



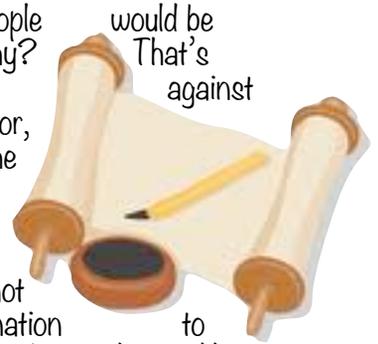
SOUTH HEAD YOUTH PARASHA SHEET

PARASHAT DEVARIM



As many of you will remember, in our last Parasha, Parashat Massei, the Jewish people won the war against Midyan and the Jewish people took possession of all of the Midyanites treasures and belongings. It had been a very miraculous war, for the men who fought were not trained soldiers. Indeed, it was Hashem who assisted the Jewish people in becoming victorious.

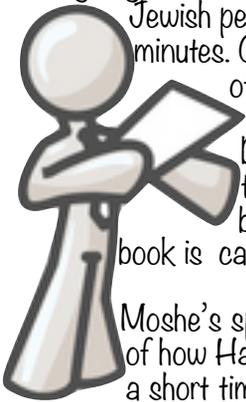
You would think that after winning such a war, and acquiring all of the booty, the Jewish people would be very happy and in high spirits. But instead, the Jewish people are very sad. Do you know why? right! The Jewish people are sad because they knew that very soon after they won the war against Midyan, it would be time for their beloved leader, Moshe, to return his holy soul to his Creator, Hashem. The Jewish people are very sad, for they know that it is not very long before Moshe passes away.



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Hashem instructs Moshe to review the laws and Mitzvot of the Torah with the Jewish people, before he passes away. There are also many Mitzvot which the Jewish people have not heard of yet, and they must be taught all about them. Moshe immediately gathers the entire nation to listen to his last and final speech. He knows that this speech has to be a real winner. It has to be catchy, and he needs to make sure everyone is listening. Moshe needs to make one last impression on the Jewish people. An impression which will keep them connected to Hashem, so that they will continue to observe His Torah and perform His Mitzvot, even after his death.

Can you guess how long Moshe's speech was? It took Moshe a whole five weeks to deliver his speech to the Jewish people! Can you imagine that?!?! You probably get bored after listening to a speech for five minutes. Can you even begin to imagine listening to a speech for five weeks?? Anyway, all 600 000 of the Jewish people were present at Moshe's speech and they all listened to every single word!

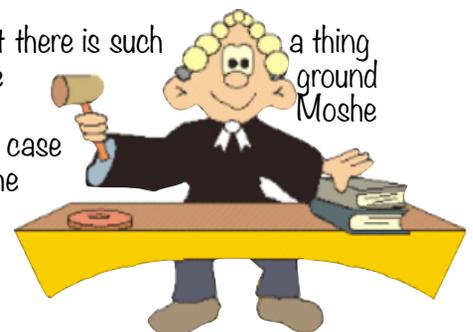


Do you know that the Torah is made up of five different books? Within each book of the Torah, there are 10-12 Parshiot. And guess what?!? Moshe's speech was so long that the entire fifth book of the Torah is solely dedicated to Moshe's farewell speech to the Jewish people! This book is called, Sefer Devarim.

Moshe's speech begins with the receiving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. The Jewish people are reminded of how Hashem freed them from slavery in Egypt, in order to present them with the Torah. Yet, it was just a short time after, that the Jewish people already managed to sin with the golden calf. Hashem performed and still does perform many miracles for the Jewish people. But the question is, do the Jewish people appreciate the miracles? Every time Hashem did something good, the Jewish people just complained to Moshe. When there was no water, they complained of thirst. They complained that they did not like the Mann, so Hashem sent quail, but then they complained that the quail was hurting their stomachs! The Jewish people even went as far to listen to the spies Lashon Hara (evil talk) about Israel, instead of trusting Hashem about the goodness of the land.

