

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 HaShem spoke to Moshe /
 in the plains of Moav by the
 Jordan near Jericho

*va'yedaber ADONAI el-Moshéh
 be'ar'vot Mo'av al-Yar'dén
 Yerekhó le'mor*

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה
 בְּעֶרְבַת מוֹאָב עַל-יַרְדֵּן יְרֵחוֹ לֵאמֹר:

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.

Highlights

- Nu. 33:50-34:15** This is the physical end of the wilderness journey and the beginning of the conquest of Kena'an. The divine command is now issued: a complete dispossession with consequences. The boundaries of the land of Kena'an are set forth.
- Nu. 34:16-29** Leaders/Chieftains, who will apportion the land, are named under El'azar and Y'hoshua who will take the place of Aharon and Moshe. (Parnakh is a Persian name, not original, possibly the result of later scribal influence.)
- Nu. 35:1-8** Instructions on apportions for the Levi'im, including cities of refuge (Josh. 21) and grazing land.
- Nu. 35:9-15** Cities of refuge support concept that HaShem cannot abide in a land polluted by murder. Even blood shed accidentally must be redeemed. Law (protection) applies to the alien also.
- Nu. 35:16-29** Six examples of deliberate homicide and three for involuntary homicide are given, with burden of proof on the slayer. Once tried and determined involuntary, the slayer is returned to the city of refuge until the death of the High Priest.
- Nu. 35:30-34** Murderers are to be executed. There is no ransom for a convicted killer. Blood defiles the land (Ge. 4:10-12, 2Sa. 21:1)
- Nu. 36:1-13** Marriage restrictions for the daughters of Tz'lof'khad are requested, and Moshe responds accordingly.

Thought Focus

Blood vengeance: This was a prevalent institution in the ancient world. Torah law modified this practice in the following ways: 1) only the guilty party was involved – no related persons could be punished. 2) Guilt was determined by intention – involuntary homicide was not punishable. 3) Ransom is not acceptable in place punishment. 4) Guilt is determined by the state and not the bereaved family. 5) Trial is by the state, not the kinsman of either party. The right to asylum is restricted only to the unpremeditated manslayer. Relevance here is to recall that the land is polluted by bloodshed.

Revolutions of Revelation: It has been said that there are four historic revolutions. 1st - It was forbidden to WRITE down the Oral Torah. But there came a time when writing it became necessary to support the unity of the Jewish people in Diaspora. 2nd - It was forbidden to ACCEPT FINANCIAL SUPPORT to study Torah. But there came a time when it was necessary for some to devote time to study that required financial support. 3rd - It was forbidden to TEACH WOMEN Torah. But there came a time when women became able to establish and support family life and contribute to the study of Torah. It has been said that in the time of Mashiakh, women will be equal in spiritual stature to men and ultimately will surpass male counterparts. 4th - It was forbidden to TEACH GOYIM Torah. But there came a time when the light of Torah became so necessary and bright that it must reach out beyond the Jewish community, to shine to all humanity.

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)