



DKJA

Parshat Yitro

Exodus 18:1 – 20:23

This week's Torah portion is called Yitro, named after Moses' father-in-law, whose good advice Moses was eager to accept.

The most important element in the entire Bible is the Revelation of G-d to the Israelites and the statement of the Ten Commandments.

While all religions accepted the Ten Commandments as their basic teaching, it was the Jewish religion that gave these universal laws to mankind.

The main purpose of the Ten Commandments and the other laws of the Torah were to teach our ancestors and us to live a life of justice and holiness. "And you shall be unto me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." All the laws given in the Torah are justified by the statement, "Holy shall you be for holy am I the L-rd." The Ten Commandments are the steps towards attaining the state of being a holy nation. The idea that Israel is G-d's chosen people, which is stated in verse 5, chapter 10, is not to be understood as meaning that G-d likes us better than other people. All people, all human beings are equally G-d's creation. We might say that we chose G-d, and by choosing G-d we became the chosen people.

The Ten Commandments are the most important laws in the Torah. They have been recognized as the bases of all civilized life. Without them, it would be difficult for people to live together. While all religions accepted them as the bases of their teachings, it should be a source of pride to use that it was our people that gave these great laws to mankind.

Food for thought:

1. What is your understanding of "The Chosen People?"
2. The fifth commandment tells us to honor our parents. One way I can do this mitzvah is by _____.

Shabbat Shalom
Candle lighting time is: 5:42 PM

