



Pinchas

Bamidbar (Numbers) 25:10 - 30:1

As last week's *Parshah* ended, some of the camp of Israel participated in the idolatrous practice of the local Midianites. In a passionate display of zeal, Pinchas kills two of the more blatant participants. Now, as *Parshat Pinchas* begins, Pinchas is rewarded with two gifts as a result of his zealotry. He is given the "*Brit Shalom*" (Covenant of Friendship) which according to many commentators was to serve as an order of protection against revenge from the members of Zimri's tribe. He and his descendents are also given the "*Brit Kuhunat Olam*" (Covenant of Eternal High Priesthood).

Moses and Eleazar (the son of Aaron) were commanded to prepare another census of the people, this one comprised of men aged twenty and over, "all that are able to go forth to war in Israel." When they entered Israel, each tribe would be allotted land proportionate to its size and the location of each portion would be decided by lot. The 23,000 Levites, who were counted separately, would not receive any inheritance.

Zelophechad, of the tribe of Manasseh, had died in the wilderness leaving five daughters and no sons. The daughters came before Moses and Eleazar and asked, "Why should the name of our father be done away from among his family because he had no son?" They urged the leaders to grant them their father's inheritance. Moses sought G-d's advice and was told that the daughters could inherit.

G-d commanded Moses to ascend Mount Avarim, from where he could see the Promised Land. His end was approaching and, like Aaron his brother, he would die without entering Israel for having struck the rock in the wilderness of Zin. Moses asked for his successor to be appointed and was told to lay his hand on Joshua, the son of Nun, and to present him to Eleazar and to the entire congregation.



Jewish Community Center of Paramus
E. 304 Midland Ave., Paramus NJ 07652
Phone: (201) 262-7691 Fax: (201) 262-6516
© 2007 Jewish Community Center of Paramus