

Dvar Torah by **Rabbi Chanoch Yeres**

to his community at

Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael, Yemin Moshe

Graciously shared with PhiloTorah

In this week's parsha, the Torah summarizes the forty-two travels of the Israelites in the desert during the forty years.

"And Moshe wrote their goings forth to their journeys... and these were their journeys according to their going forth."

The commentaries are in a dilemma over the terminology used in this pasuk. At the beginning of the pasuk, it begins with the "going forth" and then their "journeys". At the end of the pasuk, the order is reversed, and same words are used, "their journeys" and then "they're going forth".

What is the meaning of this interchange of words? Initially we are moved by the words of "And Moshe wrote", highlighting that these words are being recorded directly by Moshe, for generations to come. What message could be so crucial from the places of travel?

The history of Israel is made up of two major periods in time. There is the period of the nation of Israel residing in the Land of Israel. Then,

there is the period of Exile, living abroad.

Israel dwelling in the land of Israel spans a period of around 1500 years, including the First and Second Temple and the intervals between. Some of the years were accompanied with our own independence and some were under foreign rule. This can be title the period of "the going forth".

The second period, spanning over a longer time is the period of Exile - 2000 years and counting. This period can be defined as "the journeys", a time of tragedies, persecution and challenges in foreign nations.

There seems to be no connection between the periods.

However, it is Moshe who determines otherwise. To ensure that the period of Exile stays temporary and not permanent, these two periods must always be intertwined, says Moshe.

During those trying years of Exile, we must always think about our aspiration to return to where we have come from "going forth", the Land of Israel. Therefore, Moshe recorded these words, emphasizing the connection between "going forth" and "journeys". Never forgetting our real goal as a people. While in Exile, we continue to recite the words:

**IM ESHKACHEICH YERUSHALAYIM
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This is the true legacy of Moshe to the future generations. The connection between these two periods, ensures that while in "journeys", we won't forget our places of "going forth".