



TORAH 4 TEENS

BY TEENS

NCSY ISRAEL



Yoni Gelband Modiin Chapter Director Moshe's Important Lesson

In our Parsha, Bnei Israel are on the brink of the Holy Land, about to enter the land that was promised to Avraham. Moshe gets up in front of the crowd to teach one of his final lessons, don't forget Hashem. Moshe informs Bnei Israel that they will have a major surplus in the land of Israel, they will live comfortable lives and won't starve. He then warns them, having so much good can lead to Bnei Israel forgetting where their success is coming from.

In today's world we can see that we live in a dream. We all have water to drink, food to eat and sometimes even allow ourselves a little family vacation. It is very easy to forget that Hashem is the one that gave us this tremendous *Bracha*. We can now understand why *Birchat Hamazon* was given in this week's Parsha.

Moshe is telling us: "When you live the dream, when you are happy with your success, when you feel on top of the world; you will remember who gave you everything. You will remember that Hashem is the one that gave you the potential to succeed and thus you must thank him and remember that you aren't all that". *Birkat Hamazon* helps us stay humble and praise Hashem for all the good we have in the world.

May we always succeed in our goals while remembering who we need to thank. Shabbat shalom ☺



Shraga Fein 12th Grade, Beit Shemesh Conquering Our Homeland

As a Jew, moving to Israel at the age of 4 was a very interesting experience. Mostly because I was coming from New York where it is a different experience.

In NY there is less freedom, especially nowadays. It seems like every week you hear about another antisemitic attack just because someone is visibly Jewish. Here that isn't the case at all. Being a Jew is who you are and who everyone is. We're one big



NCSY Israel wishes much success to **Yoni and Rina Gelband** on their Shlichut this coming year in Toronto and a thanks you for all they've done for the teens of Modiin/Chashmonaim!

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family and one big house. Other religions don't have a specific land. There are Christian and Islamic countries, but that isn't 'the land'. Israel, with all the religious plurality that exists here, is the Jewish homeland.

The last thing Parshat Eikev talks about is our covenant with God that if we follow in his ways we will receive this land as our inheritance. We've had this promise from Avraham Avinu. The promise of a land is more than just a place to have for ourselves, to have freedom and safety from attacks. It is also the freedom to be who we are. Take Shabbat in Israel, no cars, everyone walking, and everyone respects Shabbat. Outside of Israel, you don't have that feeling. Not only that but there are plenty of mitzvot that can't be done outside of Eretz Yisrael. You don't have Shemita, you don't have the Beit Hamikdash and Birkat Kohanim.

This Parsha is a reminder that our relationship is a cycle. That God gave us this Land so we can do the mitzvot, but also since we do the mitzvot, we get this land from God. It's important to remember that, appreciate it, and continue to uphold our end of the bargain.

"Naaseh v'nishmah" said by our ancestors, shows just how accepting we are. We're a nation of doers, Israel was born through blood, sweat and tears. In Egypt, the Midbar, and throughout history that has remained true. It's truly important to appreciate the land God gave to us, and the land we haven't given up. ■

NCSY Israel is the premier organization in Israel, dedicated to connect, inspire, empower teen olim to the Land of Israel by encouraging passionate Judaism through Torah and Tradition. Find out more at israel.ncsy.org

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