

## **Sh'lach**

- 1) Why does G-D choose to teach the Jewish people the laws of the mitzva of challah as the first commandment after the sin of the spies (15:2)?
- 2) Why does the Torah say **AND THE JEWS WERE IN THE DESERT** as an introduction to the story of the man who gathered wood on Shabbat (15:32)? It is obvious that the Jews were in the desert at this time!
- 3) Why does the mitzva of tzitzit follow the story of the man who was killed for gathering wood on Shabbat (15:35-38)? What connection is there between the two?

### **Suggested answers**

- 1) The Ramban explains that the Jewish people who were not punished for the sin of the spies were concerned that perhaps they too would end up sinning and would end up not entering the Land of Israel. Therefore, G-D calmed their fears with a law which relates specifically to entering the land of Israel as He says in the command, **WHEN YOU COME TO THE LAND**.
- 2) Rabbeinu Bechaya answers that the Torah emphasizes this point to magnify the gravity of the sin. This person lived in the desert with the Jewish people and experienced the miracles which G-D performed for them on a daily basis including the manna which demonstrated that G-D is the Creator which we commemorate on Shabbat. And yet, despite this clarity, he violated the Shabbat and the reality of G-D as Creator which Shabbat declares.
- 3) Chizkuni teaches that when the Jews saw the seriousness of Shabbat desecration they were concerned that they would not be able to observe Shabbat and would be subject to these consequences as well. G-D immediately taught them the mitzva of tzitzit which serves to help people remember G-D and mitzvot and not sin.