

Addendum to Rabbi Moshe Atik's Torah Teasers

הגדה של פסח

Questions

1. Which letter of the אֶל־בֵּית appears the most times in the words of the סימני הסדר, the order of what is done at the *seder* (קדש, ורחץ...)? (The letter appears 9 times)
2. Which of the סימני הסדר have a letter doubled in its name? (4 answers)
3. In what context is the number 70 mentioned? (2 answers)
4. In what פסוק, that we say every day in the daily prayers, is read in the הגדה and is the only place where the name of משה רבינו is mentioned?
5. What expression describing Hashem appears over eleven times in the הגדה but nowhere in the entire Torah?
6. Which cities appear in the מגיד portion of the הגדה? (3 answers)
7. What פרשה in the Torah is the source for the main text of the Pesach story read in the הגדה?
8. Who is the first person in the Torah actually referred to as a a) חכם, wise person? b) רשע - evil person, c) תם - simple person?
9. a) Which תנאים, sages found in the Mishna, are mentioned twice? (3 answers) b) What are the names of the other תנאים found? (6 answers)
10. Which specific mountains appear in מגיד? (2 answers)
11. Which of the ten plagues appears twice?
12. a) Which person's name from the Torah appear the most times in the הלל recited on the night of Pesach? (2 answers) b) Which other names of people from the Torah are found in the הלל? (5 answers).
13. a) Which parts of the body appear in הלל more than once? (4 answers) b) Which other parts of the body appear only once (4 answers).
14. Which body of water appears in the הלל?
15. Which creatures appear in the הלל? (3 answers)
16. Which פסוקים in the הלל comprise the shortest chapter of the entire תנ"ך?

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Answers

1. The letter ריש appears nine times. ברוך, שלחן עורך, כורך, מרור, רחצה, כרפס, ורחץ, נרצה.
2. ריש - two of the letter מרור, כף - two of the letter כורך, למד - two of the letter הלל, מצה - two of the letter מם and two of the letter צדי.
3. רבי אלעזר בן עזריה states “הֲרִי אֲנִי כְּבֶן שִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה” - “Behold I am like a man of 70 years old.” The הגדה quotes that the children of יעקב went down to Egypt - פרשת עקב from פסוק “בְּמִתֵּי מֵעֹט” - “Few in number” like it states in the פסוק from פרשת עקב “בְּשִׁבְעִים נַפְשׁ יָרְדוּ אֲבוֹתַיךָ מִצְרַיִמָּה” - “With 70 souls did your ancestors come down to Egypt” (דברים י:כב).
4. In the paragraph following the ten plagues we state the פסוק from פרשת וישלח, “וַיִּאֱמֵנוּ בְּיְיָ וּבַמֶּשֶׁה עֲבָדוֹ” - “And they (the Children of Israel) trusted in Hashem and in Moshe His servant” (שמות י:לא). This פסוק is included in the daily פסוקי דזמרא recited before the song of אז ישיר.
5. The expression “הקדוש ברוך הוא” - “The Holy Blessed One” appears over eleven times in the הגדה but nowhere in the entire Torah.
6. (1) The חכמים at the beginning of מגיד were in בני ברק. (2-3) “וַיִּבְנוּ עָרֵי מְסֻכָּנוֹת” - “They built storage cities for Pharoah, Pisom and Raamses” (שמות א:יא). “לְפָרְעָה. אֶת־פִּתּוֹם וְאֶת־רַעַמְסֵס”.
7. The Torah text of the הגדה beginning with the words “אַרְמֵי אֲבֹד אֲבִי” is found at the beginning of פרשת כי תבוא (דברים כו:ה) and are begin the paragraph that the farmer recites when he brings his ביכורים, first-fruits to the Temple.
8. a) The first person to be referred to as a חכם is יוסף. In פרשת מקץ, יוסף interprets the dreams of פרעה and advises him to appoint a wise and understanding man to prepare Egypt during the years of plenty for the years of famine. פרעה then turns to יוסף and states “אֵין־נָבוֹן וְחָכָם כָּמוֹךָ” - “There is no understanding and wise man like you” (בראשית מא:לט). b) Although in פרשת סדום רשעים petitions Hashem not to destroy the צדיקים with the רשעים of וירא (בראשית יח:כג), the first specific person to be called a רשע is found in פרשת שמות. When משה sees one Jewish slave about to strike another the פסוק states “וַיֹּאמֶר לְרָשָׁע לָמָּה תִּכָּה רֵעֶךָ” - “And he (Moshe) said to the wicked person: Why will you strike your friend?” (שמות ב:יג). c) In פרשת תולדות, יעקב is described as

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- a “בראשית) - simple(wholesome) man, dweller of tents” (איש תם ישב אהלים” - כה:כז).
9. b) The words רבי אלעזר בן עזריא, רבי אליעזר, רבי עקיבא, רבי יהודה and רבן גמליאל, רבי יוסי הגלילי, בן זומא, רבי טרפון, רבי יהושע appear only once in various paragraphs.
10. (1) הר סיני as it states “and I gave to Esav, Mount Seir [in order that he] inherit it” (יהושע כד:ב-ד). (2) The hymn refers several times to the giving of the Torah on הר סיני, Mount Sinai.
11. The plague of דם, blood, and דָּבָר, pestilence, are mentioned twice. Once with the listing of the other plagues and once earlier paragraphs.
12. a) (תהלים קטו:ד, טו, קית:ו, ח), אדם and (תהלים קיד:ב, קטו:ט, יב, קית:ב) ישראל each appear four times. b) The following other names of people from the Torah appear in the הלל: (1) חם the son of נח, grandson of (תהלים קיד:א), (2) יהודה (תהלים קטו:י, יב, קית:ג), אהרון (תהלים קטו:יג, יד, קית:ב), יעקב (תהלים קטו:יד, יז, קית:ב), and (5) יוסף (תהלים קטו:יז, יח, קית:ב).
13. a) The following parts of the body appear in the הלל more than once: (1) Hands (תהלים קטו:ד, ז), (2) eyes (תהלים קטו:ה), (3) Ears (תהלים קטו:ח), and (4) legs (תהלים קטו:ב). b) The following parts of the body appear in the הלל only once: (1) Fingers (תהלים קטו:ד), (2) mouth (תהלים קטו:ה), (3) nose (תהלים קטו:ו), and (4) throat (תהלים קטו:ז).
14. The river ירדן appears in the verse “הַיַּרְדֵּן תָּסֹב לְאַחֲרָיו” - “The Jordan river turned backwards” (תהלים קיד:ג).
15. (1), (2) In the second paragraph it states “הַהָרִים רָקְדוּ כְּאֵילִים, גְּבָעוֹת כְּבָנִי צֹאן” - “The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like young lambs” (תהלים קיד:ד). (3) Towards the end of the הלל it states “סָבְוּנִי כְּדַבְרִים” - “They encircle me like bees” (תהלים קית:ב).
16. The two פסוקים from קז - פרק קז - “בְּכִי גָבַר” - “עָלֵינוּ חֲסִידוֹ וְאַמְתֵּד לְעוֹלָם הַלְלוּהָ” comprise the shortest chapter in תנ”ך.