

Torah: B'midbar (Numbers) 30:2 – 36:13
Haftarah: Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 2:4-28;
 3:4; 4:1-2
B'rit Hadashah: Luke 13:34-35

	yr. 1 30:2-31:54	yr. 2 32:1-33:49	yr. 3 33:50-36:13
1	30:2 – 9	32:1 – 4	33:50 – 34:15
2	30:10 – 13	32:5 – 19	34:16 – 29
3	30:14 – 17	32:20 – 27	35:1 – 8
4	31:1 – 12	32:28 – 42	35:9 – 15
5	31:13 – 24	33:1 – 10	35:16 – 29
6	31:25 – 41	33:11 – 36	35:30 – 34
7	31:42 – 54	33:37 – 49	36:1 – 13

and Moses spoke to the head of the tribes / concerning the sons of Israel to saying / this [is] the word which HaShem commanded	<i>vay'daber Moshé el-ra'shey ha'matot liv'ney Yisraél lemor zeh ha'davar ashér tzivah ADONÁI</i>	וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־רְאֵשֵׁי הַמַּטּוֹת לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר זֶה הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה:
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Moshe speaks to the heads of the tribes regarding vows and oaths. Discussion turns to the war of vengeance against Midian, and how to handle the spoils. It concludes by discussing the tribes of Reuben and Gad's desire to stay in the land across the Jordan, rather than the Promised Land, and this was allowed only if they agreed to help the other tribes claim the Promised Land.

An itinerary of the travels of the Children of Israel from Egypt to the edge of the Promised Land, with talk of the coming conquest of the Land and a description of the boundaries, to assign cities for the Levites and cities of refuge, and further handling of the inheritance of daughters of Zelophehad: they may inherit their father's holdings but only if they marry within their tribe, so the holdings will not move to another tribe with their children.

The haftarah is the 2nd Admonition from the 17th of Tammuz when the walls of Jerusalem were breached by the Romans to the 9th of Av when the Second Temple was destroyed. Jeremiah criticizes the People for forsaking HaShem, which leads to the coming judgment and exile.

Year 1 Aliyah Highlights

1. **Nu. 30:2-9** If a man makes a vow, he must fulfill it. But if a woman makes a vow she is protected. The first case is an unmarried girl still under her father's authority. The second case is when she becomes married and is under her husband's authority – he can annul her vow even if her father previously approved it. To not fulfill a vow is to desecrate (*khalal* – חָלַל) one's word.
2. **Nu. 30:10-13** The third case is widows and divorcees who are considered autonomous. The fourth case is regarding married women, who are subject to the authority of her husband.
3. **Nu. 30:14-17** Generalization and Summation: when a husband becomes aware of his wife's vow, he may annul it on the day he hears of it, or he may allow it to stand. He bears the consequences of the vow if he does not annul it. Verse 17 forms an inclusion with verse 2.
4. **Nu. 31:1-12** HaShem gives Moshe his final commission: take vengeance on Midyan. Pinkhas leads an army of 12,000 (1,000 from each tribe), annihilating the Midianites without suffering any casualties, and likely himself killing Bil'am.
5. **Nu. 31:13-24** The victors return with the spoils, but Moshe rebukes the sparing of the women who were responsible for the Ba'al Pe'or apostasy and the plague that followed. All the people and spoils were purified with the ashes of the Red Heifer on the third and seventh days.
6. **Nu. 31:25-41** The persons and spoils are distributed by divine division.
7. **Nu. 31:42-54** Realization that not one soldier was lost results in a voluntary contribution from the officers as a ransom for taking a census.

Thought Focus

Khazaq: The custom of proclaiming “khazaq” at the end of Torah reading is at least 800 years old. On the last day of his life (De. 31:2), Moshe passes the mantle of leadership to one individual: Yehoshua. Twice on that day, he encourages him with the words, “be strong and courageous” (De. 31:7, 23). It is noteworthy that both times, the statement is followed by a verse which speaks of Moshe writing a Torah scroll (De. 31:9, 24). Moshe also charged the entire nation using the plural form of the same expression (De. 31:6) God later charged Joshua to “be strong and courageous” three times (Jos 1:6, 7, 9), and commanded him, “this book of the Torah shall not leave your mouth; you shall think about it day and night in order to observe, to do all that is written in it.”

Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

1. (30:2) From whom have you learned, both good and bad? Who, and what, do you teach? (Exo 34:31-32, 2Ti 2:2, Rom 12:17-20, Jer 51:11-12, Eze 25:12-17, Mat 5:38-48)
2. (31:50) Do our physical actions affect our spiritual lives? How can sexual immorality affect our lives? (Mar 9:42, 10:7-9, Deu 12:30, 1Co 6:15-20, Jer 1:4-5, Rom 12:2, 1Co 8:12)
3. (32:1) Do you make important decisions based on what you see around you, or what God has promised you? (Luk 12:18-19, 30-31, 2Co 5:7, Heb 11:1, Rom 8:22-25, 2Co 4:16-18, 1Pe 1:8-9)
4. (32:30) Does the life of promise have to involve warfare? Who does the equipping? Who does the fighting? (Num 32:20, 21, 22, 27, 29, 32; Neh 13-14, Mat 5:21, 10:28, 16:25, Rom 12:9, Jam 4:7, Luk 22:36-38, 49, Eph 6:11-13, 1Pe 5:8-11)
5. (33:18) What have you learned about forgiveness on your “journey?” (Zec 7:8-14, Eph 4:31-32, Mat 6:12, 18:21-22, 35)
6. (34:17) How have you “taken possession” of the promises God has made to you? (Joh 1:29, Joh 6:46, Joh 14:6, 1Jo 2:13-15, Rom 5:8, 2Co 5:21, Act 4:12)
7. (35:2) Do you recognize your role in the body of Messiah? How do you, like the Levites, serve others? ((Num 35:2-5, Joh 17:16, 2Co 4:8-9, 1Co 9:10-14, Gal 5:1)
8. (35:13) Do you feel battered by the bad storms of life? The bad choices you've made or that of others? Where do you take refuge? (Isa 25:4, Isa 42:1-3, Joe 3:9, Psa 18:2, Psa 31:1-6, Pro 14:26, Mat 11:28-30, Mat 12:20, Joh 6:37-39, Joh 10:27-29)