

# THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT DEVARIM

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## Time to say goodbye



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The book of Devarim is the final book in the Torah, in which Moshe gives his final speech to the Jewish people. After 40 years in the desert, the Jewish people are standing on the East bank of the River Jordan, waiting to enter the Promised Land. But Moshe can't join them, making this his last opportunity to teach, lead and prepare his people for the future.

Let's say you were Moshe. You're almost 120 years old and you've led these people for so long that you

think of them as your own children. What would you tell them if these were your last moments together? Would you spend your time telling off the people for everything they had done wrong? Or would you forget about all the bad moments and just focus on the good?

Moshe does a bit of both. He starts his speech by talking about their history and their journeys together from slavery in Egypt until now. He mentions some of the times where the Jewish people messed up, but does so in a way that does not dwell on the past, but on changing the future. He is preparing the Israelites for entering the Land of Israel.

If you had to say goodbye to someone you care about, you might

start by reminiscing about past adventures you've had together. You might then talk about the present and finally the future, your hopes for the other person and what they can do and achieve. Moshe does just that in the book of Devarim. The book can be broadly split into three sections. The first talks about the journey and history of the Israelites - the past. The second section is the largest and talks about some of the laws and commandments that the people must keep; this is how to behave and live in the present. The final section of Moshe's farewell speech is his song and blessings to the tribes. Moshe is looking to the future.

In this way, Moshe bids farewell to his people, the Jewish people.

## Parasha Quiz

1. On which date did Moshe start speaking to the Jewish people?
2. Which month was that?
3. Which 2 spies did not give a bad report on the Land of Israel?
4. Which 3 lands were the Israelites told not to attack?
5. Why were they told not to attack these lands?
6. Which tribes were given a portion of land on the East bank of the Jordan River?
7. How long before Moshe passed away did he start his speech?

**Answers:** 1. 1st day of the 11th month 2. Shevat 3. Calev and Yehoshua 4. Seir, Amon and Moav 5. Seir because God gave the land to the descendants of Esav, Amon and Moav - because God gave the land to the descendants of Lot 6. Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh 7. 37 days (There are 30 days in Shevat and Moshe died on 7 Adar)

