

## Parashah Vezot Haberakhah

The one that is the final portion of the Torah, marking the end of Moses' leadership and the Israelites' journey.

**In Parashah Vezot Haberakhah, Moses blesses each of the 12 tribes, offering predictions into their future paths and destinies.** For instance, Moses predicts that Judah will be a leader and lawgiver, while Joseph will enjoy prosperity and growth.

**Moses also reflects upon the pivotal moments in Israelite history,** such as the revelation at Mount Sinai, emphasizing the importance of the Torah's teachings in guiding their future.

**Moses then goes up Mount Nebo, where he gazes upon the Promised Land, though he knows he will not enter it due to earlier disobedience.** There, he passes away, and the Israelites mourn his loss for 30 days. His death marks the end of an era and the transition of leadership to Joshua, who will lead the Israelites into Canaan.

**This parashah concludes the Torah, emphasizing the profound leadership of Moses, the unique character of each tribe, and the importance of remembering their shared history and covenant.** It serves as a bridge between the end of the wilderness journey and the beginning of a new chapter in the land of Canaan.



Hello  
Haftarah

## Teen Takeaways from Parashah Vezot Haberakhah

- 1. Passing on responsibility:** Just as Moses passed on leadership to Joshua, it's important to prepare for transitions in life. Whether it's taking on a new role in a club or team, or eventually leaving school for college or work, learning from those who came before you and passing on what you've learned is crucial.
- 2. Embrace your uniqueness:** Each tribe had its own blessings and characteristics. This teaches us that being different is a good thing. Celebrate your unique qualities and talents, and appreciate the differences in your friends and peers. It makes the world more interesting! Teenagers often want to be just like everyone else - to fit in. This is human nature. But each of us has a special gift, talent, characteristic, or quality that makes us who we are. As we get older, those things are what distinguish us and help people remember us. They enable others to invite us to use those unique gifts for a purpose.
- 3. There is a well-known story about Rabbi Zusya,** who, when he was dying, was surrounded by his many students, who were there to comfort him and show their respect. When they saw that he was shaking, one of them asked, "Rabbi Zusya, are you afraid that God will ask you why you were not more like Moses?" "No," Zusya replied, "I do not fear that." Another student asked, "Are you afraid that God will ask you, 'Why were you not more like Abraham?'" "No, not that, either." "Then why are you shaking - what are you afraid of?" "I fear that God will ask, 'Zusya, why were you not more like Zusya?'"
- 4. Learn from your history:** Just as Moses remembered important events, it's vital to remember your own past experiences. Reflecting on your past can help you make better decisions in the present and future. What were the most important things to happen in your life so far?
- 5. Keep your promises:** The parashah reminds us of the importance of keeping promises. Keeping your word is a sign of integrity. Reputation is important for opening doors and opportunities.
- 6. Life is precious:** Moses's passing reminds us that we all will pass. It's a reminder to make the most of every moment, pursue your dreams, and not take your time for granted.
- 7. Chase your dreams:** When Moses looked at the Promised Land, it symbolized reaching his dream. It's important to set goals and work toward them, no matter how big or small. Don't be afraid to chase after your dreams with determination. Why was Moses able to feel hopeful even though he was going to die soon and would not enter the Promised Land? Do people ever do things without expecting to see the final result of their efforts?
- 8. Think about the future:** Just like Moses saw the future of the tribes, you can plan for your future, too. Having a vision and setting goals can help you make decisions that lead you in the right direction.
- 9. Teamwork and leaving a legacy:** The unity of the tribes reminds us that we can achieve more when we work together. Think about how you can contribute positively to your community or group, leaving a legacy for which others will remember you.

## Summary

Parashah Vezot Haberakhah teaches us about **leadership, individuality, keeping promises, learning from the past, cherishing life, chasing our dreams, planning for the future, and working together as a team.** These lessons are not just for adults. They are valuable for teenagers, as well, as you navigate your own journeys and transitions in life.