



# THE TRIBE SCRIBE

BEHAR: REST ASSURED!



THIS WEEK'S PARACHA DISCUSSES THE MITZVAH OF SHEMITAH, A SPECIAL MITZVAH FOR THE LAND OF ISRAEL.

JOIN US AS WE MEET THE SHIMONIS ON THEIR FARM IN ISRAEL, TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE MITZVAH OF SHEMITAH.



Farmers Shimoni have a large farm in Northern Israel.



ALRIGHT, TIME TO PACK EVERYTHING AWAY NOW BEFORE SHEMITAH STARTS. WE NEED TO SAY GOODBYE TO OUR EVERYDAY WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND.

EVERY SEVEN YEARS WE HAVE THE SHEMITAH YEAR. SHEMITAH IS A KIND OF SHABBAT FOR THE LAND - A YEAR OFF FOR THE EARTH. WE DON'T DO ANY WORK IN OUR FARMLAND DURING THE YEAR OF SHEMITAH.

DURING SHEMITAH WE LEAVE THE LAND TO REST, DOING ONLY WHAT IS NECESSARY FOR OUR PERSONAL NEEDS. ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND HELP THEMSELVES TO ANY FOOD THAT GROWS FREELY. THE LAND OF ISRAEL IS ON VACATION!

SHEMITAH REMINDS US THAT EVERYTHING COMES FROM GOD. YES, WE WORK HARD, WE PLANT AND DIG AND DO OUR BIT BUT IT IS GOD WHO SENDS THE RAIN AT THE RIGHT TIME AND IT IS GOD WHO MAKES THE CROPS GROW.



WE CAN FOCUS AND DEVELOP OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR LIVES. WE CAN THINK MORE ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND LESS ABOUT OUR OWN POWER.

NOWADAYS, MOST OF US DON'T WORK ON FARMS OR IN AGRICULTURE BUT WE CAN PARTICIPATE IN OTHER ASPECTS OF SHEMITAH. SHEMITAH IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFOCUS OUR PRIORITIES.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The next *Shemita* year is 5782: September 2021 - September 2022!

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Tribe is the Young People's Department of the United Synagogue: Creating a future for our community through engaging, educating and inspiring the next generation.