

# V'Zot HaBerachah (and this is the blessing)

## SIMCHAT TORAH (*Rejoicing in Torah*)



Moses views the Promised Land before he dies

Deuteronomy 33:1 **וְזֹאת** *And this is the blessing, in which blessed Moses, the man of Elohim* **אתי** Children of Israel before his death.

**Question:** What were the final words of Moses? These final words of Moses are a combination of blessing and prophecy, in which he blesses each tribe according to its national responsibilities and individual greatness. Moses' blessings were a continuation of Jacob's, as if to say that the tribes were blessed at the beginning of their national existence and again as they were about to begin life in Israel. Moses directed his blessings to each of the tribes individually, since the welfare of each tribe depended upon that of the others, and the collective welfare of the nation depended upon the success of them all (Pesikta).



00-742402-7453000 by Jewish Art Project 2008/10/10

**2 And he (*Moses*) said, יהוה came from Sinai and from Seir He dawned on them; He shined forth from Mount Paran and He came with ten thousands of holy ones: from His right *hand* went a fiery commandment for them.**

**Question:** How did יהוה present the Torah to the Israelites? יהוה came to Israel from Seir and Paran, which, as the Midrash records, recalls that יהוה had offered the Torah to the descendants of Esau, who dwelled in Seir, and to the Ishmaelites, who dwelled in Paran, both of whom refused to accept the Torah because it prohibited their predilections to kill and steal. Then, accompanied by some of His myriads of holy angels, יהוה came and offered His fiery Torah to the Israelites, who submitted themselves to His sovereignty and accepted His Torah without question or qualification.

**Question:** Why is Israel worthy of a blessing?

- (a) יהוה dwells among them;
- (b) They accepted His Torah;
- (c) They acknowledged His sovereignty

**3 Certainly, He loves the people; all His Holy Ones *are* in your hand: sitting down at your feet; *they* receive your instructions. 4 Moses commanded us *to keep* the Torah, *as an* inheritance for the congregation of Jacob. 5 And He was king in Yeshurun (*dear upright people*), when the leaders of the people *and* the tribes of Israel were gathered together.**

**Question:** Where is Yeshurun? Yeshurun is a poetic nickname for Israel (Deut 33:16; Isaiah 44:2). This name shows that once upon a time, before the Masoretic pronunciation aids, the letters ו and י were once quite the same:



יִשְׁרֻן

Jeshurun

יִשְׂרָאֵל

Israel

The name Yeshurun comes from יִשָּׁר (yasar 930) meaning to be level, straight, upright.

**Question:** Who is king in Yeshurun? יהוה is Israel's King in the fullest sense only when the people are united to do His Will, just as the acceptance of יהוה's sovereignty at Sinai was with the consent of the entire Israelite nation, without dissent.



**6 Let Reuben live and not die out; and let his men not be few.**

**Question:** In what order did Moses bless the tribes? Moses blessed Reuben first because he was the firstborn (Ibn Ezra), or because Reuben would be the first to receive a portion of the Land, and, generally speaking, Moses blessed all the tribes in the order in which they would conquer their portions of the Land [which accounts for the almost random order in which he named the tribes] (Ramban).

**Question:** What blessing did Moses give to Reuben? Jacob had criticized Reuben for the impulsiveness that caused him to be stripped of his leadership role by defiling his father's bed (Genesis 49:3). Moses prayed, therefore, that this hotheadedness not bring the tribe to extinction, for he knew prophetically that Reuben was destined to be exiled before the other tribes [see Deuteronomy 29:27; Leviticus 26:38] (Daas Soferim).

**Question:** Where is the tribe of Reuben today? The Tribe of Reuben settled largely in France but spread their seed throughout the lands that they explored and conquered. The French have had much pride and some power during their reign of kings and queens but have dwindled down in power today. Their pre-eminence did not last but they lost their birthright promise to Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh nations). Reuben's people are volatile, and emotional like "unstable as water." They are famous for their physical and sexual passionate appetites. France retains some power and dignity through its language, and a slight allegiance to his brothers of the 10 Tribes by being a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council. Reuben's descendants of today pretty well measure up to Jacob's prophecy, (Collins).



**7 וְאֵת** *And this is the blessing to Judah: and he said, Hear, יהוה, the voice of Judah and bring him to his people: let his hands be sufficient to defend him; and you help him against his enemies.*

**Question:** What was the blessing of Judah? The tribe of Judah -- from which the Davidic royal line would descend -- was to play a central role in the life of the nation, and this princely tribe would lead the nation in the wars for Israel [see Judges 1:2]. Consequently, Moses' prayer -- like that of Jacob in Genesis 49:8 -- was that Judah's armies should be victorious, and that he rely only on יהוה, Who would respond to his prayers (Ramban).

**Question:** Where is the tribe of Judah located today? A small remnant of Torah keeping "Judahites" returned to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem after their 70-year exile in Babylon (modern day Iraq). But many more Judahites migrated into Russia and settled in small pockets, and other Judahites mixed in or followed the 10 Tribes into Europe. The two sons of Jacob who are in perpetual competition with each other were Judah and Joseph. They have different mothers, and would eventually end up leading the two parts of the *split kingdom* of ancient Israel. The southern kingdom of ancient Israel, lead by Judah, went east, forming the Soviet Block, and the northern kingdom of ancient Israel, lead by Joseph, went west." The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet" refers to the United Nations. The general structure of the United Nations follows the structure of Soviet governments. To reflect that pattern, the general iconography of the United Nations also follows traditional Soviet types and patterns. This is no accident; the United Nations is the government that if the Messiah came back today he would take the reigns of... It is Judah's government, the one being prepared for the Messiah to take control of.

Judah was the prominent son of Leah. Leah had bad eyes, and that seems to be reflective of an inability to see what יהוה is doing. There is a history of religious persecution across Russia and that history appears to be hinted at in the way Judah could not correctly handle Tamar. Tamar is also interesting, as the name is associated in scripture with the *richly ornamented robe* and the story in Genesis of Judah's dealing with Tamar is a prophetic story of Russia dealing with the English speaking west. In general Judah wants to *stone and burn* Tamar, but eventually relents. Communism is commonly referred to in the Bible as the slavery associated with Judah. His jealousy of the situation of others overtakes him economically and he ends up enslaving even his own people, to their collective shame, and economic calamity. Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia are listed here as part of Judah. These nations share the same Slavic language family with Russia, which is the basis for this match.

**Question:** What happened to the tribe of Judah that went into Europe? The Judahites that migrated into Europe from Asia are referred to "Ashkenazi" Jews which is a name derived from "Isaac". The Ashkenazi Jews are usually fair-skinned, blue, green, or light brown eyes, and light hair color, blonde, red, or brown. Other Judahites migrated into Spain, and became known as "Sephardic Jews". They usually have olive-skin tones, dark brown to black hair, and dark brown eyes. Genesis 49:10 says, "The scepter (a symbol of royal authority) shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet (teach Torah wherever they go) until Shiloh come." Shiloh is a reference to Messiah. The instructors of Torah, the Tribe of Judah, primarily settled in Europe. History reveals that the royal houses of Europe intermarried with Judah's people, and thus, the first part of the blessing, having royal authority, has continued with the Tribe of Judah throughout European history until today.



**Question:** Why was Simeon left out of the blessing? Jacob reprimanded Simeon [see Genesis 49:5], and the sinners in the terrible affair of Baal Peor were Simeonites [see Numbers 25:3]. Since Simeon's cities were within Judah's territory (Joshua 19:2), they were included in Judah's blessing.

**Question:** Where is the tribe of Simeon located today? The Tribe of Simeon would not have a nation of their own to distinguish them in history but would remain dispersed among the other Tribes of Israel. The Simeonites sailed with the sea-faring Danites to the British Isles in 720 B.C. It is believed that they along with the Danites were instrumental in founding the City of Sparta, Greece. This evidence is found in the Book of I Maccabees, which contains fascinating correspondence between the Jews and Spartans in the second century B.C. saying to the Spartans "you are our kinsmen." Sparta was a war-like city-state that could be very ruthless at times. It is evident that Simeonites found their way into the British Isles. The British Celts (Irish) revealed their Spartan military skills by resisting the Roman army with military actions similar to those used by the Spartans in Greece (Collins).



8 And of Levi he said, *Let your Thummim and your Urim be with your holy one, whom you tested at Massah and with whom you struggled at the waters of Meribah;* 9 Who said to his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; **אֵת** and neither his brethren neither did he acknowledge **אֵת** and his own children: for they have observed your word, and kept your covenant. 10 They will teach Jacob your rulings and Israel your Torah: they will set incense before you and whole burnt sacrifices upon your altar. 11 Bless יהוה his possessions and accept the work of his hands: *crush the hip and thigh of his enemies that rise against him and those who hate him rise no more.*

**Question:** What was the blessing of Levi? Moses' blessing of Levi begins with the Kohanim and then proceeds to the tribe as a whole. He first praised the steadfast loyalty and bravery of the Levites in the Wilderness. Then he went on to bless the Levites as the teachers of the nation and to pray that they would overcome any challenges. The Levites observed יהוה's covenant by never indulging in idolatry, either in Egypt or the Wilderness (Sforno). More specifically, the covenant refers to the covenant of circumcision, for the vast majority of the Israelites did not circumcise their newborn in the Wilderness, because the hot, dry climate made it dangerous to do so. The Levites, however, had faith in יהוה and always circumcised their babies (Rashi).

