

Tzelofchad: Passing on the Legacy



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In Parashat Pinchas, the Jewish people receive instructions about dividing up the Land of Israel in anticipation of entering the land. The five daughters of Tzelofchad approach Moshe and pose him the following question: since the land is divided up according to male family members, is it fair that the land of their father, who had no sons, should be lost from among his family? Moshe brings their case to God, who

tells him that the daughters of Tzelofchad are correct – they should receive their father's portion of the land in the absence of sons.

Rabbi Sacks zt"l points out the striking contrast between these women, who took the initiative to approach Moshe with their case out of love of the Land of Israel, and the ten spies, who were sent to Israel and returned with a negative report, condemning that entire generation to die in the desert. The Rabbis in the Midrash and Talmud speak very highly of the daughters of Tzelofchad; they say that they were wise and worthy and knew how to interpret the Torah. Conversely, the spies are

highly criticised, their actions deemed selfish and manipulative.

We can see from here the importance of passing on a legacy, and the significance of the manner in which this is done. The Midrash calls Tzelofchad himself a *'zakkai'*, a worthy man. What made him worthy? Perhaps it was the fact that he successfully imbued within his daughters a love of the Land of Israel, especially among the complaining people of Israel.

From this Parasha, we learn the importance of love of the Land of Israel, and the importance of passing on the values of Judaism in the correct way.

Parasha Anagrams

1. Pinchas was Aharon's **DONN RAGS**
2. Pinchas is awarded the **A FEE PACO CONVENT**
3. Pinchas killed **IZMIR** and **BIKSO**
4. Pinchas was considered to be a **OZ TELA**
5. Moshe conducts a **NU CESS**
6. The daughters of Tzelofchad ask for their **RASH PORTENT OF I**
7. Yehoshua is appointed Moshe's **CURSE SSOC**
8. The rest of the parasha talks about **FRIES SACCI**