

# THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT VAYEILECH

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## A great leader creates leaders



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This parasha is a moment of transition, from living in the desert to embarking on entering *Eretz Yisrael*, from the leadership of Moshe to that of Yehoshua (Joshua). For forty years in the desert there was a rhythm to the life of the *Bnei Yisrael* (Children of Israel). They knew who to turn to for help, for their needs and inspiration.

As things are about to change, for the first time in a generation, there is a higher level of uncertainty. Will Yehoshua be a competent leader? What will the new life of the *Bnei*

*Yisrael* be like in *Eretz Yisrael*? Will life be more challenging? And most importantly, what level of protection will God provide?

Knowing this apprehension, God instructs Moshe to remind the people that he cannot lead them forever. Things must change. It is now time for someone else, Yehoshua, to take over. This is a huge task, and Moshe instructs him with those famous words: *chazak ve'ematz* - Be strong and courageous. Know that God is with you, says Moshe.

Great, you might think, the *Bnei Yisrael* are sorted. They have the Ultimate Power on their side. Life might be changing, but God will protect us; He will fight our wars, deal with our challenges. We are now truly free to sit on the beach

with those coconut drinks with little umbrellas, time to enjoy life!

This would be dangerous thinking. It might lead the *Bnei Yisrael* to forget the Torah, mitzvot and the moral code they agreed to follow, since they might come to think that God will provide them with what they need regardless of what they do. Therefore, in this moment, before they enter *Eretz Yisrael*, Moshe reminds them of the mitzvah of *Hakhel* - the public reading of the entire Torah, which would take place every seven years, as the people gathered in Jerusalem. They are reminded that the relationships they have with God and their strength as a people come from keeping to the moral code set out in the Torah.

## Parasha Puzzle

Guess how the emoji links to the parasha!

1.   ✈️ X
2.  
3.  
4.  7 
5.   

**Answers:** 1. Moshe is not allowed to enter *Eretz Yisrael*. 2. Yehoshua is told to be strong and courageous. 3. The *Bnei Yisrael* are reminded to listen to God and keep the mitzvot. 4. Mitzvah of *Hakhel* - public reading of the Torah every seven years. 5. *Bnei Yisrael* are reminded not to forget God when all is going well.

