# Parshas Yisro - The Unique Claim of the Jewish People

| | |
|---|---|
| YOU have seen what I did to מצרים | שמות י"ט:ד'<br>אַתֶּם רְאִיתֶם אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי לְמִצְרָיִם |
| YOU YOURSELVES saw that I spoke to YOU from the very heavens | שמות כ':י"ט<br>אַתֶּם רְאִיתֶם כִּי מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם דִּבַּרְתִּי עִמָּכֶם |

**Instructions For Teaching This Lesson:**
Present to your class the solidity of the episode of מעמד הר סיני.

**Step 1:**
Through the משל, explain the absurdity of convincing multitudes of people that they saw something they didn't see. Emphasize how difficult this claim is to falsify.

**Step 2:**
Teach that הר סיני was a national public revelation and it took place in front of millions of people. This is a unique claim that no other religion makes and has never been claimed by anyone.

**Step 3:**
Discuss with the students that the Torah says that the generation that saw Hashem received the Torah and it was written down. Therefore, if it wasn't true, there would definitely have been denials.

**Step 4:**
The major religions of the world agree to this claim and accept מתן תורה as a historical fact.

**Step 5:**
Show the Divine Fingerprints videos:
The Chain of Transmission https://weteachtoreach.com/the-chain-of-transmission/
Mark Twain and the Jews https://weteachtoreach.com/mark-twain-and-the-jews/

# Parshas Yisro - The Unique Claim of the Jewish People

The following two scenarios can be acted out by the teacher in the classroom, or they can be used as a משל for the class.

First Scenario:
The Rebbe/Morah walks into class and says to the students:
You'll never believe what happened to me last night?!?! There was a knock on my door at around 9 pm. I opened it and there were a few men standing there.
They said to me, "Are you Morah_____/Rabbi_____? You won the raffle!! Remember you put in for a raffle in the mall to win a helicopter ride with the President? Well, you're the winner!!"
I kid you not, from 9 pm to 3 am, I was on a helicopter ride with the President! I saw the White House, the Capital, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and so much more, and it ended with an early gourmet breakfast with the President! It was AMAZING!!

Do you believe me?

Most likely, most of the class will not believe it. There may be some students who trust the Rebbe/Morah enough to believe it.

Second Scenario:
The Rebbe/Morah says the same story, but insists that the story happened to the whole class together. We all went on a helicopter ride.... Wasn't it AMAZING!?....

Now who would believe it? NO ONE!!!

Why is this so?

You may be able to convince people that something happened to YOU, but you will never be able to convince them that it happened to THEM. No one will believe you if you say that it happened to them.

# Parshas Yisro - The Unique Claim of the Jewish People

דברים ד:ט-י

רַ֣ק הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ֡... פֶּן־תִּשְׁכַּח֩ אֶת־הַדְּבָרִ֨ים אֲשֶׁר־רָא֜וּ עֵינֶ֗יךָ... וְהוֹדַעְתָּ֖ם לְבָנֶ֣יךָ וְלִבְנֵ֣י בָנֶ֑יךָ: יוֹם֩ אֲשֶׁ֨ר עָמַ֜דְתָּ לִפְנֵ֣י ה' אלקיך בְּחֹרֵ֗ב

But take utmost care... so that YOU do not forget the things that YOU saw with YOUR OWN EYES... And make them known to your children and to your children's children: The day YOU stood before your ה' at חרב.

דברים ד:לו

מִן־הַשָּׁמַ֞יִם הִשְׁמִיעֲךָ֣ אֶת־קֹל֗וֹ לְיַסְּרֶךָּ֙ וְעַל־הָאָ֣רֶץ הֶרְאֲךָ֔ אֶת־אִשּׁ֖וֹ הַגְּדוֹלָ֑ה וּדְבָרָ֥יו שָׁמַ֖עְתָּ מִתּ֥וֹךְ הָאֵֽשׁ:

From the שמים, He let YOU hear His voice to discipline you; on earth He let YOU see His great fire; and from amidst that fire YOU heard His words.

It's amazing that throughout the תורה it says that we have heard and that we have seen all of the miracles that happened.

It's interesting that no other religion claims that all the people have heard G-d speak directly to the whole nation. What do they say? They say that G-d revealed himself to one prophet or a few wise men and he received a message about the new religion. They all are based on one dreamer or prophet! The תורה alone is based on 3,000,000 witnesses hearing ה''s voice and receiving the תורה at הר סיני. As opposed to one witness, we have 3,000,000. How do we believe this? The first generation wouldn't have accepted the תורה if what it said about them was not true. And they wouldn't have passed it down to their children and lied about it together. Imagine 3,000,000 people agreeing on the same lie to tell their children! And future generations would never have believed such incredible stories about their ancestors if they had not heard them personally from their fathers. They would ask, "If such great things really happened, I would definitely have heard it. Why did I not hear of this?"

# Parshas Yisro - The Unique Claim of the Jewish People

If you get a book to remind you about the amazing events that happened in your life, if it wasn't true, what would you do with it?
You would burn it or throw it out. And if you kept it, would you ever pass it down to your children? Would you tell them to live by it? Would you tell them to die for it?
The first generation of 3,000,000 people accepted the תורה, kept the תורה, passed it down to their children, told them to live by it, and to die for it!

"How do I know that someone 2,500 years ago didn't make up the Torah, bring it to us, and say, 'I found this Torah and it dates back to your ancestors'?"

