

R. EFREM
GOLDBERG
PARSHA NOTES
PINCHAS 5782

R. Yitzchak Blazer

He was rewarded because he stood up for God (בְּקִנְיָאֵוֹ אֶת־
קִנְיָתִי).

Pinchas stood up when everybody else stood by.

Bamidbar 25:11-12

פִּינְחָס בֶּן־אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן־אֶהֱרֹן הַכֹּהֵן הָשִׁיב אֶת־חַמְתִּי מֵעַל בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּקִנְיָאֻם אֶת־קִנְיָתִי בְּתוֹכָם וְלֹא־כִלִּיתִי אֶת־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּקִנְיָתִי:
לְכֹן אֶמְרֵה הַנָּנִי נָתַן לִי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי שְׁלוֹם:

Phinehas, son of Eleazar son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the Israelites by displaying among them his passion for Me, so that I did not wipe out the Israelite people in My passion. Say, therefore, 'I grant him My pact of friendship.'

Why was Pinchas rewarded?

R. Yitzchak Blazer

He was rewarded because he stood up for God (בְּקִנְיָאֻם אֶת־קִנְיָתִי).

Pinchas stood up when everybody else stood by.

Why did the other tribes make fun of him?

Rashi

PHINEAS THE SON OF ELEAZAR THE SON OF AARON THE PRIEST — Because the tribes spoke disparagingly of him, saying, "Have you seen this grandson of Puti the father of whose mother used to fatten (פָּטַם) calves for idolatrous sacrifices, and he has dared to slay a prince of one of Israel's tribes!", therefore Scripture comes and connects his genealogy with Aaron.

R. Yitzchak Blazer

The people didn't want to be beholden to him, and as a result, they made fun of him and tried to bring him down.

Why does Pinchas get the reward of peace?

R. Nachman of Breslov

Peace is when opposites unite. The act of Pinchas was an act of peace, in order to save the Jewish people.

Steipler Gaon

Peace is a relative value.

R. Yosef Sorotzkin

The Brisker Rav tells a story about a mouse. The cat and the housewife want to catch and kill the mouse. The former wants to kill and eat it, whereas the latter wants it out of the house. Pinchas was thrust into the situation of Kozbi and Zimri. He did not want to have them around. Like the housewife, he just wanted them to go away.

Or HaChaim

The peace prize was to balance out the violent tendencies.

Bamidbar 25:14

וְשֵׁם אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל הַמָּוֶה אֲשֶׁר הָכָה אֶת־הַמִּדְיָנִית זִמְרִי בֶן־סָלוּ נָשִׂיא בֵּית־אָב לְשִׁמְעוֹנִי:

The name of the Israelite who was killed, the one who was killed with the Midianite woman, was Zimri son of Salu, chieftain of a Simeonite ancestral house.

What can we learn from genealogy?

Rashi

AND THE NAME OF THE ISRAELITE [WHO WAS SMITTEN] — Wherever it gives the genealogy of a good man in praise of him, it gives the genealogy of a bad man mentioned in the same story to disparage him.

R. Yechezkel Levenstein

When you do something, it has an effect on one's family name.

Notes:

Bamidbar 26:11

וּבְנֵי־קֹרַח לֹא־מָתוּ: (ס)

The sons of Korah, however, did not die.

What did the children of Korach do?

Rashi

BUT THE SONS OF KORAH DID NOT DIE — They were in the plot originally, but at the moment when the rebellion broke out they had thoughts of repentance in their hearts; therefore a high spot was fenced round for them in Gehinnom and they stayed there.

Alter of Slobodka

There is a tremendous power of even just thinking about teshuvah.

Notes:

Bamidbar 27:5

וַיִּקְרַב מֹשֶׁה אֶת־מִשְׁפָּטָן לִפְנֵי ה':

Moses brought their case before the LORD.

What was the sin of Tzelafchad?

Chafetz Chaim

Moshe needed to bring the case about the daughters of Tzelafchad to Hashem and could not decide for himself, since they mention that their father was not part of Korach's congregation. One could have mistakenly thought that Moshe was ruling in their favor for this reason.

Kotzer Rebbe

In order to inherit a portion in the Land, one must have shabbos.

Tzelafchad, according to tradition, was the מקושש עצים, a violator of shabbos. This sin was לשמה.

Moshe hesitated as he wasn't sure if this sin would have removed his right to the Land.

Notes:

Bamidbar 27:16

יִפְקֹד ה' א' הָרוּחַת לְכָל-בָּשָׂר אִישׁ עַל-הָעֵדָה:

Let the LORD, Source of the breath of all flesh, appoint someone over the community.

What was Moshe looking for in a leader?

R. Shlomo Wolbe

Moshe is looking for a leader who will be a shepherd, who cares about the people.

Alter of Kelm

The most important quality for a leader is patience.

Notes:
