

חומש עם ראשי • מטות-מסעי • ששי

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MATOT-MASEI • 6TH ALIYAH

CHAPTER PREVIEW

In this aliyah, Hashem instructs Moshe Rabbeinu regarding the division of Eretz Yisrael and the specific leaders who will oversee this holy task. We learn the names of the Nesi'im (chieftains) from each shevet who, along with Elazar HaKohen and Yehoshua bin Nun, are designated to apportion the land to the Bnei Yisrael.

Following the appointment of these leaders, the Torah transitions to the mitzvah of providing cities for the Levi'im. Since the Levi'im do not receive a standard inheritance in the land, the other shevatim are commanded to designate towns and surrounding pasture lands from their own portions for the Levi'im to dwell in.

All introductions, summaries, and contextual notes are the editor's commentary and are not part of the original text.

פסוק א

Pasuk 1

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:

saying Moshe to Hashem And spoke

פסוק ב

Pasuk 2

אֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר יִנְחִלוּ לָכֶם אֶת הָאָרֶץ אֶלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן

the Kohen Elazar the land — for you shall inherit who the men the names of These are

וַיְהִי וְעֹשִׂי בֶן נֹחַ:

Nun son of and Yehoshua

ראשי

אשר ינחלו לכם. בשבילכם; כל נשיא ונשיא אפטרופוס לשבטו ומחלק

and divided for his tribe was an agent and prince prince each for sake for you shall take possession who

נחלת השבט למשפחות ולגברים, ובזרר לכל אחד ואחד חלק הגון, ומה

and what fitting a portion and one one for each and selecting and to the men to the families the tribe the inheritance of

שהם עושים יהיה עשוי פאלו עשאו שלוחים; ולא יתכן לפרש לכם זה

this this "for you" to explain it is correct and not representatives they made them as if done will be do that they

ככל לכם שבמקרא, שאם פן היה לו לכתב ינחילו לכם,

to you "they shall give possession" to write for it it was so for if that are in Scripture "to you" like all

ינחלו משמע שהם נוחלים לכם — בשבילכם ובמקומכם, כמו "ה'

"Hashem like and in your place for your sake for you take possession that they implies "they shall take possession"

ילחם לכם שמות י"ד :

14 Shemos for you will fight

וְנָשִׂיא אֶחָד נָשִׂיא אֶחָד מִמִּטָּה תִּקְחוּ לְנַחֵל אֶת הָאָרֶץ:
the land — to inherit you shall take from a tribe one a prince one and a prince

רש"י

לנחל את הארץ. שִׁיחָא נוחל וחולק אותה במקומכם:
in your place it and apportion take possession that he should of the land — to take possession

וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת הָאֲנָשִׁים לְמִטָּה יְהוּדָה כָּלֵב בֶּן יִפְנֶה:
Yefunneh son of Kalev Yehudah for the tribe of the men the names of And these are

וּלְמִטָּה בְּנֵי שִׁמְעוֹן שְׁמוּאֵל בֶּן עַמִּיהוּד:
Ammihud son of Shemuel Shimon the children of and for the tribe of

לְמִטָּה בְּנֵימֹן אֶלִידָד בֶּן כְּסִלּוֹן:
Chislon son of Elidad Binyamin For the tribe of

וּלְמִטָּה בְּנֵי דָן נָשִׂיא בֻקִּי בֶּן יֹגְלִי:
Yogli son of Bukki a leader Dan the children of and for the tribe of

לְבִנֵי יוֹסֵף לְמִטָּה בְּנֵי מְנַשֶּׁה נָשִׂיא חַנִּיאל בֶּן אֶפְדִּי:
Ephod son of Channiel a prince Menashe the children of for the tribe of Yosef For the children of

וּלְמִטָּה בְּנֵי אֶפְרַיִם נָשִׂיא קִמּוּאֵל בֶּן שִׁפְטָן:
Shiphtan son of Kemuel a leader Ephraim the children of and for the tribe of

וּלְמִטָּה בְּנֵי זְבוּלֹן נָשִׂיא אֶלְיָצָפָן בֶּן פֶּרְנָח:

Parnach son of Elizaphan a leader Zevulun the children of and for the tribe of

פסוק יא

וּלְמִטָּה בְּנֵי יִשָּׁשְׁכָר נָשִׂיא פִּלְטִיָּאל בֶּן עֲזָן:

Azzan son of Paltiel a leader Yissachar the children of and for the tribe of

פסוק יב

וּלְמִטָּה בְּנֵי אָשֶׁר נָשִׂיא אַחִיהוּד בֶּן שְׁלֹמִי:

Shelomi son of Achihud a chieftain Asher the children of and for the tribe of

פסוק יג

וּלְמִטָּה בְּנֵי נַפְתָּלִי נָשִׂיא פְּדָהאֵל בֶּן עַמִּיהוּד:

Ammihud son of Pedahel a chieftain Naftali the children of and for the tribe of

פסוק יד

אֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה לְנַחֵל אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן:

Kenaan in the land of Yisrael the children of — to distribute Hashem commanded whom These inheritance

רש"י

לְנַחֵל אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. שֶׁהֵם יִנְחִילוּ אוֹתָהּ לָכֶם לְמַחֲלֻקְתֶּיהָ:

according to its divisions to you it shall make inherit that they Yisrael the children of — to distribute

פסוק טו

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל מֹשֶׁה בְּעֶרְבַת מוֹאָב עַל יַרְדֵּן יְרֵחוֹ לֵאמֹר:

saying Yericho the Jordan of by Moav in the plains of Moshe to Hashem And spoke

פסוק טז

צִו אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְנָתַנוּ לְלוֹיִם מִמִּנְחַלָּתָם

their possession from the inheritance of to the Levi'im and they shall give Yisrael the children of — Command

