

Snapshot Torah



GUIDE TO THE WEEKLY PARSHA

SIMCHAT TORAH

ISSUE 56

17th October 2014 V'ZOT HA'BERACHAH 17TH Tishrei 5775

Kohen - First Aliya:

Chapter 33, verses 1 - 7

- ✚ Just before his death, Moshe blesses Bnai Yisrael. He recalls how Hashem had appeared to him on Mount Sinai when He offered us the Torah and how we expressed its acceptance unconditionally.
- ✚ Beginning with Reuven and Judah, Moshe blesses each tribe in turn.
- ✚ Reuven was blessed with long life in both this world and the next. Judah was blessed with many successes and victories over their enemies in battle.

Levi - Second Aliya:

Chapter 33, verses 8 - 12

- ✚ Moshe extols the virtues of holy tribe of Levi who were the only tribe not to succumb to the temptation of building the Heter Eigel (Golden Calf).
- ✚ Moshe declares, "They will teach Hashem's Torah to the house of Israel and will be the only tribe to be allowed to place incense on the (Altar and perform all the korbanos. (Offerings to Hashem).
- ✚ The tribe of Benjamin, is acknowledged to be Hashem's beloved and will be graced by having the Holy Temple situated in its portion of Israel.

Sh'lishi - Third Aliya:

Chapter 33, verses 13 - 17

- ✚ Moses blessed the tribe of Yosef (Joseph) with a bountiful portion that will be blessed with ample rain, dew, produce, and delicacies.
- ✚ The tribe of Yosef are also blessed with an unusual ox-like strength which they would use to vanquish their enemies.

R'Vi'i - Fourth Aliya:

Chapter 33, verses 18 - 21

- ✚ Zebulun's tribe was blessed with success in all of their business endeavours and Issachar's tribe in their Torah studies.
- ✚ The tribe of Gad was blessed with the strength of a lion who can tear off the arm and head of their enemy with one blow. Gad is also praised for choosing a portion on the eastern bank of the Jordan River, opting to settle in the proximity of where Moshe was to be buried, and for leading their troops into battle in order to conquer the land of Canaan.

Chamishi - Fifth Aliya:

Chapter 33, verses 22 - 26 (Read for children pre bar/bas-mitzvah age)

- ✚ Dan's tribe, too, is blessed with the strength of a lion cub; whereas Naphtali's portion in Israel is lauded as one that "brings satisfaction to all its inhabitants, and is filled with Hashem's blessings.
- ✚ Asher is blessed with sons and along with an abundance of olive oil.
- ✚ Moshe concludes the individual blessings, and addresses the nation as a whole telling them how fortunate they are to have Hashem as their shield and their deliverer in times of trouble.

Shishi - Sixth Aliya: Chapter 33, verses 27 to Chapter 34, verses 1 – 12 (Portion for Chatan Torah)

- ✚ Moshe ascends Mt Nevo, Hashem shows him the land of Israel and tells him this is the land I swore to Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaacov that I would give to their descendants.
- ✚ Moshe dies on the mountain at the age of 120 years old. Hashem personally interments him in order that no-one would know his precise burial place. Bnai Yisrael mourn his passing for thirty days.
- ✚ Yehoshua (Joshua) becomes leader and the people swear to obey him.
- ✚ There will never again be a prophet like Moshe, who knew and spoke to Hashem face to face and performed such wonders in front of Bnai Yisrael, entirely out of Love. 'Chazak! Chazak! Venischazeik!

Sh'vi'i - Seventh Aliya: Beraishis Chapter 1, verses 1 to Chapter 2, verse 3 (Portion for Chatan Beraishis)

- ✚ The creation of the world.

Maftir – Bamidbar Chapter 29, verse 35 to Chapter 30, verse 1

- ✚ The Maftir speaks about the korbanos (offerings) which were bought to the Beis Hamigdosh's on this day.

Haftorah –YEHOSHUA (JOSHUA) Chapter 1 verses 1 to 18

OVERVIEW:

- ✚ Hashem reveals Himself to Yehoshua, and officially appoints him as Moshe's' successor who will be in charge to lead Bnai Yisrael into the Promised Land.
- ✚ In order to succeed in his endeavors, Hashem encourages Yehoshua to keep the torah close to him and remain brave. He assures Yehoshua that he will be always with him, just like he was during Moshe's lifetime.
- ✚ Bnai Yisrael pledge allegiance to their new leader and start making their preparations of entering and conquering the land of Israel.

LINK TO SEDRA READING:

- ✚ After reading about the death of Moshe we read in the Haftorah how his disciple Yehoshua takes the reins and embarks on his mission of leading the Jewish nation into Israel

WEEKLY DISCUSSION:

Today on Simchat Torah we celebrate the fact we are about to finish off the book of Devarim, completing off the whole torah. The words Simchat Torah means 'The rejoicing of the torah' I believe it teaches us all the important lesson about on how we should embrace and immerse ourselves into the study of torah with jubilation and joy.

How do we do achieve this? The first thing we do on Simchat Torah, instead of finishing reading the book of Devarim and placing it back into the Aron (Ark), like we do every Shabbat after reading a Parsha; we instead go back to the beginning and commence reading chapter one of Beraishis straight after.

In effect we are making a declaration that we enjoy the Torah so much, we will never stop reading and learning from it.

On a personal level I too am celebrating the fact that I've completed the cycle of writing Snapshot Torah every Shabbat over the past year.

Our Rabbi's tell us a person who just stops and does not go back and review what they have previously done is compared to someone who prepares, ploughs and plants but does not harvest their crops. No matter how many times you read the torah there are always new insights that were overlooked the previous time or you find a new facet which you never saw before.

With Hashem's help I would like to continue what I started and begin again from the beginning as I feel all the time and effort I've put into this project would be wasted if I don't go back and review it again.

May I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for not only taking time out to read Snapshot Torah but for all of your kind continuous support and positive feedback you have given me over the past year. It's been my great pleasure in writing it for you.

Chazak, Chazak, Venischazeik!

BE STRONG! BE STRONG! AND LET US STRENGTHEN ONE ANOTHER!

Chag Sameach!

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