While saying all of this, Moshe reminds the Jewish people that it should have only taken them a very short trip to arrive in Israel, from Egypt. However, this short trip turned into forty long years due to the many complaints and the lack of appreciation that the Jewish people had for Hashem and His miracles. Yet, at the same time, Moshe knows that he cannot just rebuke the Jewish people without giving them some sort of acknowledgement or hope. So Moshe blesses all of the Jewish people with the following blessing, 'May Hashem multiply you thousands of times more, and bless you as He promised your forefathers'.

Now Moshe goes on to give some rules to the Jewish judges. Did you know that there is such a thing as a Jewish court? A Jewish court is called a Beit Din. Moshe lays down some rules for the judges to ensure that they only judge fairly. Some of the laws that tells the judges are that they are forbidden to take bribes. They must judge each case fairly! Additionally, every time they judge a case, the judges must review all of the Halachot (Jewish laws) related to the case. A judge cannot think that he knows all of the laws, but rather, he must always review them.



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Do you remember that Hashem told us that before we enter the land of Israel, we must first wipe out the seven nations of Canaan? Well right now, Hashem tells us that there are three nations which we cannot destroy until the times of Moshiach. But who are these nations? And why do we have to wait to wipe them out? These nations are the nations of Edom, Moav and Amon. The Edomites are descendants of Ya'akov's brother Eisav. We do not want to wipe out Eisav descendants, because of the great honour and respect Eisav had for his father Yitzchak. The second nation is Moav. Hashem instructed us not to wipe out this nation until Moshiach comes, because He foresaw that a great woman, named Ruth would be born to the Moabite nation, and then she would convert to Judaism. From her would descend King David, and Moshiach! The third nation is Amon. Hashem knew, that an Amonite girl named Na'amah would convert to Judaism and become King Solomon's wife. From her would descend the next king of Israel, Rechavam. Additionally, the nation of Amon is descended from Avraham's nephew, Lot.

The Jewish people send a piece treaty to the other four nations, asking them if they can pass through their land in order to get to Israel. Of course, these nations refuse! In fact, they respond to the Jewish people by send an army of soldiers to attack them! The Jewish people are not afraid, for they know that Hashem will help them. Two of the nations have very big kings. In fact, their kings are giants! The names of the giants are Sichon and Og. With Hashem's help, the Jewish people are able to destroy these nations, and Moshe himself kills the giants.

PARASHA QUESTIONS:

1. What is the name of this weeks Parasha??
This weeks Parasha is called Parashat Devarim.
2. Why are the Jewish people sad?
The Jewish people are sad because they have just won the war against the nation of Midiyan. They know that Moshe is supposed to die very soon after this war. They are afraid that Moshe will die any day now.
3. What does Hashem instruct Moshe to do?
Hashem instructs Moshe to review all of the laws and Mitzvot in the Torah. He also tells him to teach the Jewish people about all the laws which they are not yet familiar with.
4. How long does it take Moshe to deliver his whole speech?
It takes Moshe a whole 5 weeks to deliver his entire speech.
5. How many books are there in the Torah?
There are five books in the Torah.
6. What examples does Moshe bring of the complaints the Jewish people had?
Moshe brings many examples of the complaints of the Jewish people. Some of them are, that they complained of thirst, that they did not like the Manna and the quail hurt their stomachs.
7. What ground rules does Moshe set down for the Jewish judges?
Moshe tells the Jewish judges that they must always judge fairly. They may not take any bribes, and they must always review the Halachot related to the case, no matter how well they think they know them.
8. Which great woman was born to the nation of Moav?
The great woman born to the nation of Moav was Ruth the Moabite.
9. Which great people descend from Ruth?
2 very great people descend from Ruth. One is King David, and the second is Moshiach!
10. Who helps the Jewish people win the wars?
The Jewish people are only able to win the wars with the help of Hashem.
11. Who kills the giants? What are the giants names?
The giants names are Sichon and Og. They are killed by none other than Moshe himself!

It was great seeing you in Shule!

**We hope you enjoy reading this Parasha Sheet and quizzing your family!
Shabbat Shalom from Brookie and the South Head Youth Crew**

