

## Rabbi Ziegler – PINCHAS 5779

Here in Israel we are preparing for new elections. We have to select a new leader, to guide us and to unite us.

So too in the Parasha. Moshe is told that he will soon die and a new leader must be chosen. The difference is that in the Parasha it will be HaShem who will choose a successor to Moshe and not by popular vote of the people. Moshe says to Gd,(27:16) “Let the GD of spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation..who will lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of Gd will not be like the sheep without a shepherd”. Moshe is told, “take Yehoshua, the son of Nun, a man of spirit, and place your hand upon him”. Meaning, he will be your successor, the new leader of Am Yisrael.

The Midrash Tanchuma (Pinchas 11) asks why the leadership was given to Yehoshua when others, such as Pinchas and Eleazar, had greater intellectual talents. In reply, the Midrash quotes a passuk from Mishlei (27:18), *The one who guards the fig tree will eat its fruits.* Yehoshua was chosen as Moshe’s successor because he arranged the chairs and spread the mats on the floor before the shiur began. Because of his devoted service, he was the appropriate candidate to replace Moshe.

When the Baal Shem Tov passed away, the mantle of leadership was not given to Rav Yaakov Yosef, a Torah giant and the author of the “Toldot Yaakov Yosef”. Rather, it passed to the Magid of Mezeritch, who had served the Baal Shem Tov with great devotion and loyalty. Similarly, Rav Chaim Volozhin became the successor to his teacher, the Vilna Gaon, partly because he was not only his student but his attendant and confidant.

Yehoshua was not a greater scholar than Pinchas or Eleazar, but “ the service (Shimush) of Torah scholars is greater than its study” (Berachot 7b). Service does not merely signify physical toil, it also represents a special closeness and friendship between the rebbe and talmid. The chosen talmid not only receives information from his rebbe, but absorbs his way of life, until they are practically identical in their essence. Moshe knew that through his trusted Mesharet (servant) and confidant, the Torah would be properly transmitted to future generations.

Torah is a way of life. It does not only consist of rules and laws but a totality of a 24/7 life conduct. The way a rebbe eats, dresses and walks. The way he relates to his wife and children, to his guests and strangers-all that is Torah.

A student in Yeshiva Tifferet Yerushalayim was constantly disruptive and had no interest in learning. The Menaheil of the Yeshiva wanted to expel him but needed the consent of the Rosh Yeshiva-Rav Moshe Feinstein. Rav Moshe consented to having the boy expelled-from classes, but not from the Yeshiva. The boy was assigned to the office of R’ Moshe as his personal

attendant; to carry his sefarim, to keep the office tidy and clean and to walk R' Moshe to his home after Yeshiva was over. The boy began to love R' Moshe, he became interested in learning and wound up becoming a "rebbe" in the Yeshiva for difficult students.

SHABBAT SHALOM FROM YERUSHALAYIM-----Rabbi Aharon Ziegler

QUESTIONS ON PARASHAT PINCHAS:

1- Who was the great- great grandfather of Pinchas?

2- In the listing of the shevatim [tribes] (26:5-51) for the census count the names have an added letter "Heh" at beginning of name and an added "yud" at the end. What is the significance of this?

3-IN 27:1-11, The Torah lists for us the Halachik order of Inheritance. What important aspect of Yerusha laws [Inheritance] is missing here, but is included in Devarim 21: 15-18?

4-Although not written specifically, from which word do we know that a husband does inherit the assets of his deceased wife?

5-IN 29:36 Rashi cites the Midrash Tanchuma that seems to imply that "fish" is a more important dish than "steak" [or meat]?-Can you find this implication?

6-If a father dies leaving no sons and no grandsons, then who is next on line for Yerusha?

7-Yom Teruah in [29:1] is which Yom Tov? And Yom HaBikurim is which Yom Tov?

8-If a man dies leaving a surviving daughter. The man did have a son who also died, but the son had a daughter (the man's granddaughter) . Who gets the Yerusha?

SEND ANSWERS TO: aharonlibby@aol.com

\*\*SORRY- WE DID NOT HAVE CHANCE TO WRITE NAMES OF THOSE WHO ANSWERED LAST WEEK. WE WILL DO SO THIS WEEK.

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