**Question:** Where is the tribe of Levi located today? Levi is perhaps the easiest modern nation to identify; it retains a legal name that matches her ancient tribe. Switzerland's legal name is the *Confederation of the Helvetii*. That word, in turn, is simply a respelling of the vowelless Hebrew name LVT, or LeViTe. Also curious, in Hebrew, the H prefix means "the". To play with the name, Switzerland is thus, the "Confederation of the Levites". The Levites were the keepers of the Tabernacle, and later the Temple in Jerusalem. That duty appears to continue as the Swiss Guards stand watch at the Vatican, and have various ceremonial functions in the same. The Levites were not to be counted in regular census counts because those counts were really military role calls, and the Levites were not to participate in ancient Israel's wars. The country has maintained a neutral stance even through two major world wars fought around all of her borders. The Levites were also supported through *tithing*, also called tax collecting in the Bible. The Swiss are known for their banking industry, a degenerate form of tithe collecting. The Levites also had time-based functions in the ancient Israelite community and that function appears to be reflected in the traditional clock-making industry located in Switzerland. The Levites were also responsible for many of the governmental functions of ancient Israel. The modern equivalent is an extensive set of United Nations offices located in Geneva. The symbol for government given in the Bible is *mountain* and its various synonyms. This includes *island, hill, rock* and so on. The location of Switzerland in the Swiss Alps is a match to this function as keepers of the government functions.

The subject of the Treaty of Nanking is Britain establishing five autonomous city-states in China including the most famous, Hong Kong. This makes great sense because Levi was to be scattered into city states, cities-of-refuge really, across ancient Israel. Hong Kong, especially, would remain a city of refuge for people fleeing mainland China for 150 years. By so clearly matching a treaty involving China, it helps establish the idea that the ancient Biblical peoples were simply to inherit the entire planet. Biblical city-states in China, essentially the "end of the world" from Europe, imply strongly that China is also considered a Biblical country that is inherited by Abraham. Most key city-states across the world are likely under the tribe of Levi, even the Vatican City.



The Tribes of Levi had a capacity for violence, but had a particular zeal for service to Elohim. The combination of an inclination towards violence and a zeal for Elohim made the Levites יהוה's perfect choice to be the priestly tribe of ancient Israel because much of their responsibilities involved killing and butchering animals for sacrificing. Levites are not squeamish people, and they make good butchers, surgeons, soldiers, morticians, CSI detectives, etc. The Tribe of Levi also had a special aptitude for music and entertainment. In ancient times they served as singers and musicians in worship. Today, we will find Levites in the music, movie, and entertainment industries exhibiting their talents (Collins). Although many Levites are among the Jews, and upholding Judaism, they are also found among the other non-Jewish Tribes, nations, and religions as well. Most Levites found in religion are apt to be "pharisaical" type Bible teachers, prideful, stubborn, and hardheaded about their "self-imposed head-knowledge." Or their talents will be exhibited through their music and song abilities. Many Levites have retained their name in some form such as Levi, Levy, or a derivative of the Hebrew word "cohan/cohanim" such as Cohen, Cohan, Caan, Kohen, etc. (Collins).



**12 And of Benjamin he said, The beloved of יהוה will live in safety by Him; and Adonai will protect him all day long and he will live between His shoulders.**

**Question:** What is Benjamin's blessing? Since the Temple was located in Benjamin's portion of Jerusalem, his blessing follows that of Levi, the tribe that performed the service. The Temple was built in the Judean hills, as if on Benjamin's shoulders. Benjamin received this privilege for three reasons: (a) He was the only tribal ancestor who was born in the Promised Land (the others were born in Aram, while Jacob worked for Laban); (b) he had no part in the sale of Joseph; and (c) he comforted Jacob in his old age.



**Question:** Where is the tribe of Benjamin located today? The Tribe of Benjamin was the smallest tribe in Judea and the most warlike. When Judah, including Benjamin and Levites, were taken into exile into Babylon for 70 years for their punishment for the sin idolatry, only a few returned to Jerusalem with the Judahites that returned to rebuild the Temple. Most of Benjamin's people remained in Asia (Russia) then migrated over the Caucasus Mts. into Europe. They joined the two brother Tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh in Europe. Genesis 49:27 says, "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil." Wolves are common in northern climates, indicating that Benjamin's people would settle in the northern latitudes. Norway and Iceland hold the most Benjamin descendants. These Benjamin people became the "Viking Norsemen", great seafaring people. Norway's Viking ancestors were known for their preying (wolf like) on all other nations of Europe from various bases they set up in their Northern homelands. They warred against all other Tribes in bloody civil wars. The descendants of Benjamin also came to North America in huge Viking ships for exploration (Collins).

**13 And of Joseph he said, May יהוה bless his land with the precious things of heavens, for the dew and what comes from the deep that lies beneath,**

**Question:** How was Joseph blessed? יהוה blessed his land. In fact, no other tribal territory was as fertile as Joseph's (Rashi). Moses felt the need to bestow such specific blessings on Joseph's territory, because Joseph's portion needed special Divine grace to avoid catastrophe. The evil kings of the Northern Kingdom, the Ten Tribes, came through Joseph, who caused the destruction of the Land.

**14 And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun and for the precious things that comes up each month, 15 And for the best things of the ancient mountains and for the precious things of the lasting hills, 16 And for the precious things of the earth and all that fills it and for the favor of Him who lived in the (burning) bush: may blessing come upon the head of Joseph and upon the top of the head of him who was separated from his brothers.**



**Question:** Who is the one who lived in the burning bush? May Joseph's land be blessed by the grace of יהוה Who revealed Himself on Mount Sinai, the place where Moses saw the bush (Ramban).



**17 His glory is like the firstborn bull and his horns are like the horns of unicorns (wild oxen): with them he will gore the peoples, all of them, to the ends of the earth: and these are the ten thousands of Ephraim and they are the thousands of Manasseh.**

**Question:** Where are the tribe of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh) located today? The two Tribes, Ephraim and Manasseh, pretty much migrated north to the European areas and eventually to North America. In Genesis 48:14-16, Jacob blessed Ephraim and Manasseh by saying, "'let my name (inherited Jacob's name) on them, and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude'" The two Tribes pretty much stayed together in their migrations as brother tribes. They took on the name of Isaac. In old English, they were known as the "Sacs", "Sacae," "Saka", or Saxons." The names "Saxon" means "Saac's sons" or "Isaac's sons". The Saxon people settled in the British Isles, and a few in the areas of France and Germany. The French word "Alsace" comes from the same name. Not all French and Germans though are related to these "sons of Isaac", (Collins). The modern nations, which descended from an Anglo-Saxon heritage, are England, Canada, Australia, New Zealand (what is left of the reign of England today), and the United States of America. These nations have fulfilled the prophecy about large populations. When you combine the populations of these modern nations, and the history of England and America, these two nations in particular uniquely fulfill the prophecy. They produced great wealth, kings and queens, great leaders, and world commerce, banking, military conquests, land acquisitions, etc. more so than any other nations in the world during their historic reigns. Most of the rest of the tribes also carry their own native tongues, but the two brother Tribes have had the "English Language" as a common bond between their countries of settlement (Collins).

After the 10 Tribes of the Northern Kingdom of Israel were scattered out into the "gentile" or heathen nations as a result of their sin of idolatry (mixing יהוה's Torah with idols and idolatrous worship that was practiced by heathens; mixing the Holy with unholy things), they adopted the religion of "Rome," the "catholic" religion that Roman Emperor Constantine developed in 300 A.D.

The Roman Catholic Church was very prevalent in the European areas for centuries and still is. The "sons of Isaac" upheld and supported the Roman religion to the extent of helping it to become a ruling power over people's lives for many devastating centuries. The seed of idolatry had been planted in their hearts to sprout forth a counterfeit religion that would rule and reign for years over the minds of "Isaac's" people. It would even cleverly transform itself into giving birth to a more modern religion, more adaptable to the changing "new" world called "Christianity."

Today, the majority of the "sons of Isaac" from the two Tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh are found in the Christian religion, and some remaining in the Catholic religion, and their offshoot religions. Both the Christian and the Catholic religions have the same mixing of Torah (Bible) and idolatry. The Catholic Church, however, is more visible in its idolatry with the "eucharist" or symbol of Rome's sun god, the beads from the Hindu religion, the statues of the dying "Jesus" and dead saints, and its "Virgin Mary" idol. Along with these, is sun-day worship that is so esteemed by Catholics and Christians. Sun-day was Rome's #1 day devoted to the sun-god worship of Tammuz, Rome's highest and most venerated sun god. All Roman crucifixions, and people fed to the lions became human sacrifices to honor Rome's sun god, Tammuz, on the day of the sun (Sunday) in ancient Rome. That sun-day still exists today, and is honored as a holy day of worship by Catholics and Christians alike. The Christian Church does not worship statues but still retains leftovers of the Roman Catholic Church; the day of worship set aside for Rome's Tammuz sun-god, the manmade idol "Jesus," and other aspects of the Roman religion such as the holidays of Christmas and Easter that were incorporated in Rome's sun god and goddess religion. Thus, one can see the continuing practice of mixing Torah (Bible) and idolatry in the adopted religions of the descendants of the Tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh.





