

A final bracha!

VeZos HaBracha – 5783/2022

And here we are, the final Parasha of the Torah reading cycle, VeZos HaBracha, Moshe's final moment in which to engage with the Jewish people. It feels as if in this moment, Moshe moves from being the leader, to being the father of the Jewish people, imitating our ancestor Jacob who gathered his sons to bless them¹.

The Seforno explains that this moment of blessing occurs as a response to Moshe seeing the Land of Israel². While not the prize which he had started the journey to claim, the ability to see the land, to know that the Jewish people would be looked after and become prosperous in a land of their own, becomes an inspiring moment for a man who walked with God.

What is beautiful about this Parasha is that it is always read following our deepest moments of inspiration, and following the closest relationship that we have with the Almighty. We are thankful for another year gone by (and possibly another Yom Tov season too), and we are hopeful for what the new year will bring us.

The Talmud explains that this Parasha is read on the second day of Yom Tov in the diaspora³. While today it is also read as an additional reading in Israel, the fact that it becomes the exclusive reading of the Jewish people in exile, provides an additional layer of meaning. For two thousand years the Jewish people have been hopeful of a return to our land – to be able to live in the blessings that the land can provide. Today, we not only hope, but we can also actually see those blessings play out. We can be inspired in the same way that Moses was, by seeing the land that was promised to us for all our generations.

When Rabbi Yosef Karo establishes the halacha in the Shulchan Aruch, it was merely a dream that the majority of Jewry would live or freely travel in the Land of Israel, fully immersed in the brachot of the land.

This final bracha of Moshe is one that is more realised more today than at any other point in the past two thousand years. We have the land, which was promised to us, the spiritual ascent of the Chaggim, the relationship with the Almighty, and the hopes and aspirations of a new year, a new future ahead of us. Let us take those blessings and leverage them to aspire to greatness as individuals, as a people, and as humanity.

All citations can be found in **A New Page of Talmud**