

A SHORT VORT

BY RABBI CHANOKH YERES
RAV, BEIT KNESSET BEIT YISRAEL, YEMIN MOSHE

זולתי כלב בן יפנה הוא יראנה (א:לו)

"Except for Calev, the son of Yefuneh; he shall see it." (1:36)

The Pasuk highlights that Calev and Yehoshua were allowed to enter the Land of Israel for not participating in the sin of defaming the land with the spies. If so, neither Moshe nor Aharon vilified the Land of Israel, why were they denied entry?

Rabbi Yehoshua Leib Diskin (Mahril Diskin, 1818-1898, Jerusalem) explains the incremental reaction to the sin of the spies in Parshat Shelach. Initially, the spies succumbed to a plague (Bamidbar 14:37). Subsequently, the generation older than twenty years, perished in the desert (Bamidbar 14:29). Lastly, Moshe and Aharon were denied entrance into the Land "Im Atem"-"Even you" (14:30). The death of Moshe before the people entering the Land, was an additional punishment to the Israelites and a lessening in the gift of receiving the Land. That is why Moshe laments that G-d flared his anger also against him, to further punish the peoples (1:37). As significant as Calev and Yehoshua were, one could not compare what would have transpired had Moshe entered the Land with the Israelites.

Shabbat Shalom

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