

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT MATOT-MASEI

14-15 JULY | 26 TAMMUZ

Journeys



**HADAR BECKER,
NOGA GEFEN,
HADAS DERI**

Youth Directors @South
Hampstead Synagogue
and Tribe Fieldworkers

This Shabbat, the last two parashiot of the book Bemidbar - "Matot-Masei" - are read.

Throughout the journey in the desert, *Am Yisrael* (the Jewish people) learned, and we learned, about living a good life, about the eternity of the Torah, about lies and propaganda and also about the importance of our common vision.

Some rabbinic commentators claim that Bemidbar is the most relevant of the five books of the Torah. In the book of Bereishit, the world was created; in Shemot, the Israelites came out of Egypt; in Vayikra, the *Mishkan* (Tabernacle) was built and

in Devarim, Moshe gives an emotional farewell speech.

Bemidbar, on the other hand, is characterised by many small and large stories about the journey to Israel. It has ups and downs, moments of crisis and moments of poetry. Most of our lives are made up of these struggles, between success and failure, and not just the one-time peak moments.

Rabbi Yisrael ben Eliezer, known as the Ba'al Shem Tov (1700-1760), connects the Jewish people's journey to Israel to the journey of each and every one of us in our own life.

He explains that the journeys of the Jewish people in the desert exist in the life of every person, from the day they are born until the day they die. The day of their birth corresponds to the Exodus from Egypt, then they go from journey to journey, until they

arrive in the "Land of Supreme Life" (the World to Come, corresponding to the Land of Israel).

The journeys in the desert on the way to the Land of Israel mentioned in this parasha, teach us about our own journeys in life. From the moment we are born, we go on a journey. Sometimes it is challenging, sometimes it has difficult stations that we did not choose to go to, but this is our "Exodus from Egypt", from one experience to another, for as long as we live.

Each person has their own personal journey. We must try to lift ourselves up and become stronger and learn from every stop along the way, even from the painful ones, and pray that, like *Am Yisrael's* arrival in *Eretz Yisrael* (the Land of Israel), there will be a happy ending.

Tribe Labyrinth Puzzle

The Israelites are crossing the desert. Help them to reach the promised land - the Land of Israel!

