

Devarim _ Am Yisroel, Malachim On Earth
By Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh

In Devarim 1:10 Moshe Rabeinu refers to how Am Yisroel grew and he needed help in leading them. Rashi explains that the verse does not refer to any of Moshe's physical abilities because he was the closest one to Hashem in all of history. Moreover, he was Hashem's agent to perform so many miracles for us in Mitzrayim and in the desert. Rather, the verse is referring to the responsibility of leader of Am Yisroel. The leaders have extraordinary responsibility and bear burdens of their errors and this we only find in Am Yisroel. This is especially true if the masses act on the judiciary decisions of their leaders.

Rabbeinu Bachaya Al Hatorah quotes the Midrash Rabbah which brings the simile of Am Yisroel to Stars of the heavens. This is actually Hashem's revelation to Avraham that his descendents would be so numerous. Following this understanding, Rabbeinu Bachaya adds that Hashem Showed Avraham how his descendents will follow the same layout as the heavenly beings. Rabbeinu Bachaya brings the same thought he brings elsewhere in his commentary that Am Yisroel's pattern of the camps in the desert follow the same order as the malachim surrounding the Kisei Hakaovod. Just as the Kisai was surrounded by four camps or legions of malachim each with three sub-groupings, so too, Am Yisroel was made up of four camps, 3 divisions each surrounding the Mishkan.