

Tell a story
Parshah Pincas
by Julie Zhuk on 2022-07-22

Comments

This parsha is split into two sections. The first starts out by describing the long life that Moses lived. Moses may have wanted to live or be the leader of the Jews forever, but G-d had other plans. At the beginning of this parsha, G-d instructs Moses to prepare for his death. Unfortunately, Moses wouldn't be joining the Jewish people when they would spend forty years wandering around in the desert. Moses always accepted any decision G-d had in store for him, even preparing for death. Moses had one request before he passed on, he asked G-d to find another leader. The Jewish people would need another leader if Moses would be absent. Moses told G-d he didn't want just any leader, he wanted someone who would have qualities of Jewish leadership. Moses was looking for someone who would be a true leader. Moses was looking for someone with integrity, commitment, devotion, faithfulness, and loyalty.

From Moses' description of the kind of leader that was needed to replace him, readers can glean insights into the nature of leadership. This referred to whether it was communal, rabbinic, or otherwise. Moses was asking G-d to find a man who would be a true leader for the Jewish people. G-d knows the personality and temperament of every person. This person who would be the leader of the Jewish people would be capable of tending to the needs of the rich, poor, wise, and simple as well. This person who will be the leader of the Jewish people will go forth before them. He won't have to look behind his shoulder and check popularity polls before deciding what his policy should be.

He won't simply follow the whims of the crowd. He will do the right thing. With this new leader for the Jewish people, they won't feel like sheep without having a shepherd. Before Moses went on to the next world, his main concern was for the Jews themselves. He is the ultimate faithful person of Israel, who tended to his flock. He was completely committed and had a lot of devotion to the Jewish people. This new leader would need to have a passion for driving the Jewish people to be closer to G-d. Ultimately Moses wanted G-d to pick a leader who would think things through using morality, responsibility, leadership, and love.

The second part of the parsha is about Pinchas. Pinchas was the grandson of Aaron. He zealously avenged G-d's name He was rewarded for killing the Simeonite prince and the Midianite princess. They were accused of having relations, she was considered to be his paramour. For this act of bravery, G-d granted Pinchas a covenant of peace and the priesthood as well. There was a count of 601,703 men among the Jewish people. These men were from the ages of twenty and sixty. Moses was still alive at the time, he was instructed on how the land was to be divided by using a lottery system. It was to be divided among the tribes and families of Israel. There were five daughters of Tzelfthchad who petitioned to Moses to get a share of the land that had once belonged to their father. Their father died without having any sons, Moses listened to their petition and G-d granted them the land they were asking for.

Moses has it incorporated into the Torah's laws of inheritance. From the beginning of the parsha, we read about Moses asking G-d to find a new Jewish leader. The time has finally come, and that leader is Joshua. The Jews wandered through the desert with their leader Joshua for forty years. After that they made their way into the land of Israel. The parsha concludes with a detailed list of daily offerings. There were additional offerings brought on Shabbat and Rosh Chodesh. Rosh Chodesh was known as the first of the month. There were offerings given for the festivals such as: Passover, Shavuot, Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Shemini Ezzert.