**18 And of Zebulun he said, Rejoice, Zebulun, as you go out; and you, Issachar, in your tents.**

**Question:** Why are Issachar and Zebulun blessed together? Issachar and Zebulun had a unique and inspiring partnership. Zebulun engaged successfully in maritime commerce and supported Issachar who devoted his time to Torah study as teacher, judge, and cultivator of the spiritual treasure of the people (see I Chronicles 12:32). Although Issachar was older, Zebulun is mentioned first because it was he who made Issachar's Torah study possible (Tanchuma; Rashi). See Genesis 49:13.

**Question:** Where is the tribe of Zebulun today? The only nation that truly has inhabited an area that became a "haven" or shelter from the sea is Holland, the Netherlands via its famous dikes. It is literally sheltered from the sea by its dike system. The Dutch port of Rotterdam has become the busiest seaport in the world (haven for ships). In Deuteronomy 33:18-19, Moses prophesied that Zebulun would "suck of the abundance of the seas" and have "treasures in the sand." The Dutch "sucked" the "seas" out of the way to have their land to live on through their dike and windmill systems. They found hidden in the "sand" one of the largest deposits of oil in the world, and petroleum production has become a wealthy treasure. The Royal Dutch/Shell Oil Company is a premier oil-producing company in the world, (Collins). Zebulunites are a "settled" people mostly engaged in shipping, agriculture, and smaller craft type of businesses. They are of a "protestant" persuasion in religion, but contrary to the anti-Semitic element in the church, they have exhibited a love for the Jewish people, hiding them at personal risk during WWII.

Zebulun's people have an unusual outlook on sex and drug use. This may come from the part of Jacob's prophecy where he speaks "and his border shall be unto Zidon." The Hebrew word for border literally means "thighs." This word is also found in Daniel 2:32 indicating that the legs of the statue are different from the thighs of the statue. It means that the "thighs" are an area of



penetration. With the use of the same word for "thighs" in Zebulon's prophecy, Jacob was referring to Zebulon's manner of all erotic/sinful sexual pleasures that he enjoyed. The Dutch capital of Amsterdam is world famous for its "red light district" offering all that man can sinfully desire. These practices were compared to the ancient Sidonians (Zidon) who were famous for officially mandating sinful sex practices, which were part of the fertility cult practices of Baal worship. Queen Jezebel was a Sidonian, and her name became synonymous with the brazen sexual practices that became a sex-trade to other nations. Sex-trade in the Netherlands is comparable to those ancient practices (Collins).



**Question:** What was special about the descendants of Issachar? The descendants of Issachar had a special understanding of the complex procedures for establishing the Israelite calendar, and the science of intercalation (when to add a thirteenth month during leap years). The scholars of Issachar would determine when the tribes assemble at the Temple mount for the Pilgrimage Festivals, where they would offer thanksgiving to יהוה by bringing offerings of righteousness.

**Question:** Where is the tribe of Issachar today? The Tribe of Issachar passed through Russia on its way to the Scandinavia areas of Finland, and Greenland. Genesis 49:14-15 gives us a clue to their whereabouts. It states, "Issachar is a strong ass (donkey) crouching down between two burdens: and he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute," (Collins). The nation of Finland has long been a buffer zone between stronger competing nations, caught between Russia and Sweden. From 1899 to 1905, Russia dominated Finland, and Finland was "under tribute" to the Czar of Russia for an annual contribution. In 1928, Finland made a treaty with Germany, and again had to pay "tribute" to another nation. Finland has been a "buffer state" between larger powers fulfilling Jacob's prophecy in the modern world, (Collins).

**19 They will call the people to the mountain; there they will offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they will draw from the abundance of the seas and from the treasures hidden in the sand.**



**Question:** Where did Issachar and Zebulun receive their blessings? They were nourished, by the sea, which would yield them abundant wealth (Rashi). Concealed in the sand were treasures such as valuable seashells and the dye from the chilazon, the amphibious creature that was used to color glass, wool, and the turquoise woolen thread used in tzitzit (Sforno).



**20 And of Gad he said, Blessed is He who makes Gad so large: he lies there like a lion tearing the arm with the scalp (head). 21 And he chose the best part for himself when the princely portion was assigned; and when the leaders of the people came, he executed the justice of יהוה and His judgments concerning Israel.**

**Question:** How was Gad blessed? As a tribe that lived on the border, Gad was like a fierce lion, defending its own territory and that of the neighboring tribes (Rashi). יהוה grants gifts commensurate with responsibility. Because the Gadites undertook to defend the territories of their fellow tribes, Moses blessed them with extraordinary strength to carry out the task. Had they thought only about themselves, they may well have lacked even sufficient might for that.

**Question:** What were the warriors of Gad like? With one swipe of their swords, the mighty warriors of the tribe of Gad would cut off their victim's head and arm (Rashi). During the conquest of Israel, the mighty tribe of Gad marched at the first of the armies (Joshua 1:14). Gad chose their land because Moses would be buried there (Rashi).

**Question:** Where is the tribe of Gad located today? The Tribe of Gad was taken into captivity by the Assyrians into Asia, and latter migrated into the European areas of Belgium, Switzerland, and Germany. Genesis 49:20 states, "Blessed be he who enlarges Gad! Gad crouches like a lion; he tears the arm, and the crown of the head." Jacob's prophecy indicates that Gad would have a large population ("be enlarged"), and act as a predator (like a lion that preys on or hunts its kill to tear it apart to devour). No other nation of people fit this prophecy like the Germans especially under Hitler. They not only devoured all of Europe but also went through Europe in search of its prey, the "Jews." Germany hunted them down, uprooted, and tore them apart from the other people as a lion tears its prey apart. Germany includes the "sons of Isaac" and also descendants that were called "Prussians." The Prussians were not related to Gad, and were a diabolical military presence in that area. Thus, Germany has traditionally exhibited a split personality as a nation. It is Gad's presence in the nation that led to the Protestant Reformation (Roman Catholic Church gave birth to a daughter religion that became Christianity, a reformed catholic religion that the "sons of Isaac" supported), and the Prussian influence that produced Adolph Hitler and Nazism. Their Prussian martial skills came to force under Hitler to be a scourge to Germany's neighbors. Researchers estimate that most modern Germans are a mixture of Gad and non-Israelite bloodlines (Collins).

Dan



גשם

**22 And of Dan he said, Dan is a lion's cub: leaping forth from Bashan.**

**Question:** What was the blessing of Dan? Since Dan, like Gad, lived close to the border, he too is described as a lion (Rashi). According to some, the simile refers to the nimbleness and adventurous spirit for which the tribe of Dan was noted, as exemplified by its illustrious son Samson. The tribe of Dan would be so confident of victory that it would not hesitate to go to war outside its boundaries.

**Question:** Where is the tribe of Dan located today? The Tribe of Dan left their name throughout all the areas of their migrations. Everywhere they traveled, they named their settlements after themselves, which became cities retaining those names. The Danites main characteristic was to name geographical locations along their migratory paths. From Russia into Ireland where they eventually established themselves, they left the name of Dan. Some of the Danites became great seafaring peoples. A region of Turkey used to be called "Dardania", and one of the narrow straits between the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea by Russia is still called Dardanelles. They joined in with Egypt's exploration fleets during Solomon's time into the Pacific Ocean as far as Hawaii. The "fair-skinned" sailors among the Egyptian navy were visible in the Polynesian Islands, Europe, New Zealand, and Israel history records. History records that after the Assyrian captivity of the 10 Tribes of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, a people called "Tuatha De Danaan" arrived in Ireland. They may be the earliest settlers of Ireland and the descendants of the Irish people, (Collins).

For those Danites that stayed on land to migrate northward from the Black Sea region along with refugees of the other Tribes, they left names everywhere they went and settled in Denmark mostly. However, they traveled through many areas such as "Danzig, Poland to get to "Danmark" as the "Danes" call Denmark. Genesis 49:16-17 says, "Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel. Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, which bites the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward." The Hebrew word translated "judge" can be also translated "discern." Like snakes that leave a telltale pattern in the dirt of their winding movements, so have Dan's people left a winding trace of their migrations to be discerned by their leaving names everywhere. The latter part of their prophecy can be concluded to be the modern day battle of "throwing off the rider" by winning their independence from the British by "biting British heels" with a terrorist campaign. They won not by open warfare but by "nipping at the heels" of the British via terrorist acts. (Collins).





**23 And of Naphtali he said, O Naphtali, satisfied *with* favor and full of the blessing of יְהוָה: possess the west (*sea*) and the south.**

**Question:** What is the blessing of Naphtali? Naphtali's blessing refers to the riches of its territory. His territory was very fertile and contained everything its inhabitants could desire (Rashi).

