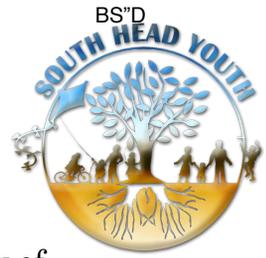




South Head Youth Parasha Sheet



PARASHAT NETZAVIM-VAYEILECH

It is the seventh day of the Jewish month of Adar, in the Jewish year 2488, the day of Moshe's passing. Moshe tells the Jewish people that he will arrange a treaty between them and Hashem. But before doing so, he gathers all the Jewish people; every man, woman, boy and girl. From the simplest Jews to the leaders of the nation and they all stand before Moshe united as one.

Moshe tells the Jewish people that they must swear they will be Hashem's people forever. Although the Jewish people had already accepted the Torah on Mount Sinai Moshe made another treaty with them for a few different reasons. Firstly, the Jewish people who were going to enter the land of Israel were not present at Mount Sinai. They were the children of those who has received the Torah and Moshe wanted this new generation to promise to keep the Torah. Secondly, the Jewish people broke the promise they made at Mount Sinai when they built the golden calf, so Moshe wanted to make a new treaty. Thirdly, Moshe added something new to this treaty. He told the Jewish people that up until now Hashem punished each Jew for his own sins. However, from now on every Jew would be responsible for his fellow Jew's sins so if a person sees another Jew sin and doesn't stop him then he will be punished for this sin too. Of course, the Jewish people immediately accept responsibility for each other.



Moshe is once again worried that the Jewish people will worship idols. Moshe knows that once he passes away, he will not be there to stop them, and so he once again reminds them of the second commandment of the Torah. He tells the people that when they forsake Hashem and worship idols, Hashem becomes very angry. This anger will eventually cause the destruction of the holy Beit Hamikdash and the sending of the Jewish people into exile. Moshe says that when in exile, the Jews will ask why Hashem abandoned them. But they should remember, that it was not Hashem who abandoned them, but they who abandoned Hashem. However, even while in Galut (exile) a Jew must always remember that Hashem is not angry at the Jewish people. Galut is simply Hashem's way of encouraging us to do Teshuva. But the longer we take to do Teshuva, the longer we will remain in exile. The Torah clearly promises that Hashem will redeem us from the nations, however, we do not know when this will happen. When we are eventually taken out of exile and brought back into Israel in the Final Redemption, the Jewish people will only be blessed for success.

The way to do Teshuva is through Torah study. One should never feel that Torah observance is too much. It is true that the Torah has so many Mitzvot and at times it may seem hard to fulfill all of the Mitzvot. However, Torah observance is within our reach. If we constantly try to keep the Torah, then Hashem will help us! Unfortunately, our Yetzer Hara, our evil inclination, is always trying to convince us to do things which are not so good. But we must never feel that we are alone. Everyone has a Yetzer Hara. Just remember that the Torah is part of every single Jew. It is instilled in our hearts from the time we are born. If you put your heart, mind and soul into the Torah, then it will make your Torah observance that



much easier. We have the power to choose between right and wrong. We have the power to choose to observe Hashem's Torah and Mitzvot. We must be sure to make the right choice! Keeping the Torah will cause Moshiach to come even sooner, and will hasten the Final Redemption!



It is also on the seventh day of Adar that Moshe hears a heavenly voice call out to him, 'this is your last day on earth'. Moshe knew that Hashem had punished him for

hitting the rock, however, he hoped that Hashem would change His mind and allow him to enter the Holy Land of Israel. Moshe wanted to farewell the Jewish people so he looked for the trumpets which were usually blown to announce that the Jewish people were to assemble. But on this day, Hashem hid the trumpets. He wanted the Jewish people to know that Moshe's death was coming. After Moshe's death these trumpets were never used again. So Moshe decides to walk around the Jewish camp to farewell all the Jewish people. He comforted the people by saying, 'I am only a man, exactly 120 years old. Today is the seventh of Adar which is also my birthday. Hashem commanded me to stop leading you so please do not be sad about my death. Hashem has appointed a new leader for you, my student Joshua. Hashem will destroy your enemies, so be strong and have no fear!'

Moshe calls upon Joshua as he wants him to begin teaching the Jewish people while he is still alive. Moshe dressed Joshua in the kingly garments and seated him on a golden throne. He gave him a crown set with pearls, a royal turban and a purple robe. He then arranged benches for the members of the High Court and the Kohanim around the throne. All the Jewish people came to honor Joshua. Moshe tells Joshua to be a strong leader, a courageous leader and a patient leader. Moshe and Joshua then teach Torah to the Jewish people. Joshua began teaching Torah by saying 'blessed is Hashem, Who gave us the Torah through Moshe'.

The last Mitzvah of the Torah that Moshe teaches us is the Mitzvah for every Jew to write a Sefer Torah. If a person cannot write one himself he may hire a Sofer, a Jewish scribe to write one for him. If a Jew helps in the writing of a Torah, it is also considered as if he fulfilled the Mitzvah. Sometimes when a Shule or school write a Torah people purchase a share in the Torah. They might purchase one or more letters for each member of their family which the Sofer writes for them. Writing a Torah is no easy task. The Sofer writes the entire Torah by hand. He uses a feather that he dips in ink and he writes on parchment. Each letter must be correctly shaped and if even one letter is wrongly written, extra or missed out, the entire Torah is not Kosher.

Just like we stood unified before Moshe in Parashat Netzavim, the Jewish nation must still stand together nowadays. We must be united with each other! When we are united, Hashem sees us as one nation with many good deeds and judges us favourably! It is important to realise that by doing one small deed every Jew can make an impact. The one small deed can multiply, causing many more kind actions to occur, and the more kind acts that occur the more kindness we have together in the world, causing greater unity among the Jewish people. Next week the entire Jewish nation will stand together united on Rosh Hashana as we pray to Hashem to grant each of us and the entire Jewish nation a healthy and sweet new year. On this day Hashem judges us. When we stand before Hashem united on Rosh Hashana we become completely dependent on one another. Each individual's good actions complete the other's not so perfect actions, making one unit of only good deeds. In this way Hashem no longer judges us as individuals with our not so perfect actions, but as a whole nation, combining all of the good deeds of every Jewish person. In this manner Hashem only looks at our good deeds and judges every one of us favourably to have a wonderful sweet new year.

Mission of the week: Show your involvement in the community. Volunteer at the Shule or choose to do something together as a class. Make sure that you are doing it as a group and working together, united as one!

**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**

