



## Parshas Veschanan 2020, a selfless vision

*The Parsha Perspective is dedicated in honor of Edward Ben Efraim and Shlomo Ben Edward. May their souls be uplifted and their memories a blessing for their families.*

Our Parsha continues with Moshe’s final address to the Jewish people. He tells them that if they follow the Torah’s path and keep the Mitzvahs, they will be blessed above all people. He reminds them that they did not inherit the land due to their own righteousness. But because of the promise Hashem made to our forefathers.

Moshe recounts how he broke the Luchos on his way down from Har Sinai when he saw them sinning with the Golden Calf. He also tells them the second paragraph of the Shema; where we are told the physical rewards that we will receive for observing the Torah or the consequences if we don’t, Heaven Forbid.

However, a question comes to mind: At the beginning of the third Aliyah, Moshe sets aside three towns by the Jordan River as cities of refuge. As the Pasuk writes, (4:41-2) *“Then Moshe separated three cities on the side of the Yarden River facing the sunrise. For a person who has killed someone unintentionally to flee there. He may escape to one of these cities and be left to live.”* Why did the Torah write that Moshe set aside these cities of refuge in the present tense when he already did so in Parshas Massei?

Furthermore, before mentioning that Moshe set up cities of refuge, the Pasuk recounts Moshe’s speech. He reminded the Jewish people that we are the only nation G-d revealed Himself to. What is the connection between the cities of refuge and being G-d’s chosen nation?!

The Kli Yakar gives a powerful explanation. He explains that although Moshe Rabbeinu recounted how G-d told him not to ask any more about entering the land of Israel. Moshe still wanted to set the Jewish nation up for success.

He began by reminding the Jewish people how unique and special they truly are. They are a nation that G-d chose from amongst all other nations of the world and the only people He revealed Himself to. This uniqueness applies even if we sin and try to distance ourselves from Hashem.

This is why Moshe established three cities of refuge even though they had no jurisdiction. For it was only when all the cities of refuge were created did they begin to have the power to save a person's life. Moshe wanted to start the process of settling in the land despite knowing that he would not merit to live in Israel.

The Kli Yakar continues; we see the same idea by Dovid Hamelch and his son, Shlomo. Hashem told Dovid that he will not build the Beis Hamikdash since he was involved in many wars.

But that did not stop Dovid from amassing and collecting all that was necessary for the construction of Beis Hamikdash. He recognized that although it was his dream to build the Beis Hamikdash, it would be his son Shlomo who would fulfill that vision. However, the Beis Hamikdash would still be his legacy.

As the story goes, there once was a man traveling to a far city, and he witnessed an interesting sight during his journey. He saw an elderly person planting a tree. He halted his caravan and asked the elderly gentleman, "what tree are you planting?" The man replied, "I am planting a date tree."

The traveler was amazed, as it was common knowledge that a date tree takes up to 70 years to produce fruit. The traveler then asked if he really expected to live long enough to consume the fruits of his labor, to which he replied: "I was born into a world flourishing with ready pleasures because my parents and grandparents had the foresight to plant for the next generations, and now I plant for my descendants."

In our daily lives, it is imperative that we recognize that many of the actions we do each day are the foundation for long-term success. Whether our goal is to be financially stable or to create a family, it requires a long-term vision with a short-term drive. For it is how we conduct ourselves daily that will determine the results in the future.

***"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant."***

*Have a meaningful Shabbos,  
Rabbi Sholom Yemini*