**Question:** Where is the tribe of Naphtali today? The Tribe of Naphtali was carried off into Asia by the ancient Assyrians and their tribal name remains virtually unchanged. They became known as "Ephthalites", or "Nephthalite Huns" also called the "White Huns" because of their fair-skinned appearance. They crossed over the Caucasus Mountains of Russia. With their fair-skinned appearance, they became known as Caucasians, and also carried the name of "Isaac" and its derivatives. At one time in their early history, a tribe called the Yue-Chi, by the Chinese, lived north of the Great Wall of China. These fair-skinned people called themselves "Sacae" confirming their Israelite origin. They eventually migrated toward Europe where the rest of the white tribes had previously located. Thereby, the descendants of Naphtali would be found in Europe, (Collins). Genesis 49:21 states, " Naphtali is a hind let loose: he gives goodly words." Jacob's prophecy allegorizes Naphtali to be like a female deer during heat. This implies that Naphtali's people will be identified with sensuality in particular. The European area that they settled in to fulfill the prophecy was Sweden, known for its liberal stand on sexual activities and its beautiful blonde women. The phrase "goodly words" applies to Sweden's annual presentation of the Nobel Peace Prize. No other nation is identified with making such a notable award on an annual basis, (Collins).



**24 And of Asher he said, Let Asher *be* blessed with children; let him be favored by his brothers and let him bathe his feet in oil.**

**Question:** What is the blessing of Asher? Moses followed Jacob's blessing (Genesis 49:20) in focusing on the fertility of Asher's territory and the fruitfulness of his children. Asher was the largest tribe (see Numbers 26:47), and Moses blessed them that they should remain so, and not be diminished by sin (Daas Soferim). Asher supplied all the tribes with such abundant and delicious fruit that everyone blessed Asher for it.



Olive trees

**25 Your shoes *will be* iron and brass; and your strength last as long as you live.**

**Question:** How did Moses bless all of Israel through Asher? In blessing all of Israel, Asher would defend that important area as if it were sealed by bars of iron and copper. Moses went on to bless Asher that it maintains its youthful vigor (Ramban).

**Question:** Where is the tribe of Asher today? The Tribe of Asher traveled along with Ephraim and Manasseh and refugees of the Tribe of Zebulun (Dutch). Asher's people spent some time in the British Isles. One branch of the Ashurites is recorded in Numbers 26:45 being called "Heberites." In the Hebrew language the consonants H-B-R are the root word for Heber, Hiberia, Hebrides, names found in Ireland and Scotland. They eventually went to South Africa to begin to fulfill Jacob's prophecy over them "Asher's bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties" in Genesis 49:20. The Tribe of Asher managed the tin mines of Cornwall that contributed materials for Solomon's temple. Mining became their number one contribution to the kings of the world; they placed "gold" dainties on the king's tables. Thus establishing South Africa's Gold Coast and its gold mining trade. The Republic of South Africa was colonized primarily by a mixture of British and Dutch people called the "Boers", and Ashurites (Collins).

**Question:** Where are the tribes of Israel today? The following is a list of the tribes of Israel and their *possible* national identities today. Although this information is based on historical and linguistic evidence not all of the Twelve Tribes of Israel can be identified with absolute certainty.

Tribe of Israel	Possible National Identity	Genesis
Asher	Republic of South Africa	
Benjamin	Norway, Iceland	49:27
Dan	Ireland, Denmark	49:16-18
Gad	Germany, Belgium	49:19
Issachar	Finland, Greenland	49:14-15
Ephraim	Britain and United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand	49: 22-26
Manasseh	United States of America	49:22-26
Judah	Russia, Poland, Czech Republic, and Slovakia, Spain	49:8-12
Levi	Switzerland, scattered into the nations	49:5-7
Naphtali	Sweden	49:21
Reuben	France	49:3-4
Simeon	British Isles, Greece	49:5-7
Zebulon	Holland (Netherlands)	49:13

**26 Yeshurun (*the dear upright people*), there is none like Elohim who rides through the heavens to help you and riding on the clouds in His majesty.**





**Question:** What were Moses' last words filled with? Moses' last words are of blessing and reassurance -- for ultimately Israel will fulfill its promise and be showered with Divine rewards that will eclipse by far the horrors it has endured.

**27 The eternal Elohim is your refuge with everlasting arms beneath: He will expel the enemy before you; and He will say, destroy them. 28 Israel then will live in safety: the fountain of Jacob is alone in a land of grain and wine where His heavens drip down with dew. 29 Happy are you, Israel! Who is like you, a people saved in ביהודה your shield helping you and your sword of triumph? Your enemies will cringe before you; ואתה and you will trample down their high places.**



View from Mount Nebo

**Question:** Where did Moses go after he blessed the people? Having blessed the people and prayed for them, Moses, the faithful servant, ascended the mountain of Nebo as he had been commanded (32:49). יהוה prophetically showed Moses the entire Promised Land, in its prosperity and under the oppression of future conquerors (Rashi).

**Deuteronomy 34:1 And Moses went up from the plains of Moab to the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. And showed him יהוה את-יהודה all the land of את-גילה Gilad as far as Dan,**

**Question:** What did יהוה show Moses about Dan? יהוה showed Moses both the offspring of Dan practicing idolatry (see Judges 18:30), and Dan's descendant Samson, who would deliver the people from the persecution of the Philistines (Sifre).



**Question:** The Israelites did not want Moses to leave them and start into the Promised Land with a new leader, Joshua. "All beginnings are difficult." What do you think that means? How can knowing this motivate us to grow? We learn from this a fascinating insight. Besides whether a situation itself is difficult or not there is an additional factor that will make us feel that it is. Simply the fact that it is a new situation will by itself make it seem hard. Knowing this can be a big help in trying and sticking with something new if we feel that it will be good for us. We can gain the courage to "stick it out" and see something through if we realize that it's likely to get easier as time goes on.

2 **וְאֵת** And all Naphtali **וְאֵת** and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh **וְאֵת** and all the land of Judah all the way to the sea, 3 **וְאֵת** And the south **וְאֵת** and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the City of Palm Trees, as far as Zoar. 4 And **יְהוָה** said to him, **וְאֵת** This is the land which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob saying, I will give it to your descendants: I have allowed you to see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over there.

**Question:** Where was the land promised to the Israelites?



5 So Moses, the servant of **יְהוָה** died there in the land of Moab according to the word of **יְהוָה**.



Death of Moses

**Question:** If Moses died here, then who wrote the rest of the Torah? There are two opinions: Moses wrote the Torah up to this point, and Joshua wrote the remaining verses; or יהוה dictated these words to Moses, and he wrote them with tears, rather than ink (Rashi).

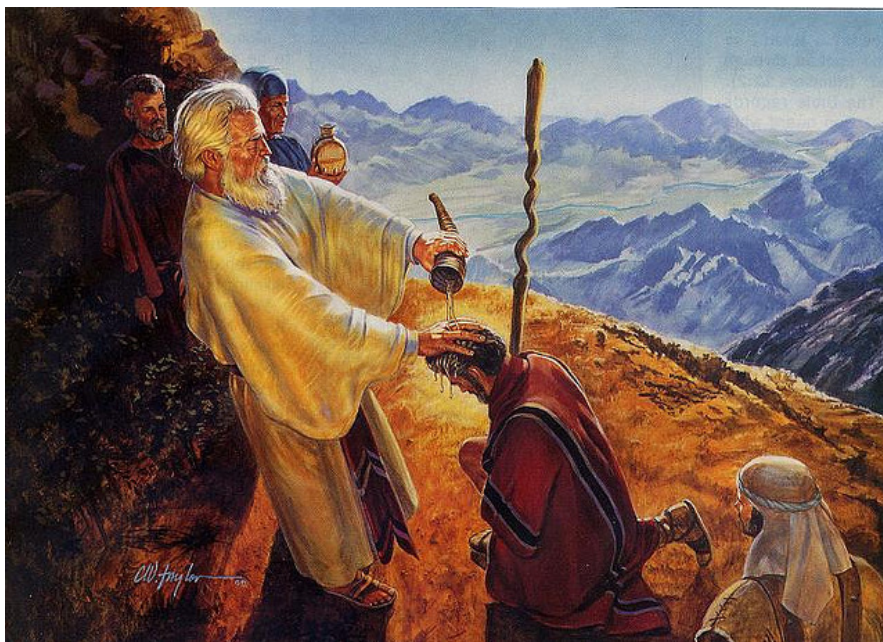
**6 And He (יהוה) buried אהו him in a valley in the land of Moab across from Beth-peor: but knows no man of את his grave to this day.**

**Question:** Where was Moses buried? Moses died by a Divine kiss. Moses' grave was ready for him since the six days of Creation. He was buried opposite Beth-peor to atone for the incident of mass immorality that took place there. Even Moses himself did not know where his tomb was before he died, and after his death it remained concealed, so that his tomb might not become a shrine of pilgrimage for those who deify national heroes.



7 And Moses *was* 120 years old when he died: his eyes were undimmed and his vigor undiminished. 8 And wept *the* Children of Israel *for* **את** Moses in the plains of Moab *for* thirty days: after this the days of weeping *and* mourning for Moses ended. 9 And Y'hoshua, the son of Nun, was full of the spirit of wisdom; for had laid Moses **את** his hands upon him: and *the* Children of Israel listened to him and did as commanded **את** יהוה **את** Moses; 10 And there has not been a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom יהוה knew face to face,

**Question:** Who did Moses talk to face to face? Verses 9-10 imply both יהוה through **את** commanded Moses face to face the TWO working together as ONE by ONE SPIRIT to redeem **את** Children of Israel! (Eph 2:18 For through Him we both have access by One Spirit unto the Father). C-MAT



Moses lays hands on Joshua



**Question:** Why was hands laid on Joshua? The laying of hands symbolizes the transference of Moses' authority to Joshua, thus endowing him with a portion of his spirit.

