

## **RaYBaSH's Torah Thoughts for Kids**

### **Parashah # 45: Va'etchanan "And I besought/pleaded"**

#### **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 3:23-7:11**

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There is much to learn about any subject isn't there? Like Doctors. They have to go to school for many years to learn how to be a Doctor. But all you need to know is the basics, meaning the least you need to know at the time, is that Doctors are there to help you get better when you are hurt or sick.

When you go to Kindergarten, there are many buildings and people you will get to know, but all you need to know when you go for the first time is the basics: your class room and your teacher and your parents usually take you there to see your class and to meet your teacher even before your school starts.

When you go to Kindergarten the only address and phone number you need to know is your own. Later you can learn the addresses and phone numbers of your relatives and friends. But at first the only basic one you need to know by heart is your own.

When playing games like baseball, there are many rules, but when you start to play, all you need to know is the basics, you take turns hitting the ball with a bat and try to make it all the way around the bases.

This Torah Portion is like the Basics, it's the least amount of rules you need to know when you are beginning to learn about the Torah.

There are 613 commandments! Yes, that's a lot, but not to worry, when you just start out learning about the Torah all you need to know is 10. That's much easier than 613 huh? You will learn the rest as you grow and get older. Here is why: What is  $6+1+3 = ?$  It equals 10, right!? There are 613 Commandments, but the 10 sum up the 613! Isn't that cool? And here they are:

- 1) I am the Lord your God.
- 2) You are not to have any other gods to worship except Me.
- 3) Do not use God's Name in a bad way.

- 4) Remember to rest and worship God on the Shabbat
- 5) Love and obey your father and your mother.
- 6) Do not kill anyone.
- 7) When you get married you are not to love anyone the same way you love your wife or husband.
- 8) Do not steal
- 9) Do not lie
- 10) Do not want what others have, be happy with the things you got.

If you can remember these, you got it made, the rest will come easy. These are the basic rules of living and making God and your parents happy.

You see, back when God gave the Torah to Israel, no one had books like we do today, so they had to remember what the Torah said. So God let the Tribe of Levi know all 613 Commandments and let the rest of Israel, just remember the 10, and as time went on they would slowly learn and remember all 613!

Shabbat Shalom and Shavuah Tov!

-- Yehudah ben Shomeyr