



Carnegie Shul Chatter

July 1, 2021

Shabbat Shalom



Light candles 8:36pm

Shabbat services 10am

Pinchas in a Nutshell

Numbers 25:10–30:1

Aaron's grandson Pinchas is rewarded for his act of zealotry in killing the Simeonite prince Zimri and the Midianite princess who was his paramour: G-d grants him a covenant of peace and the priesthood.

A census of the people counts 601,730 men between the ages of twenty and sixty. Moses is instructed on how the Land is to be divided by lottery among the tribes and families of Israel. The five daughters of Tzelafchad petition Moses that they be granted the portion of the land belonging to their father, who died without sons; G-d accepts their claim and incorporates it into the Torah's laws of inheritance.

What do we inherit?

Inheritance. What do we inherit when our parents pass away?

This week's parshah and its discussion of inheritance is very timely for me, as the yahrzeits of my parents are this week for my mother and next week for my father.

What did I inherit? Well, my dad was a milkman who lived from paycheck to paycheck, so I definitely did not inherit any money. And my mom spent most of her life as a housewife, so there wasn't any money to inherit there either. So some would say I inherited nothing. But how wrong they are.

From my mom I inherited a Jewish spark that remains strong in my soul, a recognition of the value of a good education, a recognition of the need for strong family relationships, and a knowledge of what it means to be, and the importance of becoming, a mensch.

And from my father I inherited a strong work ethic, an understanding of the

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Moses empowers Joshua to succeed him and lead the people into the Land of Israel.

The Parshah concludes with a detailed list of the daily offerings, and the additional offerings brought on Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh (first of the month), and the festivals of Passover, Shavuot, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret.



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importance of always doing your best, the importance of community service, and my Jewish birthright, being a Kohain.

No, I didn't inherit any money, but that's okay, because all of the things I did inherit allowed me to work hard to earn enough money to live comfortably and, more importantly, to become a person who I am happy to see when I look in the mirror.

Parsha Connections

Sometimes things are connected in a parshah even when they do not seem to be. This week, for example, the parshah talks about the five daughters of Tzelafchad and the laws of inheritance. It then talks about Moses empowering Joshua to succeed him. At first glance these are two unrelated items. But are they?

Here is what Rabbi Jonathon Sacks tells us about how these items are indeed related, excerpted from a larger article.

The Crown All Can Wear (Pinchas 5779)

A man named Tzelophechad had died. His five daughters went to Moses with a question. It had been decided that sons would inherit their portion of the land of Israel from their fathers, but since this man had left no sons, the daughters asked if they might instead inherit from their father. Moses asked God and the request was granted. Then Moses asked a question of his own:

“Then Moses said to the Lord,
“May the Lord, God of the spirits



of all flesh, appoint a man over this community ...so the Lord's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd."

Why does Moses' question come right after the request of Tzelophechad's daughters? The Sages found a connection, and an important revelation, in both Moses' question and God's answer.

Moses had recently lost his siblings Miriam and Aaron, and he knew that he, too, would not live long enough to lead the Children of Israel into the Land of Israel. God had also just informed Moses he was at his last resting place. His thoughts were therefore firmly on his own mortality, and how he would not live to cross the Jordan and bring the people into the land, which would have been the fulfillment of his life's work.



Now he asked God who should take over the leadership role. Paying careful attention to context, and listening to the immediately previous passage about the daughters of Tzelophechad, the Sages found a clue to why Moses chose this moment to ask God this question, and what he may have been hoping the answer would be.

Moses reasoned: The time is right for me to make my own request. If daughters inherit, it is surely right that my sons should inherit my glory. The Holy One, Blessed Be He, said to him, "He who keeps the fig tree shall eat its fruit" (Prov. 27:18). Your sons sat idly by and did not study the Torah. Joshua served you faithfully and showed you great honour. It was he who rose early in the morning and remained late at night at your House of Assembly. He used to arrange the benches and spread the mats. Seeing that he has served you with all his might, he is worthy to serve Israel, for he shall not lose his reward."

This was another great disappointment for Moses. Not only was he not going to enter the land, but he was also destined to see his sons overlooked in the search for a successor.

But it is precisely here that we find, for the first time, one of Judaism's most powerful ideas. Joshua earned the right to inherit the role of leader and teacher. This is a profoundly egalitarian concept (democratic and class-less) that teaches us an important message about Jewish leaders: the concept that we are a nation of individuals standing with equal dignity in the presence of God. And yes, there is an inheritance relationship between Torah and the Jew, but the former has to be loved if it is to be earned. You have to love Torah if you are to inherit it.

*Mark Your
Calendar*

Carnegie Shul Annual Meeting

Sunday, July 25 | 2:30 pm | via Zoom

(Link to be sent out the week of the meeting)