**11 In all האִתּוֹת *the signs and the wonders* יְהוָה sent him to do in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land,**



יהוה parts the Red Sea

**12 What might was in *his* hand! What great terror Moses evoked in the sight of all Israel!**

**Question:** What was the might in His Hand? This refers to the division of the waters of the Red Sea.

**Question:** Sometimes it seems that companies are constantly coming out with products called "new and improved" even when there didn't seem to be any problem with the old product. Why do you think that is? Why do you think people are interested to buy it? While in a sense people prefer what is familiar to them, there is also a feeling of excitement about something "new". Companies try to capitalize on this feeling to increase sales. The feeling itself may be motivated by a vague dissatisfaction in people's lives which they hope the new product will remedy. However, more likely than not, this doesn't work. Rather, when a person focuses himself on a more meaningful and spiritually fulfilling lifestyle, he or she will begin to feel more and more satisfied.

**Spiritual Exercise:** Are you not satisfied with something in your life? What do you need to change to draw closer to יהוה? This week focus on this one area and see how יהוה will bless you.





Joshua leads the Israelites

## Haftorah

Y'hoshua 1:1 Now it came to pass after the death of Moses the servant of יהוה, that יהוה spoke to Y'hoshua the son of Nun, Moses minister, saying, 2 Moses My servant is dead; now therefore, arise, go over **את** Jordan, **אתה** you and this entire people, to the land which I do give to them, *even to the Children of Israel.* 3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, to you have I given it, as I spoke to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even to the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites and to the great sea *toward* the going down of the sun, shall be your border. 5 There shall not any man be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with you; I will not fail you, nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and of good courage; for **אתה** you shall divide for an inheritance **את** people **את** the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous, to observe to do according to all the Torah, which Moses My servant commanded you: turn not from it *to the* right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Torah shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it: for then you shall make prosperous **את** your way and then you shall have good success.

9 Have not I commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be you dismayed: for יהוה your Elohim is with you wherever you go. 10 Then commanded Y'hoshua את the officers of the people, saying, 11 Pass through the midst of the camp and command את the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days אתם you are to pass over את Jordan, to go in to possess את the land, which יהוה your Elohim gives you to possess it. 12 And to the Reubenites and to the Gadites and to the half-tribe of Manasseh, spoke Y'hoshua, saying, 13 Remember את the word which Moses the servant of יהוה commanded אתכם you, saying, יהוה your Elohim gives you rest and will give you הַנְּאֻתָהּ this את land. 14 Your wives, your little ones and your cattle, shall abide in the land which Moses gave you beyond the Jordan; וְאַתֶּם and you shall pass over before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valor and shall help אותם them; 15 Until יהוה have given your brethren rest, as He has given you and have possessed also they את the land which יהוה your Elohim gives them: then you shall return to the land of your possession and possess it, which Moses the servant of יהוה gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sun rising. 16 And they answered את Y'hoshua, saying, All that you have commanded us we will do and wherever you send us we will go. 17 According as we listened to Moses in all things, so will we listen to you: only יהוה your Elohim be with you, as He was with Moses. 18 Whoever he is that shall rebel against את your commandment and shall not listen to את your words in all that you command him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of good courage.



The Israelites defeats Jericho

## Brit Chadasha

Rom 7:21 I find then a Torah, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. 22 For I delight in the Torah of Elohim after the inward man: 23 But I see another Torah in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank Elohim through Y'shua haMashiach our Adonai.

Mark 12:22 And the seven had her, and left no seed: last of all the woman died also. 23 In the resurrection, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be? for the seven had her as a wife. 24 And Y'shua answering said to them, **Do you err because you do not know the scriptures or the power of Elohim?** 25 **For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.** 26 **And as for the dead that rise: have you not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush Elohim spoke to Him saying, I am the Elohim of Abraham, and the Elohim of Isaac, and the Elohim of Jacob?** 27 **He is not the Elohim of the dead, but the Elohim of the living: you do greatly err.** 28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard their discussion, and noticing that He had answered them well, asked Him, Which is the greatest commandment of all? 29 And Y'shua answered him, **The greatest of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; יהוה יהוה our Elohim is one יהוה: 30 And you shall love יהוה your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength: this is the greatest commandment. 31 And the second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandments greater than these. 32 And the scribe said to him, Well, Master, you have said the truth: for there is one Elohim; and there is no other but He: 33 And to love Him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.**

Matt 5:17 **Do not think that I have come to destroy the Torah or the prophets: I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 Not until heaven and earth pass away, not one jot or tittle will pass from the Torah, till all is fulfilled. 19 Whoever disobeys one of the least of the commandments and teaches men to do so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whoever obeys and teaches them to do so shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 21 You have heard that our fathers were told, You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be in danger of judgment: 22 But I say to you, That whoever is angry with his brother without a cause will be in danger of the judgment: and whoever says to his brother, You good for nothing, will be in danger of the council: but whoever says, You fool, will be in danger of the fire of Gehenna. 23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and remember that your brother has something against you; 24 Leave your gift before the altar, and first be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Agree with your adversary quickly, while you on the way with him to court; lest at any time the adversary deliver you to the judge, and the judge deliver you to the officer, and you are thrown into prison. 26 You will not come out of prison until you have paid the full amount. 27 You have heard that it was said by our fathers, You shall not commit adultery: 28 But whoever looks on a woman with lust has committed adultery with her already in his heart. 29 And if your right eye offends you, gouge it out, and throw it away: for it is more profitable for you that you lose one of your parts than your whole body be thrown into Gehenna. 30 And if your right hand offends you, cut it off and throw it away from you: for it is more profitable for you to lose one of your parts than your whole body be thrown into Gehenna. 31 It has been said, Whoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:**

**32 But whoever divorces his wife, except for fornication, causes her to commit adultery: and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 33 Again, you have heard that it has been said by our fathers, Do not break your oaths, and keep your vows to יהוה: 34 Do not swear at all; not by heaven; for it is Elohim's throne: 35 Not by the earth; for it is His footstool: not by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. 36 Neither shall you swear by your head, because you can not make one hair white or black. 37 But let your communication be, Yes or No: for whatever is more than this has its origin from evil. 38 You have heard our fathers have said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: 39 But you do not resist evil: but whoever hits you on your right cheek, turn to him the other one also. 40 And if any man sues you and takes away your shirt, let him have your coat also. 41 And whoever compels you to go a mile, go with him two. 42 Give to him who asks you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. 43 You have heard that our fathers said, You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy. 44 Love your enemies, bless those that curse you, do good to those that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That you may be the children of your Father who is in heaven: for He makes His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Don't the publicans do the same? 47 And if you are friendly to only your brothers, what do you do more than others? Don't the publicans do the same? 48 Be perfect, even as your Father who is in heaven is perfect.**

**Matthew 17:1 And after six days Y'shua took Peter, James, and John his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain alone, 2 And He was transfigured before them: and His face shone like the sun, and His raiment was white as the light. 3 And there appeared to them Moses and Elijah talking with Him. 4 Then Peter answered Y'shua, Master, it is good for us to be here: if you will, let us make three tabernacles; one for you, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah. 5 While he spoke, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and a voice out of the cloud said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; listen to Him. 6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were very afraid. 7 And Y'shua came and touched them, and said, **Arise, and be not afraid.** 8 And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one, except Y'shua only. 9 And as they came down from the mountain, Y'shua warned them, **Tell the vision to no one, until the Son of man is risen again from the dead.****

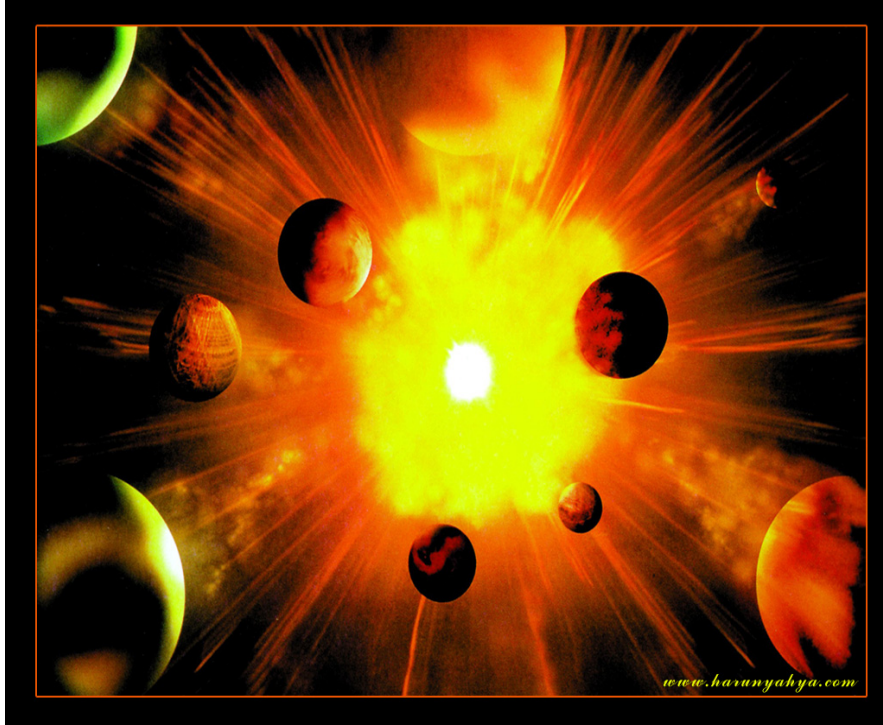


## SIMCHAT TORAH (*rejoicing of the Torah*)



**Question:** What is Simchat Torah? On Simchat Torah, we read the last Torah portion, then proceed immediately to the first chapter of Genesis, reminding us that the Torah is a circle, and never ends. This completion of the readings is a time of great celebration. There are processions around the synagogue carrying Torah scrolls and plenty of high-spirited singing and dancing in the synagogue with the Torahs.

