

# Parsha Q&A



## Parshas Vayelech

For the week ending 6 Tishrei 5759  
25 & 26 September 1998

### Parsha Questions

1. How old was Moshe when he died?
2. Why was Moshe unable "to go out and come in" (31:2)?
3. What happened to Moshe's Torah knowledge on the day of his death?
4. How did Moshe foresee the relationship between Yehoshua and the Elders?
5. What did Hashem tell Yehoshua concerning his relationship with the Elders?
6. How often does the Hakhel (assembly of the Jewish People) take place?
7. Why does the Torah call the year of the hakhel the "shemita year"?
8. What sections of the Torah does the King read at the hakhel?
9. In what physical location does the King read at the hakhel?
10. Why were the men commanded to come to the gathering?
11. Why were the women commanded to come to the gathering?
12. Why were the parents commanded to bring their infant children to the gathering?
13. What does it mean when Hashem hides his face from the Jewish People?
14. What function does the song Ha'azinu serve?
15. Where was the Torah that was written by Moshe placed?
16. What was the normal manner of assembling the congregation? Why was it not done that way for the teaching of Ha'azinu?
17. In 30:19, Moshe called upon the heavens and the earth as witnesses, and in 31:28, he does so again. What is the difference between the two times?
18. What did Moshe claim the Jewish People would do immediately after his death?
19. How long after Moshe's death were the Jewish People careful in their service of Hashem?
20. How did Moshe perceive the period in which Yehoshua led the Jewish People?

### Recommended Reading List

#### Ramban

- 31:1 Bidding Farewell  
31:2 Loss of Knowledge  
31:18 Hiding Redemption

#### Sefer Hachinuch

- 612 The Gathering  
613 Writing a Sefer Torah

#### Sforno

- 31:18 Hiding of Hashem  
31:21 Attitude

### I Did Not Know That

"And Moshe went and spoke these words to all of Israel" (31:1)

Where did Moshe go?

Into the heart of every Jew.

*Mayana shel Torah*

Prepared by Ohr Somayach in Jerusalem, Israel

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Dedication opportunities are available for Parsha Q&A — Please contact us for details.

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Written and Compiled by Rabbi Reuven Subar

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# Answers to this Week's Questions

*All references are to the verses and Rashi's commentary, unless otherwise stated*

1. 31:2 - Exactly 120.
2. 31:2 - Hashem did not let him, because the power of leadership was being transferred to Yehoshua.
3. 31:2 - The well-springs of knowledge were closed up for him.
4. 31:7 - He foresaw that they would work in partnership.
5. 31:7 - That he alone would be the leader – for there can only be one leader in each generation.
6. 31:10 - Once every seven years, in the first year of the new shemita period.
7. 31:10 - Because the laws of shemita still applied to the harvest.
8. 31:11 - From Devarim: 1:1-6:9; 11:13-21; and 14:22-28:69.
9. 31:11 - On a wooden platform erected in the azara.
10. 31:12 - In order to learn.
11. 31:12 - In order to hear words of Torah.
12. 31:12 - So that the parents could receive a special reward for bringing them, because they demonstrated how precious Torah learning is even for those who cannot yet understand it.
13. 31:17 - He ignores their distress.
14. 31:21 - It comes as a warning to the Jewish People of what will befall them if they abandon Torah.
15. 31:26 - It is uncertain. There are two opinions: It was placed beside the Aron; or it was placed inside the Aron itself.
16. 31:28 - The Jewish People were normally assembled by blowing the trumpets, however at this time the trumpets had already been hidden away.
17. 31:28 - In 30:19, he was informing the Jewish People of his intention to call upon them as witnesses. In 31:28, he was actually calling upon them.
18. 31:29 - Corrupt themselves.
19. 31:29 - Throughout the entire reign of Yehoshua.
20. 31:29 - As if he himself were still ruling.

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