If such a person would come, we would question why we had never heard about these great miracles if they really happened. Amazing, supernatural events are not easily forgotten from history especially if they were seen by 3,000,000 people. Especially if the claim is that this occurred to our families.

The תורה itself says כי לא תשכח מפי זרעו - for it will never be lost from the mouth of their offspring (דברים לא כא).
Imagine someone came with a claim that the Torah was lost and forgotten and he is reviving it. It would be very foolish for him to write in the document that it will never be lost and forgotten. It demonstrates for all to see that the document is not true. And people wouldn't accept a document that is contradicting its premise.

Everybody, including the historians, have heard of Moshe and nobody ever heard of this person who you think may have come and introduced the Torah to the world. The major religions of the world agree to this claim and accept this as a historical fact.

# Parshas Yisro - The Unique Claim of the Jewish People

There are נבואות that predict events that occurred much later in history that no human could have predicted.

The following prediction in the תורה goes completely against human logic.

דברים כח:לז

וְהָיִיתָ לְשַׁמָּה לְמָשָׁל וְלִשְׁנִינָה בְּכֹל הָעַמִּים

You will become a source of astonishment, be cited as an example, and become the subject of gossip among all the nations

This is unbelievable considering our size. We are so small and everyone is always talking about us. It doesn't make sense. We are such a small percentage of the world. We are in the news, discussed at UN meetings...in an amount that is way out of proportion!
From 2015 through 2023, the UN General Assembly has adopted 154 resolutions against Israel and 71 against all the other countries of the world put together. In 2024, the UN General Assembly adopted 17 resolutions on Israel and only six resolutions on the entire rest of the world!
Our new president whose job is to run the entire country and deal with the entire world already had so many meetings and speeches concerning Israel and his plans for their security. This has been the trend for years.

We are talked about way more than our size both for bad and for good. The Jews make up 0.2% of the world's population, and won 22% of the Nobel prizes!

"If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one percent of the human race... Properly the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his commercial importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk. His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine, and abstruse learning are also away out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers.... The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greek and the Roman followed.... The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?"

- Mark Twain

# Parshas Yisro - The Unique Claim of the Jewish People

The next three נבואות, defy logic as well. Logically, a population should either increase or become extinct. It is very unlikely that a population should remain small, yet never become extinct. According to logic, people who are divided all over the world will assimilate into those countries and lose their identity. People who are tortured and beaten are the most likely to disappear as a nation.

דברים כח:סב

וְנִשְׁאַרְתֶּם בִּמְתֵי מְעָט תַּחַת אֲשֶׁר הֱיִיתֶם כְּכוֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם לָרֹב

You shall be left a scant few, after having been as numerous as the stars in the skies
Even though we have survived for all the years, we have remained small in number.

דברים כח:סד

וֶהֱפִיצְךָ ה' בְּכָל־הָעַמִּים מִקְצֵה הָאָרֶץ וְעַד־קְצֵה הָאָרֶץ

ה' will scatter you among all the peoples from one end of the earth to the other
Every continent has reported and still holds today many Jewish populations (except maybe Antarctica)

דברים כח:סה-סו

וּבַגּוֹיִם הָהֵם לֹא תַרְגִּיעַ וְלֹא־יִהְיֶה מָנוֹחַ לְכַף־רַגְלֶךָ... וְהָיוּ חַיֶּיךָ תְּלֻאִים לְךָ מִנֶּגֶד וּפָחַדְתָּ לַיְלָה וְיוֹמָם

And among those nations you will not be tranquil, there will be no rest for the sole of your foot; Your life will hang in balance, and you will be frightened night and day
There practically has not been a Jewish community in any era that has not felt the hostility of the dominant culture.

This has been our story throughout our history, yet we are still here!!! And we remain strong!!!!

נצח ישראל לא ישקר! (שמואל א' טו:כט)

# Parshas Yisro - The Unique Claim of the Jewish People

What do we learn from the fact that the תורה says “You” when discussing the נסים and the receiving of the תורה?

_____

_____

What is unique about מתן תורה compared to any other prophesy?

_____

_____

Translate: כי לא תשכח מפי זרעו

_____

_____

How does this being in the תורה prove that the תורה is true?

_____

_____

Choose two נבואות from the תורה that are being fulfilled today and explain how they defy logic:

1. _____

   _____

2. _____

   _____

# Parshas Yisro - The Unique Claim of the Jewish People

What do we learn from the fact that the תורה says “You” when discussing the נסים and the receiving of the תורה?

It must be true because no one would accept something that claimed that something happened to them if it didn't happen

What is unique about מתן תורה compared to any other prophesy?

It was done to 3,000,000 people together

Translate: כי לא תשכח מפי זרעו

It will not be forgotten from their children

How does this being in the תורה prove that the תורה is true?

Someone who would make up something and claim that they found it and it was forgotten would never write that it will never be forgotten - it contradicts their claim

Choose two נבואות from the תורה that are being fulfilled today and explain how they defy logic:

1. וְהָיִיתָ לְשִׁמָּה לְמָשָׁל וְלִשְׁנִינָה בְּכֹל֙ הָעַמִּ֔ים - You will be talked about such a small number of people shouldn't be the most talked about people
2. וְהֵפִיצְךָ֣ ה' בְּכֹל־הָעַמִּ֑ים - You will be scattered around the world Scattered people should assimilate