

Study Schedule for Rambam's Sefer HaMitzvos

4 Tammuz, 5781-17 Iyar, 5782 — 41th yearly cycle

Lesson Date Day Mitzvos

1 Tammuz 4/June 14 M Rambam's Introduction: From (...הספר הזה שאבאר בו...): "This book, in which I will explain..." (שיכירו) "that which we have mentioned." (האני עתה מתחילי בוברור) "And now I will begin in noting the principles" to (במוצת עשה) "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*.

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.

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	Tammuz 5/June 15	Tu	The principles*
3	Tammuz 6/June 16	W	The principles*
4	Tammuz 7/June 17	Th	The principles*
5	Tammuz 8/June 18	F	P1, N1, P2
6	Tammuz 9/June 19	Sh	P3, P4, P9
7	Tammuz 10/June 20	Su	N63, N65, P172
8	Tammuz 11/June 21	M	N64, P8, P6, P206
9	Tammuz 12/June 22	Tu	P207, N302, P205, N303
10	Tammuz 13/June 23	W	N256, N301, N304, N305
11	Tammuz 14/June 24	Th	P11
12	Tammuz 15/June 25	F	P209
13	Tammuz 16/June 26	Sh	N10, N47, N60, N6, N5, N2, N3, N4, N15, P186, N23, N24
14	Tammuz 17/June 27	Su	N16, N17, N18, N19, N20, N21, N26, N28, N27, N29, N14, N8, N9, N7
15	Tammuz 18/June 28	M	N11, N12, N13, P185, N25, N22, N48, N50, N51, N30, N33, N31, N32
16	Tammuz 19/June 29	Tu	N35, N38, N36, N37, N34, N43, N44, N40, N39, N41, N45, N171
17	Tammuz 20/June 30	W	P73
18	Tammuz 21/July 1	Th	P73
19	Tammuz 22/July 2	F	P73
20	Tammuz 23/July 3	Sh	P73, P10
21	Tammuz 24/July 4	Su	P10, P5
22	Tammuz 25/July 5	M	P5
23	Tammuz 26/July 6	Tu	P5
24	Tammuz 27/July 7	W	P5
25	Tammuz 28/July 8	Th	P5
26	Tammuz 29/July 9	F	P26, P12
27	Av 1/July 10	Sh	P13
28	Av 2/July 11	Su	P15, P18
29	Av 3/July 12	M	P17
30	Av 4/July 13	Tu	P14
31	Av 5/July 14	W	P19
32	Av 6/July 15	Th	P19
33	Av 7/July 16	F	P19
34	Av 8/July 17**	Sh	P19, P215
35	Av 9/July 18***	Su	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" to (ימלוך עלינו וכו') He shall reign over us, etc."

36 Av 10/July 19 M *Mishneh Torah, ibid.*: From (ניסח ברכת התפלה וסידורו) "Text of Blessings of the Amidah and their Arrangement. א. בריך. ג. (עושה שלום וכו') "He who makes peace, etc." [end of Text of *Viddui*].

37 Av 11/July 20 Tu *Mishneh Torah ibid.*: From (ניסח ברכת המיוון) "Text of Blessing After a Meal. Blessed are You" to (אשיש בניי) "I will greatly rejoice in the L-rd." 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.