It's not always easy to see things come to an end, especially if we are used to the way they are. But life sometimes brings changes that must be faced. But every ending also heralds a new beginning. It's not coincidence that this Torah portion, the last in the yearly cycle, is read on Simchat Torah at the same time that we start to read Parsha Breishit, the very first portion. This is yet another reminder that every ending also brings with it a new beginning to look forward to.



Genesis 1:1 In *the* beginning created, Elohim **את** the heavens **ואת** *and* the earth.



**יהוה** creates Earth

**Question:** What does the word created mean, “*In the beginning created, Elohim אלהים*” (1:1)? The Hebrew verb bara ("created") employed by this verse specifically means the creation of something from nothing.

**Question:** When did time begin? In the beginning (1:1) refers to the beginning of time --the first, indivisible moment, before which time did not exist. Time was the first creation; thus the first commandment is the dedication of time by setting the months and seasons of the Hebrew calendar.



Darkness was on the waters

**2 And the earth was (*became*) chaos and void; and darkness was over the surfaces of the abyss. The Spirit of Elohim vibrated (*moved, hovered*) over the surface of the waters.**

**Question:** When was water created? The water was created previously, as it is written: “and the spirit of יהוה hovered over the face of the water”, and Scripture did not tell us when the creation of water took place! Therefore, you must admit that Scripture did not teach us anything about the sequence of the earlier and the later acts of creation. Most secrets of creation have not been revealed to man.

**3 And Elohim said, Let there be (*cause*) light and there was light.**





**“Let there be light!”**

**Question:** What is the first statement in Creation? And יהוה said, "**Let there be (cause) light and there was light**". Each individual is made up of Light. "Light" is therefore the purpose of each person: that he transforms his situation and environment from darkness and negativity to one of light and goodness.



Elohim separated Light from Darkness



**4 And saw Elohim אלהים the light, that *it was good*: and Elohim separated the light from out of the darkness.**

**Question:** Was darkness created? This is not merely the absence of light, but a specific creation, as is clearly stated in Isaiah 45:7: **He Who forms the light and creates darkness.** This is also indicated by the characterization that until light and darkness were separated from one another, they functioned "in a mixture", implying that patches of light and darkness were intermixed with one another until Elohim separated them.

**Question:** What does the word "**that *it was good***" mean? Throughout the narrative, the term "that it was good" means that the creation of the item under discussion was completed. Thus, for example, the light is described as good, because its existence and function were now final. The waters, however, did not receive their final form until the third day, when they were gathered into seas and oceans. Consequently, they were not called good until the third day (Rashi).

**5 And Elohim called the light Day and the darkness He called Night. And there was (*existed*) evening and morning, day one.**



Day and Night

**Question:** What came first-day or night? In the beginning, evening came first and then day. Before we can experience the light of any worthwhile accomplishment, it is normal to pass through a period of darkness and difficulty. Knowing this secret gives us the power to persevere when things get tough, and rest assured that the light of dawn is right around the corner.

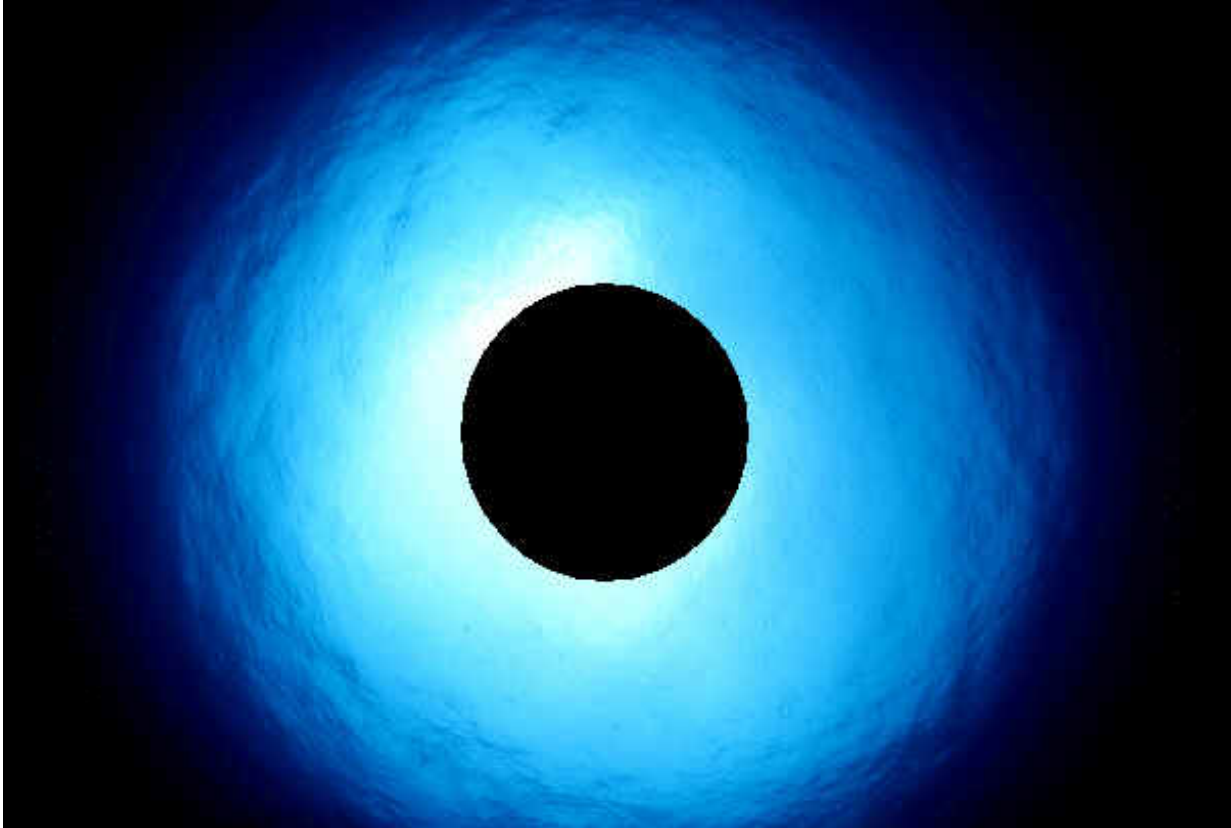
**Question:** What's the benefit of "paying one's dues" with difficult beginnings? To accomplish anything worthwhile takes a lot of energy, determination, and serious effort. A primary tool to get things done is will-power. The "dues," the difficulties that we may encounter as we try to accomplish our goals are great "will-power builders." They force us to affirm our will to keep going and push through even when things get tough. The "strengthened will" that these difficulties develop within us often makes the difference between reaching our goals or not.

**Question:** Who enjoys his accomplishments more: someone who had to struggle to get there, or someone to whom it came easily? There is no comparison. It is inescapable human nature that the degree of effort that we put into attaining something parallels the amount of satisfaction we derive from it. Therefore the obstacles and struggles along the way, although perhaps not pleasant, are really blessings in disguise that will pay off in the future joy of overcoming them.



Firmament in the midst of the waters

**6 And Elohim said, Let there be a firmament (*dome*) in the midst (*middle*) of the water and let it divide the water from the water.**



Waters above the firmament

**7 And made Elohim אֵת the firmament and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament: and it was so.**

**Question:** Where was the water placed in the firmament? It does not say, “on the firmament,” but “the waters which *were* above the firmament” because the waters are suspended in the air in the dome.

**8 And Elohim called the firmament Heavens (*Sky*). And there was (*existed*) evening and morning, day two.**

**Question:** What did the earth look like up until this point? Up to now, the entire earth was submerged under water. The earth had been created on the first day, but it was neither visible nor dry until the waters were commanded to assemble in their designated areas (Rashbam).

