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Parsha Shelach
by Julie Zhuk on 2024-06-29

This Parsha is the story of G-d asking Moses to send 12 spies to seek out the land of Israel. At first, the Jewish people were not sure they would make it out on this land. They were nervous that this wasn't for them, they worried the people living there were going to be too weak or too strong. They worried there would be too many of them, or there wouldn't be enough Jews, and too many of the other people who were not Jewish that would outnumber them. This Parsha story is one of how the spies came back to let the rest of the Jews know about what they saw of the land. They didn't all have the same train of thought of what they saw. It wasn't all positive vibes what they saw that is, meaning they had a negative report. They didn't believe that G-d would be there to help them out. They came back reporting seeing giants, didn't think that they could take over that land, and told all the Jewish people they would die if they ventured out over there. The Parsha tells us it was a very transformative event what happened next, G-d didn't like what He saw or heard for that matter.

The Jews were supposed to stay in the desert for one year, but they ended up staying for 40 years it. It was a punishment for not believing they could conquer the land and that G-d would help them either. This was also because of the sin of the Golden Calf that the Jewish men had committed before. While they were in the desert for 40 years, the food they were given came from the sky. G-d gave them manna and there was a rock that would roll alongside and it provided the Jews with water. Their clothing was laundered consistently from the Protective Clouds even as it was still on the Jewish people's bodies. The people had no financial worries and people had money in their pockets.

The Parsha tells us that the Jewish people spent their time studying Torah. They were living well and didn't see any point in leaving the desert where they were living. G-d wanted them to drop everything they were doing and go to Israel! Out of the twelve spies who went to see the land, there were two who had a positive experience. Two saw something positive about the land. G-d was happy with these spies and they were Caleb and Joshua.