עָרִים לְשֹׁבֵת וּמִגְרָשׁ לְעָרִים סְבִיבֹתֵיהֶם תִּתְּנוּ לְלוֹיִם:

to the Levi'im you shall give around them for the cities and open space to dwell in cities

רש"י

ומגרש. רוח מקום חלק חוץ לעיר סביב, להיות לנוי לעיר, ואין רשאים
permitted and they are not to the city for beauty to be around to the city outside clear a place a space And open land
לבנות שם בית ולא לנטע כרם ולא לזרע זריעה:
a crop to sow and not a vineyard to plant and not a house there to build

פסוק יז

Pasuk 17

והיו הערים להם לשבת ומגרשיהם יהיו לבהמתם ולרכשם
and for their property for their cattle shall be and their open spaces to dwell for them the cities And they shall be
ולכל חיתם:
their beasts and for all

רש"י

ולכל חיתם. לכל צרכיהם:
their needs for all their sustenance and for all

פסוק יח

Pasuk 18

ומגרשי הערים אשר תתנו ללוים מקיר העיר וחוצה
and outward the city from the wall of to the Levites you shall give that the cities And the open spaces of
אלה אמה סביב:
all around cubits one thousand

רש"י

אלף אמה סביב. ואחריו הוא אומר אלפים אמה, הא כיצד? אלפים הוא נותן
gives he two thousand how so behold cubits two thousand says it and after it round about cubits A thousand
להם סביב, ומהם אלף הפנימיים למגרש והחיצונים לשדות וכרמים:
and vineyards for fields and the outermost for open space the innermost a thousand and of them round about to them

פסוק יט

Pasuk 19

ומדתם מחוץ לעיר את פאת קדמה אלפים באמה ואת פאת
the side of and — by the cubit two thousand east the side of — to the city from outside And you shall measure
נגב אלפים באמה ואת פאת ים אלפים באמה ואת פאת צפון
north the side of and — by the cubit two thousand west the side of and — by the cubit two thousand south
אלפים באמה והעיר בתוך זה יהיה להם מגרשי הערים:
the cities the open spaces of for them shall be this in the middle and the city by the cubit two thousand

פסוק כ

וְאֵת הָעָרִים אֲשֶׁר תִּתֶּנּוּ לְלוּיִם אֵת שֵׁשׁ עָרֵי הַמִּקְלָט אֲשֶׁר תִּתֶּנּוּ
 you shall designate which the refuge cities of six — to the Levites you shall give that the cities And —
 לָנֶס שָׁמָּה הָרֹצֵחַ וְעֲלֵיהֶם תִּתֶּנּוּ אַרְבָּעִים וּשְׁתֵּים עִיר:
 cities and two forty you shall give and besides them the murderer there to flee

פסוק כא

כָּל הָעָרִים אֲשֶׁר תִּתֶּנּוּ לְלוּיִם אַרְבָּעִים וּשְׁמֹנֶה עִיר אֲתֶהֱן וְאֵת
 and — — them cities and eight forty to the Levites you shall give that the cities All
 מִגְרָשֵׁיהֶן:
 their open spaces

פסוק כב

וְהָעָרִים אֲשֶׁר תִּתֶּנּוּ מֵאֲחֻזַּת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֵת הָרֶב תִּרְבּוּ
 you shall increase the many from Yisrael the children of from the possession of you shall give which And the cities
 וּמֵאֵת הַמְּעַט תִּמְעִיטוּ אִישׁ כְּפִי נַחֲלָתוֹ אֲשֶׁר יִנְחֻלוּ יִתֵּן
 he shall give they inherit which his inheritance according to each you shall decrease the few and from
 מֵעָרָיו לְלוּיִם:
 to the Levites from his cities

CHAPTER SUMMARY

The aliyah begins by listing the specific Nesi'im from each shevet chosen by Hashem to divide the land of Canaan. Hashem then commands Moshe to instruct the Bnei Yisrael to give the Levi'im forty-eight cities with surrounding pasture lands, measured precisely at one thousand cubits for open space and two thousand cubits for fields and vineyards. Among these forty-eight cities, six are designated as Arei Miklat (cities of refuge) for a manslayer to flee to, with each shevet contributing cities proportionally based on the size of their inheritance.

My dear talmid, look at how the Torah structures the cities of the Levi'im. The Levi'im did not receive a standard portion of the land; instead, they were given forty-eight specific cities scattered throughout the territories of all the other tribes. The Torah commands that those who received a larger portion of land must give more cities, and those who received less must give less. Everyone had to contribute their share to ensure the Levi'im, the spiritual teachers and guides of the nation, were settled comfortably among them.

There is a profound lesson in this for our own lives. The Levi'im represent the spiritual infrastructure of our community, the Torah institutions, the mechanchim, the kollelim, and the chessed organizations that keep our neshamas alive. Hashem did not place the burden of supporting this spiritual core on just a few wealthy individuals. Rather, He commanded that every single Yid must have a portion in supporting Torah and spirituality, each according to their own means. If Hashem blessed you with more, you are expected to give more; if your means are modest, you still give your portion. No one is exempt from bringing the light of Torah into their neighborhood.

This teaches us that we cannot live only for ourselves and our own material success. When we build our homes and establish our livelihoods, we must immediately ask: "How am I supporting the spiritual center of my community?" We must ensure that Torah has a physical place to dwell right in the midst of our daily lives.

Today, look at your own resources, whether it is your money, your time, or your talents. Identify one local Torah institution or a dedicated klei kodesh (Torah educator) and make a concrete contribution to support them, ensuring that the light of Torah remains firmly established in your own circle.