

Study Schedule for Rambam's Sefer HaMitzvos

17 Adar II, 5784-30 Shevat, 5785 — 44th yearly cycle

Lesson Date Day Mitzvos
1 Adar II 17/March 27 W *Rambam's Introduction*: From (רמב"ם הוסיף זה שאבאר בו...): "הספר הזה שכתבתי...": "that which we have explained..." (שכתבתי) "And now I will begin in noting the principles" (במנוח) "in the positive mitzvos."

Rambam's Introduction

In his Introduction to *Sefer HaMitzvos*, the *Rambam* explains what led him to compose this work. Having first produced his famed Commentary to the *Mishnah*, the *Rambam* then wanted to write a comprehensive *Halachic* text. This is his *Mishneh Torah*, or *Yad HaChazakah*. In order to insure that this work be complete and cover all 613 mitzvos, he wanted to first list all these mitzvos at the beginning.

However, he was unable to find a list of the 613 mitzvos he was satisfied with. The Talmud, although it states clearly that there are 613 mitzvos, does not list precisely which count as mitzvos and which do not. Those commentaries who did list the mitzvos often disagree and are inconsistent, according to the *Rambam*, in the principles they use in determining which laws count in the total of 613.

He concludes, "Therefore, I saw it fitting to precede this book I mentioned (i.e. *Mishneh Torah*) with another work, namely this book, in which I will give the correct list of the mitzvos and explain the proper way to count them. I will therefore bring proofs from verses of the Torah and from the explanations of the Sages on them. I'll first give the Principles which should be relied upon in listing the mitzvos.

When by using this work, the total comes out correct — clearly proven and without any doubts — the reader will be able to detect the errors of all who used a method other than this to count the mitzvos. It will then be unnecessary for me to answer individuals or clarify their errors, for the benefit and goal of this work can be reached by those who seek it without this [individual correspondence]. For I shall explain all of the mitzvos and list them individually, bring a proof in any case of doubt or where there is the possibility that someone without deep knowledge of Torah could err. I will eliminate his error and explain all doubts.

However, this work's goal is not to give details of any mitzvah, but just to enumerate them. If I do explain some laws when mentioning the mitzvah, it will merely be to explain its name — to know what the mitzvah or prohibition actually is, and why it was given this name.

After we know the proper enumeration of mitzvos according to the proofs in this work, then I will list them briefly at the beginning of the general book [i.e. *Mishneh Torah*] that we have mentioned.

[The Principles]

And now I will begin to discuss the Principles, totaling fourteen, to be relied upon in enumerating the mitzvos.

However, I should first mention that the total number of mitzvos commanded to us by G-d in the *Sefer Torah* are 613. There are 248 positive commandments, like the number of limbs in the human body; and 365 prohibitions, like the days in a solar year. This count is mentioned in the Talmud in the end of tractate *Makkos*,¹ where our Sages said, "613 commandments were said to Moshe on Mt. Sinai: 365, corresponding to the days in a solar year, and 248, corresponding to a person's limbs." Our Sages² also said a *drash* on the similarity between the mitzvos and the number of limbs, that it is as if each limb tells the person, "Do a mitzvah with me!"; and on the similarity between the prohibitions and the days of the year that it is as if each day tells the person, "Don't do any prohibition on my day!"

Not a single commentary who lists the mitzvos erred in this enumeration [of 613 and the division of 248/365]. They were totally mistaken, however, in what goes into the list, as I will explain in this work. The reason for this [error] was because they did not know the 14 Principles that I will now explain.

The 1st Principle: Do not count Rabbinic Commandments in this list.

The 2nd Principle: Do not include laws which are derived from one of the 13 principles of Torah interpretation³ or from a *ribui*.⁴

The 3rd Principle: Do not count mitzvos which are not binding on all generations.

The 4th Principle: Do not count commands which cover all the mitzvos.

The 5th Principle: Do not count the reason for a mitzvah as an actual mitzvah.

The 6th Principle: When a mitzvah has both a positive commandment and a prohibition, the positive commandment is counted with the positive commandments and the prohibition with the prohibitions.

The 7th Principle: Do not count the details of a mitzvah [themselves as mitzvos].

The 8th Principle: Do not count a mere negative statement among the prohibitions.

