



## Vayelech

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 31:1 - 31:30

Moses went out to the Children of Israel and told them that he was approaching his death and would not be going with them into the Land of Israel; Joshua, under Divine Guidance, would lead them against their adversaries. He tells the people to be strong and of good courage, and not to be afraid, for G-d would be with them. A similar assurance was given to Joshua personally in the presence of the entire congregation.

Moses then committed the Torah to writing, delivered it into the hands of the priests and the elders, and commanded them to read it publicly to the assembled Israelites on the festival of Tabernacles, at the end of each sabbatical year. It was in the time of Ezra the Scribe, approximately 2500 years ago, that the Torah began to be read according to the weekly schedule with which we are familiar today.

After commanding Moses to appoint Joshua as leader, G-d disclosed the future course of Israel's history. The people would begin to worship idols which would arouse G-d's anger, and then G-d, in turn, would have them conquered by other nations and experience "many evils and troubles."

The Lord told Moses to compose a song and to teach it to the people so that when they entered the Promised Land, grew prosperous and finally turned against G-d and broke his covenant, that song would bear witness to the fact that they had been forewarned by G-d of the consequences of their iniquity. This is Parshat Haazinu, the Torah reading for next Shabbat.

This Shabbat, the Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is known as Shabbat Shuvah. It is a time to reflect on the great themes of the High Holiday Season.



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