** Should be learned before midday.
*** Should be learned on *motzoei* Tishah BeAv.

38	Av 12/July 21	W	P154
39	Av 13/July 22	Th	N320
40	Av 14/July 23	F	N320
41	Av 15/July 24	Sh	N322
42	Av 16/July 25	Su	N322
43	Av 17/July 26	M	N321
44	Av 18/July 27	Tu	N321
45	Av 19/July 28	W	P155
46	Av 20/July 29	Th	P155
47	Av 21/July 30	F	P155
48	Av 22/July 31	Sh	N320
49	Av 23/Aug. 27	Su	N321
50	Av 24/Aug. 28	M	P165, N329, P164, N196
51	Av 25/Aug. 29	Tu	P159, N323, P160, N324
52	Av 26/Aug. 30	W	P162, N325, P163, N326
53	Av 27/Aug. 31	Th	P166, N327, P167, N328, N199
54	Av 28/Aug. 1	F	P156, N197, N198
55	Av 29/Aug. 2	Sh	N200, N201, P158
56	Av 30/Aug. 3	Su	P157. <i>Mishneh Torah</i> , End of Laws of <i>Chometz</i> and <i>Matzah</i> : (ניסח ההגדה) Text of the <i>Haggadah</i> . P170
57	Elul 1/Aug. 9	M	P168
58	Elul 2/Aug. 10	Tu	P169
59	Elul 3/Aug. 11	W	P171
60	Elul 4/Aug. 12	Th	P171, P153
61	Elul 5/Aug. 13	F	P153
62	Elul 6/Aug. 14	Sh	P153
63	Elul 7/Aug. 15	Su	P153
64	Elul 8/Aug. 16	M	P153
65	Elul 9/Aug. 17	Tu	P153
66	Elul 10/Aug. 18	W	P153, P59
67	Elul 11/Aug. 19	Th	P59
68	Elul 12/Aug. 20	F	P59. <i>Mishneh Torah</i> : From (הלכות מגילה וחנוכה) "Laws of Megillah and Chanukah" to (...בפרקים אלו.) "In these chapters." Chapters 1-2.
69	Elul 13/Aug. 21	Sh	<i>Mishneh Torah, ibid.</i> : Chapters 3-4. P213
70	Elul 14/Aug. 22	Su	P213
71	Elul 15/Aug. 23	M	N355
72	Elul 16/Aug. 24	Tu	N355
73	Elul 17/Aug. 25	W	N355
74	Elul 18/Aug. 26	Th	N262
75	Elul 19/Aug. 27	F	N262
76	Elul 20/Aug. 28	Sh	P212
77	Elul 21/Aug. 29	Su	P212
78	Elul 22/Aug. 30	M	P222
79	Elul 23/Aug. 31	Tu	P222
80	Elul 24/Sept. 1	W	N356
81	Elul 25/Sept. 2	Th	N356
82	Elul 26/Sept. 3	F	N356, P216
83	Elul 27/Sept. 4	Sh	P217
84	Elul 29/Sept. 5	Su	N357
85	Elul 29/Sept. 6	M	P220, P218, N358, P219, N359
86	Tishrei 1/Sept. 7	Tu	P223, N104
87	Tishrei 2/Sept. 8	W	N105, N330, N331, N332, N333, N334
88	Tishrei 3/Sept. 9	Th	N336, N335, N337, N338, N339
89	Tishrei 4/Sept. 10	F	N340, N341, N342, N343, N344, N345
90	Tishrei 5/Sept. 11	Sh	N348, N349, N350, N351
91	Tishrei 6/Sept. 12	Su	N352, N347, N346
92	Tishrei 7/Sept. 13	M	N52, N53, N55, N54, N354, N360, N361
93	Tishrei 8/Sept. 14	Tu	N161, N162, P38, N160, N158, N159
94	Tishrei 9/Sept. 15	W	N353, P149
95	Tishrei 10/Sept. 16	Th	P150, P151, P152, N172, N174
96	Tishrei 11/Sept. 17	F	N173, N175, N176, N177, N178
97	Tishrei 12/Sept. 18	Sh	N179, N180, N188
98	Tishrei 13/Sept. 19	Su	N181, N182, N184, N185, N183
99	Tishrei 14/Sept. 20	M	N187, N186, N189, N190, N191, N192
100	Tishrei 15/Sept. 21	Tu	N193, N153, N194, P146
101	Tishrei 16/Sept. 22	W	N101
102	Tishrei 17/Sept. 23	Th	P147
103	Tishrei 18/Sept. 24	F	N306