The 9th Principle: Do not count the number of negative or positive statements, but the act which is prohibited or commanded.

The 10th Principle: Do not count the act which precedes [the mitzvah] as a mitzvah.

The 11th Principle: If one mitzvah includes a number of elements, do not count them separately.

The 12th Principle: When commanded to do a certain action, do not count each part of the action separately.

The 13th Principle: Although a certain mitzvah is performed for a number of days, this does not affect the number of mitzvos.

The 14th Principle: How one counts the modes of punishment as positive mitzvos.

2	Adar II 18/March 28	Th	The principles*
3	Adar II 19/March 29	F	The principles*
4	Adar II 20/March 30	Sh	The principles*
5	Adar II 21/March 31	Su	P1, N1, P2
6	Adar II 22/April 1	M	P3, P4, P9
7	Adar II 23/April 2	Tu	N63, N65, P172
8	Adar II 24/April 3	W	N64, P8, P6, P206
9	Adar II 25/April 4	Th	P207, N302, P205, N303
10	Adar II 26/April 5	F	N256, N301, N304, N305
11	Adar II 27/April 6	Sh	P11
12	Adar II 28/April 7	Su	P209
13	Adar II 29/April 8	M	N10, N47, N60, N6, N5, N2, N3, N4, N15, P186, N23, N24
14	Nissan 1/April 9	Tu	N16, N17, N18, N19, N20, N21, N26, N28, N27, N29, N14, N8, N9, N7
15	Nissan 2/April 10	W	N11, N12, N13, P185, N25, N22, N48, N50, N51, N30, N33, N31, N32
16	Nissan 3/April 11	Th	N35, N38, N36, N37, N34, N43, N44, N40, N39, N41, N45, N171
17	Nissan 4/April 12	F	P73
18	Nissan 5/April 13	Sh	P73
19	Nissan 6/April 14	Su	P73
20	Nissan 7/April 15	M	P73, P10
21	Nissan 8/April 16	Tu	P10, P5
22	Nissan 9/April 17	W	P5
23	Nissan 10/April 18	Th	P5
24	Nissan 11/April 19	F	P5
25	Nissan 12/April 20	Sh	P5
26	Nissan 13/April 21	Su	P26, P12
27	Nissan 14/April 22	M	P13
28	Nissan 15/April 23	Tu	P15, P18
29	Nissan 16/April 24	W	P17
30	Nissan 17/April 25	Th	P14
31	Nissan 18/April 26	F	P19
32	Nissan 19/April 27	Sh	P19
33	Nissan 20/April 28	Su	P19
34	Nissan 21/April 29	M	P19, P215
35	Nissan 22/April 30	Tu	P215. <i>Mishneh Torah</i> , End of <i>Sefer Ahavah</i> : From (סדר תפלות כל השנה) "Order of prayers for the whole year. The people are accustomed" (ימלך עלינו וכו') "He shall reign over us, etc."
36	Nissan 23/May 1	W	<i>Mishneh Torah, ibid.</i> : From (נוסח ברכות התפילה וידיורו) "Text of Blessings of the Amidah and their Arrangement. א. (ברוך נושה. ונושה שלום וכו') "He who makes peace, etc." [end of Text of <i>Viddu</i>].
37	Nissan 24/May 2	Th	<i>Mishneh Torah ibid.</i> : From (נוסח ברכת המזון) "Text of Blessing After a Meal. Blessed are You" (איש יש ביי") "I will greatly rejoice in the L-rd." P154
38	Nissan 25/May 3	F	P154

* In these days (which correspond to the study of the Introduction in *Mishneh Torah*), each person should learn the "Principles" according to his abilities. Whatever is left unlearned of the "Principles" should be studied in the following days (in addition to the scheduled portion of those days). For those listening to the shiurim on tape, MP3, etc., Principles 1-3 are explained in Lesson 2; Principles 4-6 — Lesson 3; Principles 7-9 — Lesson 4; Principle 10 — Lesson 64; Principle 11 — Lesson 65; Principle 12 — Lesson 72; Principle 13 — Lesson 73.

