 Su P14
- 31 Tishrei 22/Oct. 1 M P19
- 32 Tishrei 23/Oct. 2 Tu P19
- 33 Tishrei 24/Oct. 3 W P19
- 34 Tishrei 25/Oct. 4 Th P19, P215
- 35 Tishrei 26/Oct. 5 F P215. *Mishneh Torah*, End of *Sefer Ahavah*: From (סדר תפלות כל השנה) "Order of prayers for the whole year. The people are accustomed" (מינלוד עלינו וכו') to (ימלוד עלינו וכו'). He shall reign over us, etc."

36 Tishrei 27/Oct. 6 Sh *Mishneh Torah, ibid.*: From (ניסח ברכת התפלה וידיורו) "Text of Blessings of the Amidah and their Arrangement. א. (ברוך אתה) "He who makes peace, etc." [end of Text of *Viddui*].

37 Tishrei 28/Oct. 7 Su *Mishneh Torah ibid.*: From (ניסח ברכת המיוון) "Text of Blessing After a Meal. Blessed are You" (אניש ביי) "I will greatly rejoice in the L-rd." P154

38 Tishrei 29/Oct. 8 M P154

* In these days (which correspond to the study of the Introduction in *Mishneh Torah*), each person should learn the "Principles" according to his abilities. Whatever is left unlearned of the "Principles" should be studied in the following days (in addition to the scheduled portion of those days). For those listening to the shiurim on tape, MP3, etc., Principles 1-3 are explained in Lesson 2; Principles 4-6 — Lesson 3; Principles 7-9 — Lesson 4; Principle 10 — Lesson 64; Principle 11 — Lesson 65; Principle 12 — Lesson 72; Principle 13 — Lesson 73.

- 39 Tishrei 30/Oct. 9 Tu N320
- 40 Cheshvan 1/Oct. 10 W N320
- 41 Cheshvan 2/Oct. 11 Th N322
- 42 Cheshvan 3/Oct. 12 F N322
- 43 Cheshvan 4/Oct. 13 Sh N321
- 44 Cheshvan 5/Oct. 14 Su N321
- 45 Cheshvan 6/Oct. 15 M P155
- 46 Cheshvan 7/Oct. 16 Tu P155
- 47 Cheshvan 8/Oct. 17 W P155
- 48 Cheshvan 9/Oct. 18 Th N320
- 49 Cheshvan 10/Oct. 19 F N321
- 50 Cheshvan 11/Oct. 20 Sh P165, N329, P164, N196
- 51 Cheshvan 12/Oct. 21 Su P159, N323, P160, N324
- 52 Cheshvan 13/Oct. 22 M P162, N325, P163, N326
- 53 Cheshvan 14/Oct. 23 Tu P166, N327, P167, N328, N199
- 54 Cheshvan 15/Oct. 24 W P156, N197, N198
- 55 Cheshvan 16/Oct. 25 Th N200, N201, P158
- 56 Cheshvan 17/Oct. 26 F P157. *Mishneh Torah*, End of Laws of *Chometz* and *Matzah*: (ניסח ההגדה) Text of the *Haggadah*. P170
- 57 Cheshvan 18/Oct. 27 Sh P168
- 58 Cheshvan 19/Oct. 28 Su P169
- 59 Cheshvan 20/Oct. 29 M P171
- 60 Cheshvan 21/Oct. 30 Tu P171, P153
- 61 Cheshvan 22/Oct. 31 W P153
- 62 Cheshvan 23/Nov. 1 Th P153
- 63 Cheshvan 24/Nov. 2 F P153
- 64 Cheshvan 25/Nov. 3 Sh P153
- 65 Cheshvan 26/Nov. 4 Su P153
- 66 Cheshvan 27/Nov. 5 M P153, P59
- 67 Cheshvan 28/Nov. 6 Tu P59
- 68 Cheshvan 29/Nov. 7 W P59. *Mishneh Torah*: From (הלכות מגילת וחנוכה) "Laws of Megillah and Chanukah" to (בפרקים אלו). "In these chapters." Chapters 1-2.
- 69 Cheshvan 30/Nov. 8 Th *Mishneh Torah, ibid.*: Chapters 3-4. P213
- 70 Kislev 1/Nov. 9 F P213
- 71 Kislev 2/Nov. 10 Sh N355
- 72 Kislev 3/Nov. 11 Su N355
- 73 Kislev 4/Nov. 12 M N355
- 74 Kislev 5/Nov. 13 Tu N262
- 75 Kislev 6/Nov. 14 W N262
- 76 Kislev 7/Nov. 15 Th P212
- 77 Kislev 8/Nov. 16 F P212
- 78 Kislev 9/Nov. 17 Sh P222
- 79 Kislev 10/Nov. 18 Su P222
- 80 Kislev 11/Nov. 19 M N356
- 81 Kislev 12/Nov. 20 Tu N356
- 82 Kislev 13/Nov. 21 W N356, P216
- 83 Kislev 14/Nov. 22 Th P217
- 84 Kislev 15/Nov. 23 F N357
- 85 Kislev 16/Nov. 24 Sh P220, P218, N358, P219, N359
- 86 Kislev 17/Nov. 25 Su P223, N104
- 87 Kislev 18/Nov. 26 M N105, N330, N331, N332, N333, N334
- 88 Kislev 19/Nov. 27 Tu N336, N335, N337, N338, N339
- 89 Kislev 20/Nov. 28 W N340, N341, N342, N343, N344, N345
- 90 Kislev 21/Nov. 29 Th N348, N349, N350, N351
- 91 Kislev 22/Nov. 30 F N352, N347, N346
- 92 Kislev 23/Dec. 1 Sh N52, N53, N55, N54, N354, N360, N361
- 93 Kislev 24/Dec. 2 Su N161, N162, P38, N160, N158, N159
- 94 Kislev 25/Dec. 3 M N353, P149
- 95 Kislev 26/Dec. 4 Tu P150, P151, P152, N172, N174
- 96 Kislev 27/Dec. 5 W N173, N175, N176, N177, N178
- 97 Kislev 28/Dec. 6 Th N179, N180, N188
- 98 Kislev 29/Dec. 7 F N181, N182, N184, N185, N183
- 99 Kislev 30/Dec. 8 Sh N187, N186, N189, N190, N191, N192
- 100 Teves 1/Dec. 9 Su N193, N153, N194, P146
- 101 Teves 2/Dec. 10 M N101
- 102 Teves 3/Dec. 11 Tu P147
- 103 Teves 4/Dec. 12 W N306
- 104 Teves 5/Dec. 13 Th P148
- 105 Teves 6/Dec. 14 F N61

