

Dvar Torah by **Rabbi Chanoch Yeres**

to his community at

Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael, Yemin Moshe

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What kind of leader was Moshe Rabeinu? What were the priorities he inserted?

Finally having the ears of the people, we are witness to what message Moshe orates to the people. Will he describe to them the freedom they have now received? Perhaps he will deliver a detailed description of the beautiful land that they are to reach. Moshe Rabeinu defines his legacy by talking neither of becoming free from bondage nor about their destination to the land flowing with milk and honey. Instead, Moshe stresses and emphasizes the next generation, the children and the education that they need. Moshe instills these ideas not once but three times in this week's parsha.

"And when your children shall say unto you: What mean you by this service? You shall say, It is a Pesach sacrifice to G-d, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians and our houses he delivered." (Sh'mot 12:26-27)

"And you shall tell your son in that day, saying: It is because of that

which G-d did for me, when I went forth from Egypt." (13:8)

"And it shall be, when your son asks you, in time to come, saying: What is this? You shall say to him by strength of hand G-d brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage." (13:14)

Rabbi Johnathan Sacks z"l defined these statements as one of the most counter-intuitive acts in the history of leadership. Moshe did not speak about today or tomorrow. Rather, he spoke about the distant future and our duties as parents to educate our children. Moshe prepared us as parents how to encourage our children to ask questions and the guidelines of how to answer them. Moshe was defining our tradition and setting course for our survivability by emphasizing the need of active dialogue between parent and children and not just passing over rote learning and instruction. This would guarantee our future as a nation.

Moshe's leadership guided the people to understand from the very first moment of freedom that the only way to change the world is through education. This conduit will allow further messages to root like the ideas of justice, righteousness compassion and kindness. The children need reminding that "we were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt", never to forget our suffering in order