

## Parshas Behar – How to Move From Being a Seeker of Faith into a Believer:

1. **Vayikra 25; 1-2:** Hashem spoke to Moshe on Mt. Sinai, saying: Speak to the Children of Israel and say to them: When you come into the land that I give you, the land shall observe a Sabbath of rest for Hashem.
2. **Rashi:** What is the matter of Shemittah doing next to Mt. Sinai? Were not all of the Mitzvot stated at Sinai? But, just as with Shemittah its general rules and its fine points were stated at Sinai, so, too, all of the commandments, their general rules and fine points were stated at Sinai?
3. **Chazal:** Hashem looked into the Torah and created the world.
4. **Talmud Shabbat 33b:** They came out and saw people plowing and planting and said: "They are abandoning eternal ["Chayei Olam"] life and engaging in momentary life ["Chayei Sha'a"]". Every place where they cast their eyes immediately was burned up.
5. **Rav Kook:** The foundation of evil comes when a person abandons the highest source of personal happiness, and he is forced to descend and become a servant to his personal needs, which increase and confuse his intellect and the purity of his heart. Therefore, the entire life with all its pathways, become one great evil that comes from the decline of man. This all depends on what he wants, for should he raise himself and understand that his happiness can be found within himself, through his completing the G-dly image that that is within himself with the light of wisdom and straightness, as they are flowing from the river coming out of the Garden of Eden...then he would be able to live without struggle...he would no longer need all the social relationships, in order to get his bread through the sweat of his brow, and to be a slave to all the lower level requirements in the life of his physical life and political life...And he would have no need to be involved in "temporary life," for he would find enough satisfaction with his blessings and joy. Consequently, all baser physical needs, sickness, and sorrow would leave him....The Divine Providence placed this yoke [of temporary life] upon him in order to keep him too busy to be involved in lower desires....But why does he need all of this? Isn't he able to lift himself up immediately and cast off his load, to fulfill himself daily with holy visions and supernal thoughts that are etched inside of him, and daily rise to his naturally high state of who he is, and to take pleasure in Hashem.
6. **Vayikra 25; 20-21:** If you will say: "What will we eat in the seventh year? - Behold! We will not sow and we will not gather our crop?" I will ordain My blessing for you in the sixth year and it will yield a crop for the three years.
7. **Devarim 7; 17-18:** Perhaps you will say in your heart, "These nations are more numerous than I; how will I be able to drive them out?" Do not fear them! You shall remember what Hashem, your G-d, did to Pharaoh and to all of Egypt...so shall Hashem, your G-d, do to all the peoples before whom you fear.
8. **Jeremiah 5; 1:** Walk through the streets of Jerusalem...and see if you will find someone who is a seeker of faith.