

Parsha Q&A



Parshat V'zot Haberacha

For 2 October 1999/22 Tishrei 5760 in Israel
3 October 1999/23 Tishrei 5760 Outside Israel

Parsha Questions

1. Before giving the Torah, Hashem went to Seir and Mount Paran. Why?
2. Why is Yehuda blessed immediately after Reuven?
3. What covenant (*brit*) did Levi keep?
4. Why was Binyamin blessed before Yosef?
5. Which Tribe received the "best" portion of *Eretz Yisrael*?
6. Besides the sun, which celestial body helps fruit to ripen?
7. If there were only 7 Canaanite nations, why did Yehoshua need to conquer 31 kings?
8. What three things did the land of Zevulun possess?
9. What did visiting merchants see that inspired them to convert to Judaism?
10. The tribe of Gad saw "the beginning — *reishit*." The beginning of what?
11. The source of the Jordan River was in the territory of which tribe?
12. Which tribe possessed the *Kinneret*?
13. The daughters of which tribe married High Priests and Kings?
14. Who wrote the last eight verses in the Torah, starting with the verse "and Moshe died"?
15. Who buried Moshe?

I Did Not Know That!

The Torah's last verses describe Moshe's death. According to Rabbi Meir, Moshe wrote these verses "*B'dima* — in tears." But this word can also be read "*B'dema* — jumbled." This implies that Moshe wrote these verses in a disorderly fashion so their meaning could not be immediately discerned.

Based on The Vilna Gaon

Recommended Reading List

Ramban

- 33:6 Why not Shimon?
33:12 The Shelter of Binyamin

Sforno

- 33:6 Reuven's Blessing
33:7 Shimon's Blessing
33:17 The Kingship of Yosef
33:25-6 The Collective Blessing

Prepared by Ohr Somayach in Jerusalem, Israel

©1999 Ohr Somayach International - All rights reserved.

☎ 22 Shimon Hatzadik Street, POB 18103, Jerusalem Israel ☎ 972-2-581-0315 fax: 972-2-581-2890
☎ 38 East 29th Street 8th floor, New York, NY 10016, USA ☎ 1-212-213-3100 fax: 1-212-213-8717
☎ 613 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill, Ontario L4J 5V3, Canada ☎ 1-905-886-5730 fax: 1-905-886-6065

Dedication opportunities are available for Parsha Q&A — Please contact us for details.

Parshat V'zot Haberacha — 2 October 1999/22 Tishrei 5760 in Israel,
3 October 1999/23 Tishrei 5760 Outside Israel

Written and Compiled by Rabbi Reuven Subar

General Editor: Rabbi Moshe Newman

✉ ohr@virtual.co.il
✉ RZCorlin@aol.com or eastern@Aol.com
✉ Somayach@MSN.com

Production Design: Eli Ballon

Answers to this Week's Questions

All references are to the verses and Rashi's commentary, unless otherwise stated

1. 33:2 - In order to offer the Torah to the people of Seir (Eisav's descendants) and the people of Paran (Yishmael's descendants).
2. 33:7 - Because both of them admitted their sin.
3. 33:9 - *Brit Mila* (circumcision).
4. 33:12 - Because the *Beit Hamikdash*, built in Binyamin's portion, was "more beloved" than the *Mishkan* built in Yosef's portion.
5. 33:13 - Yosef.
6. 33:14 - The moon.
7. 33:17 - Since the Land was so desirable, all foreign kings and governments acquired palaces and property there.
8. 33:19 - *Tarit*, a type of fish; *Chilazon*, a mollusk whose blood was needed for the *techelet* (a dye needed for *tzitzit*); and a type of sand needed for white glass.
9. 33:19 - They saw that the Jews serve one G-d and follow a unified kashrut code.
10. 33:21 - They saw the beginning of the conquest of the land, and chose that as its portion.
11. 33:22 - Dan.
12. 33:23 - Naftali.
13. 33:24 - Asher.
14. 34:5 - According to one opinion, Yehoshua wrote it. Rabbi Meir says Moshe himself wrote it with tears.
15. 34:6 - According to one opinion, Hashem buried Moshe. According to Rabbi Yishmael, Moshe buried himself.