

## Housing of *Leviim*

Ref: *Sefer Zeraim, Hilchot Shmitah Veyovel, Chapter 13*



The tribe of *Levi* not to be given share in the Land of Israel but are given cities as gifts to dwell in<sup>19</sup> For the tribe of *Levi* not to be given a portion of the spoils of war<sup>20</sup>, To give the Levites cities in which to dwell, and the open land around these cities<sup>21</sup>. For these open lands never to be sold in a permanent manner. Rather they can be redeemed at all times before *yovel* or after<sup>22</sup>.

The entire tribe of *Levi* were commanded against receiving an inheritance in the Land of Canaan, and against receiving a share of the spoil when cities are conquered.

The Jewish People were commanded to give the Levites cities to dwell in.

These include:

- **6 *arei miklat*** (Cities of refuge)
- **42** additional cities
- **3 further *arei miklat*** with future redemption
- Plus the land around the cities

Size of cities:

- City itself
- From walls of city **3000 *amah*** in all directions
  - **1000 *amah*** clearance to beautify the city.
  - **2000 *amah*** for fields and vineyards
- Cemeteries beyond the 3000 *amah*



*Mipi Hashmuah*, these demarcations should remain forever i.e. one area should not encroach or expand out to another area.

As far as redemption rights for a Levite, they have eternal redemption rights. But this applies only in their designated areas i.e. if they inherit a property of an Israelite his rights are only those of an Israelite.

Why were Levi treated differently? They were set apart from the ways of the world to serve G-d and instruct the people at large.

Therefore Hashem has made this arrangement to provide for them.

Not only Levi can have this privilege. Every individual can set himself aside to serve *Hashem*, and *Hashem* will provide for him his needs even in this world, as He provides for the Priests and Levites, and *Hashem* will be his heritage forever.

 **Reminder:**  
Pack on *Leviim*