**9 And Elohim said, Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together in one place and let the dry land appear and it was so.**





The dry land appeared

**10 And Elohim called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas: and Elohim saw that *it was* good. 11 And Elohim said, Let the earth put forth grass, seed-producing plants and fruit trees, each yielding its own kind of seed-bearing fruit, on the earth and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, plants each yielding its own kind of seed and trees each yielding its own kind of fruit and Elohim saw that *it was* good.**



Earth brought forth grasses

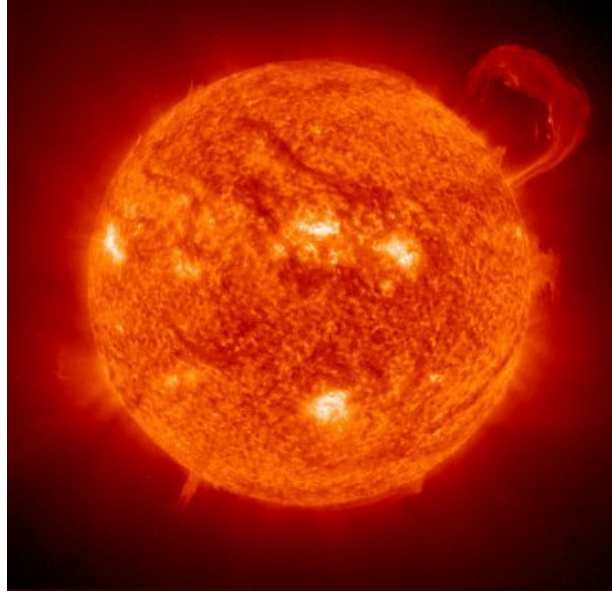
**13 And there was (*existed*) evening and morning, day three.**



Lights in the firmament

**14 And Elohim said, Let there be **מֵאֲרוֹת** *lights* in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be **לְאֹתוֹת** *for signs, solemnities (sacred festivals), days and years;***

**Question:** What does יהוה mean by the luminaries “let them be **לְאֹתוֹת** *for signs, solemnities (sacred festivals), days and years*”? This refers to the future, when the Israelites are destined to be commanded concerning the festivals and the festivals begin from the first phase of the moon.



The sun

15 And let them serve as luminaries (*lights*) in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth and it was so. 16 And made Elohim אֱלֹהִים Two Great Lights; the Greater אֵל אֶחָד Light to rule the day (*sun*) אֵל אֶחָד and the lesser light (*moon*) to rule the night אֵל אֶחָד and the stars. 17 And Elohim set אֱלֹהִים them in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth, 18 And to rule over the day and over the night and to divide the light from the darkness: and Elohim saw that *it was good*. 19 And there was (*existed*) evening and morning, day four.



The Earth and its Moon



20 And Elohim said, Let *the* waters swarm abundantly *with* the moving creatures *that have* life and let birds fly above the earth in the open firmament of heavens.



Abundant sea life

21 And created Elohim אֱלֹהִים sea-creatures (*whales, monsters*) great אֲרֵי and every creature living that moves, which the waters brought forth abundantly after their kind אֲרֵי and every kind of winged bird: and saw Elohim that *it was* good.



Elohim created great sea creatures

**Question:** What does “And created Elohim **אֱלֹהִים**” mean? This term refers to something unprecedented. On the first day, it referred to Creation from a total vacuum; here, it refers to the huge size of some of the fish; and the last time it is used (v.27), it refers to the Creation of Man, intelligent life in the image of יהוה.

**Question:** What does it mean “sea-creatures”? This refers to the Leviathan and its mate, for He created them male and female, and He killed the female and stored her away for the righteous in the future, for if they would mate, the world could not exist because of them. The final “yud”, which denotes the plural, is missing, hence the implication that the Leviathan did not remain two, but that its number was reduced to one.



Source: [www.dongo.org](http://www.dongo.org)

Let birds multiply in the earth

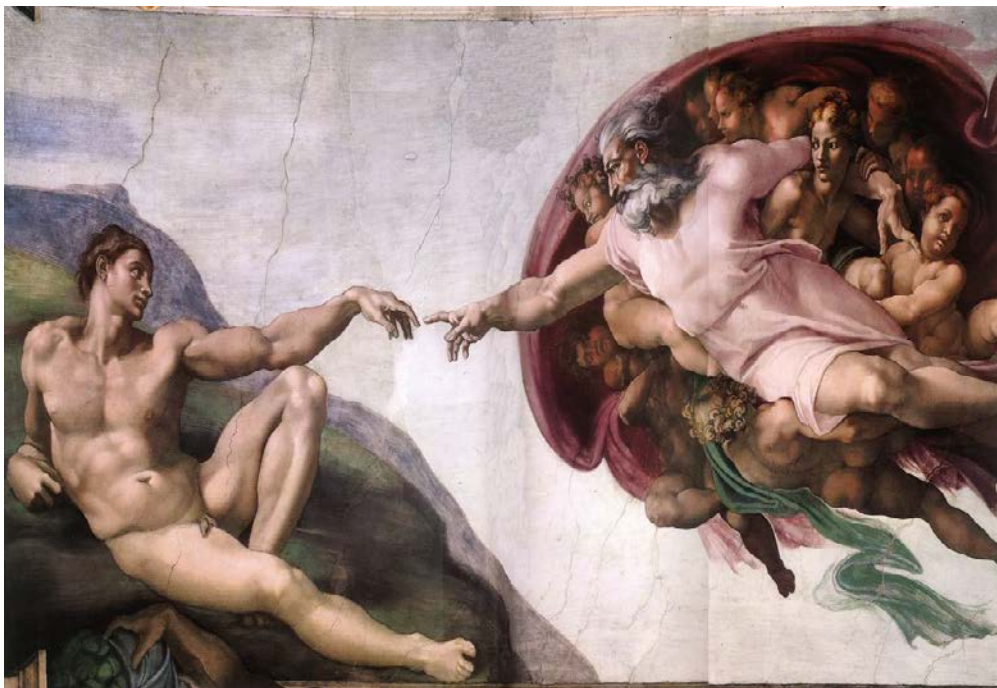
22 And Elohim blessed **אֹתָם** *them* saying, Be fruitful and multiply and fill **אֶת** the waters in the seas and let birds multiply in the earth. 23 And there was (*existed*) evening and morning, day five. 24 And Elohim said, Let the earth bring forth each kind of living creatures, cattle, crawling animals and *wild* beasts of the earth and it was so.





Elohim made wild beasts on the earth.

25 And made Elohim **את** beasts of the earth after his kind **יאת** and the cattle after their kind **יאת** and everything that crawls upon the earth: and Elohim saw that *it was good*.



Elohim **את** יוה made man in his image



**26 And Elohim said, Let Us make man (*Adam*) in our image, in our likeness: and let them rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the animals all over the earth and every crawling creature that crawls upon the earth.**

**Question:** Why does Elohim say, “Let Us make man (*Adam*) in our image”? **אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה** Elohim **אֶת־** made man in his image (Gen. 2:7), while the ministering angels who had been created on the second day of Creation of the world watched in awe.

**Question:** What does it mean “in our likeness”? This means "with the power of understanding and intellect" (Rashi). Man alone is endowed -- like his Creator -- with morality, reason, and free will. He can know and love **יהוה** and can hold spiritual communion with Him; and Man alone can guide his actions through reason.

**27 So created Elohim **אֶת־** Adam (*man*) in His own image, in the image of Elohim He created **אֹתוֹ** *him*, male and female He created **אֹתָם** *them*.**

**Question:** How did **יהוה** create man? Just as Man is unique, so the manner of his creation was unique and exalted. Throughout the chapter, **יהוה** brought all things into being with an utterance, but He created Man with His own hands (Rashi).

**Question:** When was Eve created? Although Eve was created later (2:21), she and Adam were created on the same day (Rashi). Eve was separated from Adam later.

**Question:** If **יהוה** desired mankind to be comprised of both male and female, why did He not create them that way in the first place--as He did with the other animals? As a single individual, man was without match, without challenge, and thus without potential for growth and creation. "It is not good that man be alone," said the Creator; he requires a "helpmate" and an "opposite". So **יהוה** created them one, and then split them into two. Thus man searches for woman and woman yearns for man. Thus man and woman cleave to each other and become one.

**28 And Elohim blessed **אֹתָם** *them* and Elohim said to them, be fruitful and multiply and fill (*replenish*) **אֶת־** the earth and subdue it: Rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and every living creature that crawls upon the earth.**

**Question:** Are you in sin if you do not have children? One who neglects this law has broken **יהוה**'s commandment, incurring great punishment, because he thereby demonstrates that he does not wish to comply with the Divine will to populate the world (Sefer HaChinuch).



Creation of Animals



Elohim gives man all the animals of the earth



29 And Elohim said, Here! Through the whole earth, I am giving you **אֵת** every herb bearing seed which is upon the face of all the earth **אֵת** and every tree which is in the fruit of a tree yielding seed to you it shall be for meat (*food*). 30 And to every beast of the earth, every bird of the air and every animal that crawls upon the earth in which *there is life (soul)*, I am giving **אֵת** every green herb for food and it was so. 31 And saw Elohim **אֵת** everything that He had made and indeed *it was* very good. And there was the evening and the morning, a sixth day.

**Question:** What does it mean that He gave Adam and Eve “every beast of the earth”? He did not permit Adam and his wife to kill a creature and to eat its flesh; only every green herb they were all permitted to eat equally. The animals were tame and were their companions. They were to care for the animals. When the sons of Noah came He permitted them to eat flesh, but Elohim placed the fear of man in the animals when He allowed man to eat them.

