

## **Remote Youth Groups!!!**

### **Parshas Netzavim Vayelech**

September 12th 2020

23 Elul 5780

### **Parsha Summary and Discussion**

Moses speaks to the People of Israel, and he says some very important things for us to learn from:

#### **Jewish Unity**

Everyone is standing together, the great scholars with the woodcutters and water-drawers. This teaches us that every single person is important in G-d's eyes, and everyone has a vital role to play. It also shows us the importance of unity--the Jewish people are one and must be always united.

Discuss – What is the benefit of being united? How can we be individuals and still united at the same time (6-8)?

#### **The Future Redemption**

If the Children of Israel sin, the G-d will punish them and their land will become dry and barren and stop producing its beautiful fruit. The Jews will have to suffer in exile. But a time will come when they will realize how wrong they've been and will turn back to G-d, and then he will bring them back to the land. This will bring in a new, special time when everyone will want to do only good and the whole world will become a good place--there won't be any evil. This is called the time of Moshiach, the future redemption.

Discuss – Why is it so important for us to know that the exile will end? What is so bad about exile – we have all that we need (6-8)?

#### **We Can Do It!**

Sometimes it seems as if the Torah is very hard, and there are so many things we must do, and so many that we may not do, that it feels like the keeping the Torah is like crossing a great big ocean--almost too hard to be done. But G-d told us keep the Torah because we really can. Because if we try, the Torah is not across the ocean, rather "the Torah is very close to you" and it's possible for us to do it right. And it's not just possible--it may even be easy! (In middle of all the mitzvot we've been learning these past few weeks, that's some much needed encouragement.)

Discuss – It seems pretty hard to me, what does it help to tell me that it's easy? If Hashem is telling us that it's easy, then he must be willing to help us. And if Hashem is helping us, we can do anything!

## **It's Our Choice**

The world is made up of good and bad, and the Torah tells us what is the good path to follow. But we must make the choice to do good. It's our choice what we want to do with our lives--and every moment of our day. And when we think about it, of course we will want to do only the best. So make the right choice--choose good.

## **Mitzvah of the Week - Netzavim**

There is a positive commandment for each Jew to write their own Sefer Torah. The best way to do it is write yourself. If you cannot, then you can employ someone to write it for you. The Rosh says you can fulfill this Mitzvah by purchasing seforim. The reason for this Mitzvah, as explained by the Sefer Hachinuch, is so that the information is out there and that everyone should have access to the Torah, so that they will study it and follow it all their days.

## **Parsha Questions -Netzavim**

Q: What is this week's Parsha?

A: Netzavim and Vayelech

Q: Who was there when Moshe spoke to the nation?

A: Everyone, every single Jew

Q: What did Hashem tell us would happen if we sin?

A: we will be exiled

Q: will this be forever?

A: Until Hashem redeems us and brings Moshiach

Q: Does Hashem tell us that the Torah is hard or easy?

A: very easy and we are able to do it, because Hashem is helping us

Q: Who stood as witnesses when Moshe passed on leadership to Yehoshua?

A: The Levites, so that all would know that Yehoshua is the next leader

Q: Where was Moshe's Torah placed?

A: In the Aron Hakodesh, Ark

Q: On which year do we perform the Mitzvah of Hakhel?

A: on the Seventh year, on Sukkot

Q: What happens at Hakhel?

A: the king reads from the sefer torah

Q: What is the Mitzvah of the week and how do we do it?

A: to write a sefer Torah, by actually writing it ourselves, employing someone to write it for us, or by purchasing Seforim

## **Harder Questions - Netzavim**

Q: What is the connection between the verse "atem nitzavim" and the curses in the previous parsha?

A: 29:12 - The Jewish People asked, "Who can survive such curses?" Moshe responded, "You've done a lot to anger Hashem, and yet "atem nitzavim" you're still standing before Him."

Q: Who were the wood-choppers and water-carriers?

A: 29:10 - Canaanites who joined the Jewish People under false pretenses.

Q: Why can Hashem never "swap" the Jewish people for another nation?

A: 29:12 - Because Hashem swore to their ancestors that He would never do so.

Q: One who ignores the Torah's warnings "adds drunkenness to thirst." What does this mean?

A: 29:18 - He causes Hashem to reckon his unintentional sins alongside his intentional ones, punishing him for all.

Q: What two cities were destroyed along with Sedom and Amorah?

A: 29:22 - Admah and Tsevoyim.

Q: "The hidden things are for Hashem, our G-d, and the revealed things are for us..." What does this mean?

A: 29:28 - There is collective culpability only for "open" sins, but not for "hidden" ones.

Q: According to Rashi, how will the day of the ingathering of the exiles be "great and difficult?"

A: 30: 3 - It will be as if Hashem needs to take each individual by the hand and lead him out of exile.

Q: Where is the Torah not to be found? Where is it to be found?

