

Tell a story
Parsha Va'etchanan
by Julie Zhuk on 2023-07-29

Comments

This week's Parsha is called: Va'etchanan. It's found in the fifth book of the Torah. This week's Torah Portion is all about Moses practically begging G-d to be let into the portion of the Holy Land. We know that, in the end, it never happens. He doesn't get to go. Instead, G-d instructs Moses to go up to the mountain and see the Promised Holy Land. In this week's Parsha, Moses continues his review of the Torah.

He describes the Exodus from Egypt to the Jewish people and the Giving of the Torah. Moses let them know this had never happened in history before. There were never a group of people that heard G-d speak before. No one has ever heard of a G-d like this before, either. Moses stood before this large group of Jews and predicted that in future generations, people would turn away from G-d and would be worshiping idols. They would be sent into exile away from their lands and scattered among their nations. It would only be after this that they would start going to seek after G-d. Then they would want to come back to Him and want to obey His commandments.

This week's Parsha has a repetition of the Ten Commandments that Jews follow and the verses of the Shema. These verses from the Shema declare the fundamentals of the Jewish faith itself. This includes the Jewish unity of G-d. It has the mitzva of loving G-d. Also, we are commanded to study G-d's Torah. We are also to bind "these words" as tefillin on our arms and heads. We are also to inscribe them in the mezuzah on the doorpost of our homes.

This Parsha mentions the prayer of Shema Yisrael, and it talks about moments of life in which we feel blessings coming from G-d shining upon us as well as the night; the moment of darkness and challenge are expressions of the One G-d. Judaism has a unique perspective. G-d has a truth that pervades all existence, and we, in turn, must create that oneness within our hearts, channeling the animal souls and immense passion toward the love of G-d.