**Question:** What does the six days of creation correspond to in history? The six days of creation embody the whole of history, for the world shall exist six thousand years which is why it is said that "יהוה's day is as a thousand years"

0-1000 The first day of creation was the millennium of Adam. Adam lived to be 930 years old. (Light)

1000-2000 The second day was the Flood, which wiped out a corrupt humanity and spared only the righteous Noah and his family. (Firmament)

2000-3000 The third day was when Abraham began teaching the truth of the One יהוה and the Torah was given on Mount Sinai. (Dry land and grasses)

3000-4000 The fourth day was when the First Temple and the Second Temple in Jerusalem served as יהוה's dwelling. (Sun, moon, and stars)

4000-5000 The fifth day is the Dark Ages of the fifth millennium. (Birds and fish)

5000-6000 The sixth day is our millennium--a millennium marked by strong, forceful empires, whose beastly rule will be followed by the emergence of Messiah, who ushers in the seventh millennium--the World to Come--a time of perfect peace and tranquility. (Man and animals)

**Question:** יהוה didn't "need" the world. He only created the world in order to be able to give to us. When we act as "givers" we are doing something great and acting like יהוה. It's a wonderful feeling when we are able to choose to give. What do you think is the difference between the pleasure of taking and the pleasure of giving? Which one is a greater pleasure? There is a pleasure in taking. There's a certain thrill in getting what we want. But this pleasure often fades pretty soon after we get it. This is especially true if we had to take it from somebody else. The pleasure of giving is more subtle. At first we may even not feel like giving. But usually when we do, we receive a warm glowing feeling of the pleasure that we've done the right thing.



**Question:** To whom would you say a person feels more love, to one from whom he receives or to one to whom he gives? One to whom he gives. Giving is itself an act of love. Even when the feeling of love doesn't exist from the start, eventually the feeling grows. A great piece of advice to someone who wants to learn how to love is to learn how to give.

**Question:** It has been said that the recipient is really the giver and the giver really the recipient. How would you understand this statement? When we have a chance to give, we get the chance to become a more spiritually oriented, righteous person. This is a great opportunity since this is really one of life's primary goals. People in need "give" us this opportunity, which is in a real sense, more valuable than anything we could possibly give to them.



**Genesis 2:1 So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were finished. 2 And on the seventh day Elohim ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made.**



**Question:** What is important about Sabbath besides the fact that the work of heaven and earth were complete? The world of the Sabbath is far above that of the six days it succeeds, but they are not separate from one another. The bridge between the mundane and the sacred, between the weekdays and the Sabbath, is Man. Adam and Eve were created last, just before the Sabbath, because only Man has the intelligence and wisdom to bring the sacredness of the Sabbath into the activities of the workweek. Of all the creatures in the universe, only he can create sacredness. Angels are sacred, but they are fixed. They cannot improve themselves or the world. Only Man can do both. The Sabbath is יהוה's seal, and Man is the one who must impress it upon יהוה's universe; indeed, Man's activities transform the universe from an apparently aimless combination of matter into the mirror of יהוה's will.

**Question:** How is Sabbath different from the other days? יהוה rested on Sabbath and wanted us to also have rest from our labors. Ordinarily, people must work to earn money to pay their bills, but on the Sabbath, work is forbidden – yet the Sabbath is a day that is blessed with more food and enjoyment than the rest of the week (Or HaChaim).

**3 And blessed Elohim אֱתֵי Day, the seventh and sanctified (set apart, consecrated) אֵתוֹ it (him), because בּוֹ in it (him) He rested (shabbath) from all His work which created Elohim and made.**

**Question:** Why does יהוה give us such a brief description of Creation? The Torah did not mean for Man to understand that entire process -- that is beyond human capacity -- but only to know that יהוה is the Creator.

## Do You Know?

1. Moses \_\_\_\_ the tribes before he died. (What did he do?)
2. \_\_\_\_ is the first born of Jacob and was blessed first. (Who?)
3. The tribe of \_\_\_\_ was wealthy because of their shipping commerce.
4. The tribe of \_\_\_\_ had insight into the sun, moon, and stars and made the calendar for the rest of the tribes.
5. The tribe of \_\_\_\_ had the strongest warriors.
6. The tribe of \_\_\_\_ supplied the tribes with olive oil.
7. יהוה showed Moses the Promised Land from Mount \_\_\_\_.
8. Moses was \_\_\_\_ years old when he died.
9. On the first day יהוה created \_\_\_\_.
10. On the second day יהוה created the \_\_\_\_\_. (dome)
11. On the third day יהוה created dry \_\_\_\_\_.
12. On the fourth day יהוה created the \_\_\_\_\_ in the heavens.
13. On the fifth day יהוה created \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
14. On the sixth day יהוה created \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
15. יהוה finished his work and \_\_\_\_\_ on the seventh day.

### Answers:

1. blessed
2. Reuben
3. Zebulun
4. Issachar
5. Gad
6. Asher
7. Nebo
8. 120
9. Light
10. Firmament
11. land
12. lights
13. bird, fish
14. animals, man
15. rested



## "CHANGES OF ATTITUDE"

If Daniel's neighborhood was anything, it was quiet. It sat on the edge of town far from the downtown bustle, and about the only noises people were used to hearing there were the chirping of birds by day, crickets by night, and of course, the happy laughter of the neighborhood kids.

Daniel and his friends would play for hours after school, running around the quiet side streets and playgrounds that were as familiar to them as their own backyard.

But one morning, that quiet was rudely disturbed by the loud rumble of a diesel engine and the hiss of hydraulic brakes as a big truck slowly backed itself into Daniel's driveway.

"It's here!" squealed Daniel's younger brothers and sisters as they excitedly ran to the big window in the living room to watch the moving truck park and its burly moving crew clamber out. "Come see!" they called out to their older brother.

But Daniel stayed put sitting cross-legged on his bed with his favorite comic book. "I might as well enjoy my last few minutes before we have to *move*," he said, almost spitting out the last word.

Daniel wasn't excited at all about the Friedman family's moving day. In fact, he had been dreading it. He had felt that way ever since his dad had called all the kids into the living room two weeks earlier, announcing how they would all be moving across the state to Waterville County, where Mr. Friedman would be starting a new job.

And now the dreaded day had come.

Daniel was sitting lost in his thoughts until his reverie was disturbed by a knock at the door. He got up to open it and found his mother standing there, looking busy but cheerful. She was holding a lamp. "C'mon downstairs Danny," she said. "The movers are here and they'll need to get into your room. I made you some of your favorite blueberry muffins to snack on while we're waiting," she added, expecting to bring a smile to her son's face. But she was surprised to see instead tears welling up in the corner of Daniel's eyes.

"Mom, I don't want to move!" he burst out. "I like it here. I like my room and I like my friends. And I even like my school."

Mrs. Friedman raised her eyebrows at this last comment, as Daniel had been complaining about school the whole year.

"Now we're ... we're leaving everything!" he went on, tears streaming down his cheeks.

His mom took a deep breath, put down the lamp and sat down next to Daniel at the edge of his bed. "I understand how you must feel," she said softly. "It seems to you like everything's falling apart, doesn't it?"

The boy nodded.

"But Danny, you can look at it another way. While it's true that this is our last day in our old neighborhood, it's also the first day in our new neighborhood! There you'll meet *new* friends, live in a beautiful new house and have all sorts of new parks and playgrounds to explore that you might even like better than the ones here."

Daniel looked up. "I know Mom. But it's just that nothing's going to be the same. I'm scared."

Mrs. Friedman gave her son a reassuring smile. "Not *everything* is going to be different, you know. First of all, your dad and I are going to be with you, and so will your brothers and sisters. Also we'll have almost all the same furniture and you can even set up your room just like it is now. And then there's the most important thing of all.."

"What's that?" Daniel piped in with a new curiosity.

"You're going to be the same 'you,'" said his mom, smiling. "Remember that no matter where you go and whatever happens, that's one thing that will never change."

Daniel smiled as his mom gave him a hug. He felt much better and thought that just maybe it would be fun to move, after all.

**Question:** How did Danny feel when he found out that he had to move to a new home? He was upset and scared.

**Question:** Why? He didn't want to leave his familiar house and friends.

**Question:** How did he feel after he spoke to his mom? Better, since he realized some things would be the same even in his new house, and that it could be fun to go to a new place.

**Question:** Imagine coming home one day really hungry and your mom gives you a choice of eating either something you have eaten many times before, or something new she'd made for the first time which she says is very delicious. Which of these do you think you would choose? Why? There are certain times people prefer to play it safe and go with what they know, even if they don't like it that much. In our story when Daniel claimed that he liked his school even though he had been complaining about it, he was really saying that he preferred the familiar to the unknown.

**Question:** Can you think of a time when you did something new, or made a change and it ended up being a good thing even if you were hesitant at first? Why do you think you were hesitant at first?

**Spiritual Exercise:** Take a step of faith this week and do something that you feel יהוה wants you to do this week even if you have never done it before.

**Resources:**

*The Stone Edition of The Chumash*

*The Complete Messianic Aleph Tav Scriptures* **C-MATS** [www.AlephTavScriptures.com](http://www.AlephTavScriptures.com)

“Weekly Torah Portion” from [www.aish.com](http://www.aish.com) (stories)

*Ethics of Our Fathers Pirkei Avot*

*The Antiquities of the Jews* by Flavius Josephus