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# Pearl Seeking

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## TREASURING HIS WORD

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

Monday:	Deut. 31:1-6	Mosheh reiterates that he is not going into the land of Kena'an
Tuesday:	Deut. 31:7-12	Mosheh announces that Yehoshua will take his place as their leader; The command for a public reading of the Torah every 7 years
Wednesday:	Deut. 31:13-18	Yahweh predicts future apostasy
Thursday:	Deut. 31:19-22	Yahweh commands Mosheh to write a song as a witness for the children of Yisra'el
Friday:	Deut. 31:23-30	Mosheh gives the Lewites the Book of the Torah to be placed beside the ark of the Witness; Mosheh assembles the elders and officers to hear the Words of Yahweh

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, Mosheh composes a farewell message of exhortation to the next generation of Yis'raelites from those who left Mitsrayim. He stresses obedience to the commandments of Yahweh and a prophecy that the children of Yisra'el will indeed break the Covenant and Yahweh's displeasure will burn against them. Mosheh will complete the Book of the Torah which will be placed by the ark of the Witness as well as compose the Song of Mosheh that he will teach the children of Yisra'el as a witness to them. Most important, we will witness the transferring of leadership to Yehoshua with the famous words to be strong and courageous. Now, let's read Deut. 31:1-29.



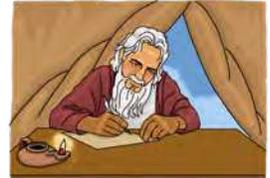
# PARSHA POINTS

- Mosheh spoke these words to the children of Yisra'el before their crossing over into the land of Kena'an, "I am 120 (**meah esrim**) years old today and am no longer able 'to go out and come in'" - 31:1
- Yahweh told me, "You do not pass over the Yarden" - 31:2
- Yahweh your Elohim Himself is passing over before you. He shall destroy these nations from before you and you possess them. Yehoshua himself is passing over before you, as Yahweh has spoken - 31:3
- Yahweh shall do to them as He did to Sihon and to Oğ, the sovereigns of the Amorites and their land, when He destroyed them (Bemidbar 21:21-35, Devarim 2:24-35; 3:1-11) - 31:4
- And Yahweh shall give them over to you, and you shall do to them according to all the command which I have commanded you - 31:5
- "Be strong and courageous, do not fear nor be afraid of them. For it is Yahweh your Elohim who is going with you. He does not fail you nor forsake you" - 31:6
- And Mosheh called Yehoshua and said to him before the eyes of all Yisra'el: (31:7-8)
  - "Be strong and courageous, for you are going with this people to the land which Yahweh has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you are to let them inherit it"
  - "And it is Yahweh who is going before you, He Himself is with you. He does not fail you nor forsake you. Do not fear nor be discouraged"
- Mosheh wrote this Torah and gave it to the priests, the sons of Lēwi, who bore the ark of the covenant of Yahweh, and to all the elders of Yisra'el - 31:9
- Mosheh commanded them, saying: (31:10-13)
  - "At the end of seven (**sheva**) years, at the appointed time, the year of release (**shmitah**), at the Festival of Booths, when all Yisra'el comes to appear before Yahweh your Elohim in the place which He chooses, read this Torah before all Yisra'el in their hearing"
  - "Assemble the people, the men and the women and the little ones, and your sojourner who is within your gates, so that they hear, and so that they learn to fear Yahweh your Elohim and guard to do all the Words of this Torah"
  - "And their children, who have not known it, should hear and learn to fear Yahweh your Elohim as long as you live in the land you are passing over the Yarden to possess"
- And Yahweh said to Mosheh, "See, the days have drawn near for you to die. Call Yehoshua, and present yourselves in the Tent of Appointment, so that I command him" - 31:14
- Mosheh and Yehoshua went and presented themselves in the Tent of Appointment - 31:14
- And Yahweh appeared at the Tent in a column of a cloud, and the column of a cloud stood above the door of the Tent - 31:15



- Yahweh said to Mosheh: (31:16-21)

- "See, you are about to sleep with your fathers. And this people shall rise and whore after the mighty ones of the strangers of the land into the midst of which they shall enter and forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them"
- "Then My displeasure shall burn against them in that day, and I shall forsake them and hide My face from them, and they shall be consumed"
- "And many evils and distresses shall come upon them, and it shall be said in that day, 'Is it not because our Elohim is not in our midst that these evils have come upon us?'"
- "And I shall certainly hide My face in that day, because of all the evil which they have done, for they shall turn to other mighty ones"
- "And now write down this song for yourselves and teach it to the children of Yisra'el"
- "Put it in their mouths, so that this song is to Me for a witness against the children of Yisra'el"
- "And I shall bring them to the land flowing with milk and honey, of which I swore to their fathers, and they shall eat and be satisfied and be fat, then they shall turn to other mighty ones, and they shall serve them, and scorn Me and break My covenant"
- "And it shall be, when many evils and distresses come upon them, that this song shall answer before them as a witness. For it is not to be forgotten in the mouths of their seed, for I know their thoughts which they are forming today, even before I bring them to the land of which I swore to give them"



- And Mosheh wrote this song the same day, and taught it to the children of Yisra'el - 31:22

- And He commanded Yehoshua son of Nun, and said, "Be strong and courageous, for you are to bring the children of Yisra'el into the land of which I swore to them, and I Myself am with you" - 31:23

- And it came to be, when Mosheh had completed writing the Words of this Torah in a book, until their completion, that Mosheh commanded the Lēwites, who bore the ark of the covenant of Yahweh, saying: (31:24-29)

- "Take this Book of the Torah, and you shall place it beside the ark of the covenant of Yahweh your Elohim, and it shall be there as a witness against you"
- "For I myself know your rebellion and your stiff neck. See, while I am still alive with you today, you have been rebellious against Yahweh, then how much more after my death?"
- "Assemble unto me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, so that I speak these words in their hearing and call the heavens and the earth to witness against them"
- "For I know that after my death you shall do very corruptly and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. And evil shall come to you in the latter days, because you do what is evil in the eyes of Yahweh, to provoke Him through the work of your hands"



# DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- Research the expression in v. 2 which says that Mosheh was not able to go out and come in. What does that mean? Was he feeble and old or just an acknowledgment of his time to transfer leadership to Yehoshua?
- Why did Mosheh give the book of the Torah to the priests, to the Lewites who carried the ark, and to the leaders of Yisra'el? What were their duties? What is the book of the Torah?
- We see that the entire book of Deuteronomy was to be read every 7<sup>th</sup> year during the Festival of Sukkot. What is the significance of the 7<sup>th</sup> year? What happened at the shmittah (year of release)?
- Read Nehemiah 8:14-18 where the prophet Ezra obeyed the command to read the Torah at Sukkot the 7<sup>th</sup> year.
- Discuss the importance of Yahweh choosing and approving of Yehoshua as the next leader.
- Why do you think Yahweh instructed Mosheh to write a song and teach it to the children of Yisra'el? Could it be so that when things befell them that they would know that Yahweh had said these things would happen as to not doubt His sovereignty?
- Why do you think the book of the Torah was placed beside the ark of the Witness and not inside like the 2 tablets, Aharon's rod, and the manna pot.