39	Nissan 26/May 4	Sh	N320
40	Nissan 27/May 5	Su	N320
41	Nissan 28/May 6	M	N322
42	Nissan 29/May 7	Tu	N322
43	Nissan 30/May 8	W	N321
44	Iyar 1/JMay 9	Th	N321
45	Iyar 2/May 10	F	P155
46	Iyar 3/May 11	Sh	P155
47	Iyar 4/May 12	Su	P155
48	Iyar 5/May 13	M	N320
49	Iyar 6/May 14	Tu	N321
50	Iyar 7/May 15	W	P165, N329, P164, N196
51	Iyar 8/May 16	Th	P159, N323, P160, N324
52	Iyar 9/May 17	F	P162, N325, P163, N326
53	Iyar 10/May 18	Sh	P166, N327, P167, N328, N199
54	Iyar 11/May 19	Su	P156, N197, N198
55	Iyar 12/May 20	M	N200, N201, P158
56	Iyar 13/May 21	Tu	P157. <i>Mishneh Torah</i> , End of <i>Laws of Chometz and Matzah</i> : (נוסח ההגדה) Text of the <i>Haggadah</i> . P170
57	Iyar 14/May 22	W	P168
58	Iyar 15/May 23	Th	P169
59	Iyar 16/May 24	F	P171
60	Iyar 17/May 25	Sh	P171, P153
61	Iyar 18/May 26	Su	P153
62	Iyar 19/May 27	M	P153
63	Iyar 20/May 28	Tu	P153
64	Iyar 21/May 29	W	P153
65	Iyar 22/May 30	Th	P153
66	Iyar 23/May 31	F	P153, P59
67	Iyar 24/June 1	Sh	P59
68	Iyar 25/June 2	Tu	P59. <i>Mishneh Torah</i> : From (הלכות מגילה וחנוכה) "Laws of Megillah and Chanukah" to ... (בפרקים אלו.) "In these chapters." Chapters 1-2.
69	Iyar 26/June 3	M	<i>Mishneh Torah, ibid.</i> : Chapters 3-4. P213
70	Iyar 27/June 4	Tu	P213
71	Iyar 28/June 5	W	N355
72	Iyar 29/June 6	Th	N355
73	Sivan 1/June 7	F	N355
74	Sivan 2/June 8	Sh	N262
75	Sivan 3/June 9	Su	N262
76	Sivan 4/June 10	M	P212
77	Sivan 5/June 11	Tu	P212
78	Sivan 6/June 12	W	P222
79	Sivan 7/June 13	Th	P222
80	Sivan 8/June 14	F	N356
81	Sivan 9/June 15	Sh	N356
82	Sivan 10/June 16	Su	N356, P216
83	Sivan 11/June 17	M	P217
84	Sivan 12/June 18	Tu	N357
85	Sivan 13/June 19	W	P220, P218, N358, P219, N359
86	Sivan 14/June 20	Th	P223, N104
87	Sivan 15/June 21	F	N105, N330, N331, N332, N333, N334
88	Sivan 16/June 22	Sh	N336, N335, N337, N338, N339
89	Sivan 17/June 23	Su	N340, N341, N342, N343, N344, N345
90	Sivan 18/June 24	M	N348, N349, N350, N351
91	Sivan 19/June 25	Tu	N352, N347, N346
92	Sivan 20/June 26	W	N52, N53, N55, N54, N354, N360, N361
93	Sivan 21/June 27	Th	N161, N162, P38, N160, N158, N159
94	Sivan 22/June 28	F	N353, P149
95	Sivan 23/June 29	Sh	P150, P151, P152, N172, N174
96	Sivan 24/June 30	Su	N173, N175, N176, N177, N178
97	Sivan 25/July 1	M	N179, N180, N188
98	Sivan 26/July 2	Tu	N181, N182, N184, N185, N183
99	Sivan 27/July 3	W	N187, N186, N189, N190, N191, N192
100	Sivan 28/July 4	Th	N193, N153, N194, P146
101	Sivan 29/July 5	F	N101
102	Sivan 30/July 6	Sh	P147
103	Tammuz 1/July 7	Su	N306
104	Tammuz 2/July 8	M	P148
105	Tammuz 3/July 9	Tu	N61
106	Tammuz 4/July 10	W	N62
107	Tammuz 5/July 11	Th	N248, N249

1. 23b.
 2. *Tanchuma, Ki Seitze*.
 3. Of Rabbi Yishmael, as listed in the Daily Prayers.
 4. An extra word, letter, etc. in a Scriptural verse.