A: 30:12-15 - The Torah is not found in heaven nor across the ocean. Rather, it is "very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart."

Q: When and where did the Jewish People become culpable for each other's sins?

A: 30:28 - When they crossed the Jordan and accepted the oath on Mt. Eval and Mt. Grizim.

Q: How do the earth and sky remind us to keep the mitzvot?

A: 30:19 - The earth and heavenly bodies, although receiving neither reward nor punishment, always obey Hashem's will. How much more should we, who stand to receive reward or punishment, obey Hashem.

**The Parshah of Vayelech** tells us about the last day of Moses' life. He is exactly 120 years old (because he passed away on the same day that he was born--the 7th of Adar) and he knows that he will not be able to go into the land of Israel. He passes on the leadership to Joshua in front of the Levites and then finishes writing a Torah scroll that he gives to the Levites to put in the Ark.

Discuss – Why did Moshe have to be the one to pass the leadership on to Joshua?

Moses tells them that they will read from this Torah once every seven years on the festival of Sukkot. This will be in the year of *Hakhel*, the year following *Shemittah*, when all the Jews--men, women and children--gather together in the Holy Temple and the king reads from the Torah.

Discuss – What is the national benefit of gathering together every so often?

The Parshah ends with telling us that although there will be times when the Jews will turn away from G-d, and G-d will have to hide Himself from them, they or their children will always come back and the Torah will never really be forgotten.

### **Mitzvah of the Week - Vayelech**

There is a positive commandment to do Teshuvah, and return to G-d if we have made a mistake and sinned. The word Teshuvah means returning. This is very strange that there should be a Mitzvah to repair our mistakes. We shouldn't do them in the first place, but Hashem understands that we are humans and we make mistakes. He just expects us to fix any mistakes we make.

We are taught that the days between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur are a special time that we can do Teshuvah. They are called the Ten Days of Teshuvah! Hashem is very close to us and He will accept our Teshuvah more readily.

### **Parsha Questions - Vayelech**

Q: How old was Moshe when he died

A: Exactly 120 years old

Q: What day is Moshe's birthday?

A: the 7<sup>th</sup> of Adar

Q: What day did Moshe die?

A: the 7<sup>th</sup> of Adar

Q: Who did Moshe pass on his leadership to?

A: Yehoshua, Joshua

Q: Where did they put the Torah scroll Moshe had written?

A: In the Ark

Q: What is it called when the whole nation gets together and reads from the Torah?

A: Hakhel

Q: How often does this happen?

A: Once every 7 years, after Shemittah

Q: Where do they gather?

A: By the Bais Hamikdash

Q: Who reads from the Torah?

A: The King of the nation

Q: What does Hashem promise us at the end of the Parsha?

A: That we will never be forgotten

Q: What is the Mitzvah of the week?

A: To do Teshuvah

Q: What does the word Teshuvah mean?

A: Returning

Q: When is it a special time to do Teshuvah?

A: Between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur

### **Harder Questions - Vayelech**

Q: Moshe said, "I am 120 years old today. I am no longer able to go out and come in..."

How do we know this does not refer to physical inability?

A: 31:2 - Because verse 34:7 says "His (Moshe's) eye never dimmed, and his (youthful) moisture never departed."

Q: Which of Moshe's statements to Yehoshua was later contradicted by Hashem's command?

A: 31:7 - Moshe told Yehoshua to share his leadership with the Elders. Hashem later commanded Yehoshua to rule alone.

Q: does the Torah refer to Succot of the eighth year as though it occurred during the shemita year?

A: 31:10 - Because the laws of the seventh year still apply to the harvest.

Q: Why does the Torah command that babies be brought to the Torah reading?

A: 31:12 - To give reward to those who bring them.

Q: What does it mean that Hashem "hides His face?"

A: 31:17 - He ignores their distress.

Q: What function does the song Ha'azinu serve?

A: 31:21 - It warns what will befall the Jewish People if they abandon Torah.

Q: Which verse promises that the Torah will never be totally forgotten?

A: 31:21 - "For (the Torah) will not be forgotten from the mouth of their offspring."

Q: What is the difference of opinion regarding the placing of the Torah scroll which Moshe gave the levi'im?

A: 31:26 - Whether it was placed outside but adjacent to the Ark, or inside next to the Tablets.

Q: On the day of Moshe's death, why didn't Moshe gather the people by blowing trumpets as he normally would have?

A: 31:28 - Blowing the trumpets expressed Moshe's dominion, and "there is no dominion on the day of death." (Kohelet 8)

Q: Moshe said, "For I know that after my death you will act corruptly," but, in fact, this didn't occur until after Yehoshua's death. What does this teach us?

A: 31:29 - That a person's student is as dear to him as himself As long as Yehoshua was alive, it was as though Moshe himself were alive.

**Good Shabbos!!!**