



Kids Parsha Packet

פ"ש לילדים

Parshat Nitzavim

Last week in parshat Ki Tavo:

We crossed the Jordan River and wrote the Torah on large stones.

Sometime very bad things happen

It is better to focus on good things, right? In Parshat Ki Tavo and also here in Parshat Nitzavim, Moshe describes what will happen to future generations that live in Eretz Yisrael. Unfortunately, they will not always behave the way they should. They will distance themselves from Hashem and as a result, Hashem will punish them harshly. Even the other nations that see the punishments that Bnei Yisrael receive will ask why this is happening to them. And the answer, of course, is because they did not keep their covenant with Hashem. The harshest punishment of all is exile. Bnei Yisrael will not be able to live in Eretz Yisrael. They will have to leave the land that they farmed and the houses that they built. Bnei Yisrael already know how important it is to serve Hashem. Their journey through the desert taught Bnei Yisrael a lot about their relationship with Hashem, but before they enter Eretz Yisrael Moshe reminds Bnei Yisrael again and again of the great responsibility of keeping the mitzvot. Now, if you're ready to finally talk about something positive, turn the page...



"וַיִּתְּשֵׁם ה' פֶּעַל אֲדִמָּתָם בְּאֶף
וּבְחֵמָה וּבִקְצָף גָּדוֹל" (כ"ט, כ"ז)

"And Hashem removed them from upon your soil, with anger, with wrath, and with great fury" (29,27)



What does difficultly mean to you, and how do you deal with it?

It is time to return home

Do you remember what month it is? It's Elul. This is the month that we do teshuva (repentance), ask forgiveness from the people that we hurt, look back on the year we had, and think about how we can improve. Hashem also does teshuva, but it is not like our teshuva. After all the difficult things that Moshe described, and talking about how Bnei Yisrael will be exiled if they do not obey Hashem, we learn about teshuva. Hashem will gather all of the Jewish people from all over the world, bring them back to Eretz Yisrael, and renew his covenant with them. And if you think about our history, it seems that this is exactly what has happened... For more than 2,000 years, the Jewish nation was spread around the whole world: Europe, Australia, North Africa, Russia, Iraq, America, and more. Since just before the establishment of the State of Israel, many Jews began to arrive from all over the world to the land of the Jewish people. That's why there are so many different types of people, communities, customs, and languages in Israel.

"וּסֹב וּקְבַצְךָ גֵּנֶל
הָעַמִּים אֲשֶׁר הִפִּיצְךָ
ה' א-לֶיךָ שָׁמָּה"
(ל', ג')

"And He
will gather
you in
from
all the
peoples
to which
Hashem,
your God
has scattered
you"
(30,3)



From which parts of the world did people come to Israel?

Activity

"From all over the world" – How many accents can you imitate?

So much fruit!

The parsha continues with more good things! After the harsh punishments and a long exile far away from Eretz Yisrael, it's time for teshuva, repentance. Hashem will bring us back to Eretz Yisrael from all over the world. When Bnei Yisrael return to Eretz Yisrael after it was abandoned for so many years, they will find it in bad condition. There will be no organized farmlands. It will be hard to work the land and make the crops plentiful, there will be no convenient roads to travel, and no order or cleanliness. This will cause many diseases, and many people will die young. It will not be easy at all to return to Israel. Hashem promises the Jewish people that when they return to their land, they will be blessed with good produce, children and prosperity. And indeed we saw that when the Jewish people began to return to live in Eretz Yisrael, it

was very hard to work the land at first. There were terrible diseases and a lot of people died. But slowly, with the establishment of the State of Israel, the blessings returned. Many cities and communities were built, all types of transportation were developed, and the people enjoyed more and more prosperity.

"והותירך ה' א-להיך
בכל מעשה ידך
בפרי בטןך ובפרי
בהגתך ובפרי
אדמתך לטבה"
(ל', ט')

"Hashem will
make you
abundant in all
your handiwork-
in the fruit of
your womb, the
fruit of your
animals, and
the fruit of
your land" (30,9)



Why does it make us happy to be blessed with children and produce?

Activity

"A fruitful land" - One person describes one good thing in Eretz Yisrael, and the next person needs to continue that idea and describe something that is related to it (for example, nice roads, lots of cars, nice people, happiness, Middle Eastern music, etc.)

It is not up in heaven

How do you repent? What is the right way? What do you have to do? Hashem tells us to return to him, but how exactly do we do that? There is no one answer. Hashem tells Bnei Yisrael not to be afraid of this mitzvah. It is true that there is no exact answer to this question of how, but there is also no need to go up to the sky or cross the sea in order to find a way to return to Hashem. Each and every person can find teshuva (repentance) in their heart. Each person knows who he is, what he is good at, and what he needs to improve. We have to listen to our heart and to what our heart tells us to do. Teshuva is found inside of us, it guides us. Teshuva is a part of our desire, and that of every person in the world, to improve our lives, be better people, and hope for the best. The Jewish people will face many hardships, but there is always a path back to Hashem. Teshuva is always nearby, deep in our hearts. We have to know how to listen and find it within us...

"Rather the matter is very near to you- in your mouth and your heart- to preform it." (30,14)



"כי קרוב אליך
הדבר מאד בפֿיך
ובלבבך לעשותו"
(ל', י"ד)

Activity

"Near and Far" – Find things that are either near or far apart in your house or your family. (For example, 2 siblings that are close in age, parents that are very different heights, toys that we play with often, books that we barely read....

Next week in Parshat Vayeilech...

We'll get ready to say good bye to Moshe Rabenu.

Shabbat Shalom!

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 Pashut for kids

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Parashat Nitzavim