



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL OF THE PALISADES

קהילה קדושה בית ישראל של הפלייס

*An egalitarian Conservative community
where 'welcome' is not just a word!*

PARSHAT PINCHAS

JULY 11, 2020 - TAMMUZ 19, 5780



Moses Views the Land of Israel
(woodcut by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld from the 1860 Bible in Pictures)

**The LORD said to Moses, get you up into this mountain of Avarim,
and see the land that I have given to the children of Israel.**

Numbers 27:12

פִּינְחָס

PARSHATIM PINCHAS
TORAH – NUMBERS 25:10 – 30:1
HAFTARAH – JEREMIAH 1:1—2:3

ALERT!!!
SPECIAL HAFTARAH – 1ST OF 3
HAFTAROT OF REBUKE PRECEDING
TISH'AH B'AV

PARSHAT PINCHAS

Thursday July 9th, the fast day of Shiva Asar B'Tammuz is observed. It is a day of fasting that begins the three-week period of semi-mourning ending with the fast of Tishah B'Av starting Wednesday evening, July 29th and all-day Thursday. May Hashem comfort us as we remember the beginning of the bitter loss of our Holy Temple in Jerusalem and may He transform these sad days into joyous ones.

At the conclusion of last week's Torah Reading, we learned of the powerful action taken by Pinchos when he witnessed blatant acts of idolatry among the people. He is introduced to us as Pinchos the son of Elazar, and grandson of Aaron the Kohain. This week, in the portion named after him, Pinchos is once again referred to by his father's and grandfather's namesake. Why is his lineage mentioned twice and do we really need to know that Aaron was his grandfather?

You may recall that when we met Korach, the instigator of the rebellion, he was introduced to us as the son of Yitzhar, grandson of Kehot and great grandson of Levi. Why, asks Rashi, didn't the Torah mention that Korach's ancestry included Jacob, father of Levi? Rashi answers that Jacob did not want his name associated with the fighting caused by Korach.

The thing about great ancestry is that when you lead a good life, your ancestor's merits are added to yours. And when you don't, you lose that special status.

Aaron was the renowned peacemaker of his generation. He brought fighting couples together even when it meant degrading himself; he was the true man of peace. How interesting that Aaron had no problem being associated with Pinchos, the zealot who executed the idolaters.

Pirkei Avot 1:12 quotes Hillel teaching that we should be as the students of Aaron - "Ohev Shalom, V'rodef Shalom"- love peace and pursue peace. Do you know anyone who doesn't love peace? Do the following: ask the people you meet; poll all the countries at the UN; ask any dictator or war criminal. You will find that everyone loves peace. However, the legacy of Aaron, the Kohen Gadol is not merely to love peace, he actively pursued it. It is required of the Jewish people to pursue peace as well.

Pirkei Avot 1:18 explains that the world continues to exist each day because of three principles: JUSTICE, TRUTH and PEACE. When Pinchos saw the outrageous desecration of G-d's name in public, he executed judgment based on truth, and Hashem's reward to this grandson of the ultimate peacemaker who loved and pursued peace, was the gift of peace, Bamidbar 25:12.

THOUGHT QUESTION OF THE WEEK

This week we met Pinchos, grandson of Aaron the first Kohain. Does having illustrious ancestors affect one's destiny?

Pinchas (פִּינְחָס) — Hebrew for "Phinehas," a name, the sixth word and the first distinctive word in the parashah) is the 41st weekly Torah portion (פָּרָשָׁה, *parashah*) in the annual Jewish cycle of Torah reading and the eighth in the Book of Numbers.. It constitutes Numbers 25:10–30:1. The parashah is made up of 7,853 Hebrew letters, 1,887 Hebrew words, 168 verses, and 280 lines in a Torah scroll (סֵפֶר תּוֹרָה, *Sefer Torah*).^[1]



Pinchas Aliyah Summary

General Overview: Phinehas (Pinchas) is rewarded for his bravery. A census of the Israelites is taken. The daughters of Zelophehad successfully argue for a portion in the land of Israel. Joshua is ordained Moses' successor. G-d relays to Moses the details of all the holiday sacrifices.

First Aliyah: Last week's reading concluded with Moabite and Midianite women seducing Jewish men and enticing them to idol worship. At that point, Phinehas unilaterally executed a Jewish leader along with the Midianite princess with whom he was cohabiting. This week's reading opens with G-d praising Phinehas, and rewarding his bravery by granting priesthood to him and his descendants. G-d then commands the Jews to punish the Midianites by hounding and smiting them. The fulfillment of this command is described in next week's reading. G-d commands Moses and Elazar the High Priest to conduct a census of all males over the age of twenty.

Second Aliyah: The Israelites are counted, and the totals are given for each of the twelve tribes. The grand total of all the tribes combined is 601,730. The tribe of Levi is not included in this census.

Third Aliyah: As per G-d's command, the land of Israel was to be divided amongst all those who were counted in this census. The location of each tribe's portion would be determined by lottery. The tribe of Levi is now counted. There were 23,000 Levite males above the age of one month. The daughters of Zelophehad approached Moses and stated that their father had died leaving behind only daughters. They requested to receive their father's portion in the land of Israel. Moses relayed their request to G-d.

Fourth Aliyah: G-d agreed to Zelophehad's daughters' request. Moses is then instructed the laws of inheritance. Included in these laws is a daughter's right to her father's estate if he does not leave any sons. G-d tells Moses to climb to the top of Mount Abarim from where he would see the Promised Land before he died. Moses asks G-d to appoint a worthy individual to succeed him. G-d instructs Moses to endow Joshua with some of his spiritual powers and publicly name him as his successor.

Fifth Aliyah: From this point until the end of this week's reading, the Torah details the various communal sacrifices which were offered in the Tabernacle and Temple at designated times. This section discusses the twice-daily "*Tamid*" sacrifice, as well as the additional sacrifices offered on Shabbat and Rosh Chodesh (the first day of the Jewish month).

Sixth Aliyah: This section discusses the sacrifices offered on Passover, Shavuot, Rosh Hashanah, and Yom Kippur. The Torah also discusses some of the laws related to these holidays.

Seventh Aliyah: This section discusses the sacrifices offered on the holidays of Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret.

LEARN!!!

DID YOU KNOW.....

Were you ever called for an Aliya? “YA-AMOD.....” Everyone is familiar with the call. BUT did you ever listen carefully to the FIRST call – the one for the Kohein to be honored with the first Aliya? It is different, and goes like this:

וַיַּעֲזֹר וַיִּגַּן וַיּוֹשִׁיעַ לְכָל־הַחוֹסִים בּוֹ, וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן. הַכֹּל הָבֹי
גָדֹל לְאֱלֹהֵינוּ, וְתַנּוּ כְבוֹד לַתּוֹרָה. [בַּת כַּהֵן, קָרֵב. תַּעֲמֹד
בַּת _____ הַבַּת כַּהֵן.] בְּרוּךְ שְׁנַתֵּן תּוֹרָה לְעַמּוֹ
יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּקִדְשָׁתוֹ.



LISTEN
FOR THIS!!

Now here is the point – after Gabbai 1 makes this call, WE ALL SHOULD ANSWER:

וְאַתֶּם הַדְּבָקִים בִּיהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם, חַיִּים בְּלַכֶּם הַיּוֹם.

V-atem had-vaykeem badonai Elohaychem chayeem kul-chem hayom.

You who cling to God have been sustained to this day.



ANSWER
WITH THIS!!

It will make Rabbi Stern *very* happy!!!!