



YAAKOV GREENBERG GUSH CHAPTER DIRECTOR RETELLING OF THE SPIES – A PROACTIVE PERSPECTIVE

Moshe begins his major speech by retelling the story of the spies. There are several significant differences between the original story in Shelach and the retelling in Devarim; I will mention two.

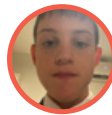
First, in Shelach, Hashem tells Moshe to send the spies, while in Devarim, Bnei Yisrael pressures Moshe into sending the spies. Second, Shelach does not mention that Moshe was punished by not being allowed to enter Israel because of the spies. Moshe is only punished by not being allowed to enter Israel in Parashat Chukat, 38 years later, because he hit the rock. However, in Sefer Devarim, Moshe blames the sin of the spies as the cause of his punishment.

This may be a matter of perspective. Sefer Bamidbar tells the story from the nation's perspective. Hashem desired to send spies to scout the Land before conquering it, but the nation succumbed to the spies' lashon hara and abandoned the conquest altogether. The failure of the nation is based on the **reaction** of the nation to the spies. Moshe is blameless, as he never faltered from Hashem's commandment to conquer the Land.

Sefer Devarim is from the perspective of Moshe, their leader. Moshe faults himself for not seeing the danger signs: Are they asking to send spies because they are committed to conquest, or is there a part of the nation that is scared? Should I let the spies walk in and

announce their findings before the whole nation without speaking to me privately? Moshe understands that the nation's failure with the spies can be partially attributed to his inadequacy in being a **proactive** leader.

We have a choice of seeing our failure through a **reactive** lens or a **proactive** lens. Did we fail because we did not reach our goal, or did we fail because we did not set ourselves up to succeed? One is from the perspective of the nation, and the other is from the perspective of a leader. Many times, **proactive** decision making changes our **reactions** when we hit stumbling blocks on our way to success.



DOVID ELIAS 9TH GRADE, EFRAT THE LAST BOOK

This week's parasha opens with Moshe beginning his great final address to the Israelites, reviewing their forty-year journey through the wilderness. Rabbi Sacks asks: Why does the Torah dedicate an entire final book—Devarim (literally meaning “words”)—to Moshe repeating and reviewing the history and laws just as the people stand on the threshold of the Promised Land?

Devarim is not merely a recap; it is a book of covenant renewal. While the previous books feature God speaking directly to or through Moshe, in Devarim it is Moshe who speaks, translating the divine law into the human language of history, memory, and responsibility.

The superficial reason for this review is practical: the generation entering the land was young and had not personally witnessed

the Exodus or the revelation at Sinai. But there is a much deeper reason. The Israelites were about to construct a sovereign nation, shifting from a wilderness existence sustained by daily miracles to a normal society dealing with politics, economics, and warfare.

Rabbi Sacks argues that a free society cannot be sustained by miracles or external force; it requires education, collective memory, and internalized responsibility. As the Jewish people continue to return to and build the State of Israel, it remains essential that we look back at our history, educate the next generation, and maintain a free society rooted in our shared moral commitment to God's covenant. ■

Handyman / Plumber

Shmuel Rosenzweig
Aluf in home
repairs

052-8496418

Trust Properties Ltd.

For sale in the German Colony

A boutique Tama 38 project set to be completed within 30 months, offering an exceptional living experience in one of Jerusalem's most desirable neighborhoods.

3 HaTzfira Street - Last apartment available in the project, Stunning penthouse, 164m with 50m of balconies (sukkah-ready), Shabbat elevator, storage room, and parking.



For more details, please contact
Trust Realty Smadar Ltd. - 050-3114040



YESHIVA UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

Mourning for Jerusalem in 2026

TISHA B'AV 5786 WITH RABBI DOVID GOTTLIEB

Rabbi, Beit Knesset Kol Eliyahu, Ramat Beit Shemesh, and Director, Tzalash

THURSDAY, JULY 23 • STARTING AT 8:00 A.M.

YU Israel Campus, 40 Duvdevani, Jerusalem

Shacharit and Kinnot Explanations

Open to men & women | Please bring your own kinnot

Live webcast available at
www.yutorah.org/tishabav

*Sponsored by Noa & Jay Zwiebel
and Rebecca & Saul Lubetski
in memory of Dr. Meir Lubetski z"l*