

Tell a story
Parsha Matot
by Julie Zhuk on 2023-07-15

Comments

Since Pinchas killed Zimri in last week's Parsha, G-d has a plan for the Jews to go to war with the Midianite people. A thousand men gear up to go fight and the Midianite men think they will be able to defeat the Jews, but little do they know how G-d is on the side of the Jews. From the beginning of the Parsha, Moses explains the laws of vows to the heads of the tribes of Israel. The main role for the war is the plotting destruction to get rid of Israel. In the Parsha, the Torah gives a detailed account of what happened with the spoils from the war. Meaning from the warriors, the Levites, and the high priest. Then, there was the tribes of Reuben and Gad who approached Moses asking for more land to in the east of Jordan so they could raise their cattle. Reuben and Gad are joined by half of the tribe of Manasseh.

At first, Moses was slightly upset at them. He felt that they didn't want to contribute in the fighting with their fellow Jews of fighting for the land of Israel. They agree to join in on the fighting the front lines and lead in Israel's conquest of the lands west of the Jordan. Forty-two journeys of encampments take place in Israel that are listed.

This is from the Exodus to their encampment on the plains of Moab across the river from the land of Canaan. The boundaries of the Promised Land are given, and cities of refuge are given specifically for places of exile and inadvertent murderers. There are also the five daughters of Tzelafchad who marry within their own tribe of Manasseh.

For them, this means that the estate they inherit shouldn't pass to the province of another tribe. If a girl before bat mitzvah age were to make a promise, she would have to keep it, only if her father was to hear it and wouldn't annul it. During the war, there were a lot of spoils to be shared. The soldiers took half, and the rest of the Jews took the other half. G-d was on the side of the Jews during this war, and no Jewish soldiers died.