

ASERES HADIBROS AND ITS TRANSLATION

by Community Contributor

Hashem says to *Moshe*, "Ascend to Me, to the mountain and be here and I shall give you the Tablets of stone and the *Torah* and the commandments that I have written, to instruct them."

We've all heard of the words *Aseres HaDibros*. Yet, those words are not found together anywhere throughout the Written *Torah* only in the Oral *Torah*. However, *Rashi* does use those words eight times when explaining certain *pesukim* in the *Torah*.

Where in the Oral *Torah* is, it found? The *Gemara* derives that tablets are a reference to the *Aseres HaDibros*. How many times does the Oral *Torah* mention *Aseres HaDibros*? Fifteen times not counting *Rashi* or *Tosfos* within these *Mesechtos*.

When were, they given? It's a dispute. Either, it was given on the on the sixth (i.e. Friday) of *Sivan* or the seventh (i.e. *Shabbos*) *Sivan*.

Now, the question you were wondering:

What does *Aseres HaDibros* mean?

Most people translate it as the 'Ten Commandments' because that's the translation in all ArtScroll *Chumashim* and in others as well. Still, everyone agrees that *aseres*, which comes from the word *eseir*, means ten. Then, what does *HaDibros* mean?

In this week's *parsha*, *Rashi* says, "'Calling' preceded *l'chol dibros*, every **statement**, and every saying and every *tzivuyim*, **commandment**."

Since *Rashi* translates *dibros* to mean statement, *Aseres HaDibros* would translate as the 'Ten Statements'.

Had it been *Aseres HaTzivuyim*, that would translate to mean the 'Ten Commandments'.

This article is dedicated:

In memory of *Eliyahu ben Mordechai*, *Mashah Tzivyah bas R' Shlomo Zalman*, *Altah Soshah Devorah bas Aryeh Leibush*, *Chaim ben Shmuel Efraim Zalman*, *Tuvyah Shlomo ben Naftali Tzvi HaKohein*, *Esther Perel bas R' Shlomo*, *Miriam bas Zelig Shaul*, *Menachem ben Shimon*, *Menachem ben Zev*, *Sarah bas HaRav Yisroel*, *Yosef ben Moshe HaLevi*, *Yisroel ben Yeshayah*, *Elisheva Basyah bas Yechiel Ephraim* and all the other departed souls of our nation.

For the complete recovery of *Chayah Malka bas Bas-Sheva*, among the other sick ones of our nation.

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