

PARSHA POINTS

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the Torah portion:

Monday:	Deut. 1:1-18	Mosheh recounts the events at Horeb (Mt. Sinai)
Tuesday:	Deut. 1:19-46	Mosheh recounts the appointing of leaders and the rebellion of the 10 spies
Wednesday:	Deut. 2:1-23	Mosheh recounts Yahweh's past instructions to avoid conflict with Edomites, Moabites and Ammonites as they traveled
Thursday:	Deut. 2:24-37	Yisra'el defeats sovereign Sihon of the Amorites
Friday:	Deut. 3:1-22	Yisra'el defeats the giant sovereign Og of Bashan

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we begin looking at the instruction Yahweh gave to the next generation of the children of Yisra'el as they at last stand ready to enter the Promised Land. Mosheh recounts the event that led to their forefathers forfeiting their land inheritance and be sentenced to wander in the wilderness for 40 years until they gradually died off. Mosheh then addresses this new generation with full accounts of their parents' failures, as a witness to them NOT to act in the same manner. Now, let's read Deuteronomy 1.

PEARL SEEKING

- In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Mosheh spoke to the children of Yisra'el all the words that Yahweh had commanded him concerning them - 1:3
- Beyond the Yarden (Jordan), in the land of Mo'ab (Moab), Mosheh undertook to declare this Torah to them (1:5-8):
 - You have dwelt long enough at this mountain (Horeb)
 - Turn and set out on your way...
 - See, I have set the land before you
 - Go in and possess the land which Yahweh swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Yitshaq, and to Ya'aqob, to give to them and their seed after them

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PEARL SEEKING

- Mosheh told the children of Yisra'el that he was not able to take care of that many people by himself, as they had become as numerous as the stars of the heavens - 1:9-10
- He also told them that Yahweh was going to add to that amount 1000 times more and bless them as He had spoken to them - 1:11
- Mosheh reiterates his concern about trying to bear their pressure and burden and strife all by himself - 1:12
- Mosheh was then advised to then choose wise and understanding men, each of whom was a recognized tribal leader, known for their reputation, to become heads of the tribes - 1:13
- Mosheh took the heads of the tribes, wise and proven leaders, and made them (1:15):
 - heads over Yisra'el and officers for the tribes
 - leaders of thousands
 - leaders of hundreds
 - leaders of fifties
 - leaders of tens
- Mosheh instructed the judges (shoftim) in hearing matters between a man and his brother, or a stranger who dwelt with them (1:16-18):
 - Judge righteously (tsedek)
 - Do NOT show partiality in right-ruling
 - Hear the small (katan) as well as the great (gadol)
 - Do NOT be afraid of anyone's face, for the right-ruling belongs to Elohim
 - If a case is too hard for you, then bring it to me, and I shall hear it
- After they left Horeb, they traveled through all the great and awesome wilderness that they had seen on the way to the mountains of the Amorites, until they came to Qadesh Barnea - 1:19
- *The incident of the spies' report is recounted to the New Generation (the original account is found in parsha Shelach)*

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PEARL SEEKING

- See, Yahweh your Elohim has set the land before you - 1:21
- Go up and possess it, as Yahweh Elohim of your fathers has spoken to you - 1:21
- Do NOT fear, nor be discouraged - 1:21
- Mosheh then told how the people encouraged him to send out men prior to entering, to search out the land and let them know by which route they should go up, and to see what the cities were like - 1:22
- Mosheh revealed that the matter seemed good in his eyes, so he appointed 12 men - one man from each tribe - to spy out the land - 1:23-24
- The men came to the wadi Eshkol and searched it out, bringing back the luscious fruit of the land, with the report that the land which Yahweh was giving them was good - 1:25
- Mosheh then tells the new generation that the previous generation would not go up and take the land, thus rebelling against the mouth of Yahweh their Elohim - 1:26
- Instead, they grumbled in their tents, accusing Yahweh of hating them and intending to give them over to be killed by the hand of the Amorites - 1:27
- They justified their refusal to enter the land by reason of the 10 spies' evil reports, in which they heard of huge and numerous inhabitants living in great, high-walled cities. They lamented that their hearts were utterly melting from fear of hearing such news - 1:28
- Mosheh recounts to this new generation how he encouraged the children of Yisra'el to not have dread or fear of the land's inhabitants, for Yahweh their Elohim ever went before them, and would fight for them just as He had done in Mitsrayim - 1:29-30
- He explained to the children of Yisra'el how Yahweh had taken care of them in the wilderness, just as a father would take care for his son, faithfully leading them to this place - 1:31
- Mosheh then reprimanded them by pointing out, "Yet in this matter you are putting no trust in Yahweh your Elohim, who is going before you in the way to seek out a place for you to pitch your tents, to show you the way you should go, in fire by night and in a cloud by day." - 1:32-33

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PEARL SEEKING

- Because of their evil words, Yahweh took an oath that none of them but Kaleb and Yehoshua would see the good land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers - 1:34-38
- Mosheh reminded the children of Yisra'el that he also was NOT to inherit the land, for Yahweh had become enraged at him for their sakes - 1:37
- At that time, Yahweh had declared that Yehoshua son of Nun, along with their little ones, who had no knowledge of good or evil, would be the ones to go in and possess the land - 1:39
- They were then ordered to turn back to the wilderness by the Way of the Sea of Reeds - 1:40
- But the children of Yisra'el decided that they were going to go ahead and try to obey Yahweh's first command. They girded on their battle gear and prepared to go up into the mountain - 1:41
- Mosheh continues his story, telling how Yahweh warned the people not to go into battle, for He was not in their midst, and they would be smitten - 1:42
- He went on to describe how the first generation would NOT listen and rebelled against the mouth of Yahweh. They acted proudly and went up the mountain anyway - 1:43
- He recalls how the Amorites drove back the children of Yisra'el and chased them as bees do - 1:44
- After all that, the children of Yisra'el returned and wept before Yahweh, but He would NOT listen to their voice any longer, nor give ear to them - 1:45

PARSHA POINTS

DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion. This section would be ideal for the Katan B and Gadol students for deeper study.

- Both in this parsha and in Exodus 18 we read about men being chosen to help Mosheh with leadership. Find and discuss the differences between the two accounts. Who told Mosheh to appoint leaders in both cases?
- In this parsha we also see a retelling of the story of the spies, from Numbers 13. Find and discuss the differences between these two accounts as well. Who told Mosheh to send out the spies in Numbers? Who told Mosheh to send out the spies in Deuteronomy? List some of the extra details given in this telling.
- Why do you think Mosheh goes to such lengths to retell the former events to this next generation? Could it be that Yahweh wants them to avoid doing as the first generation did? Could it be that Yahweh wants them to shema (hear)? Could it be that He wants them to never forget?

