

Dvar Torah by **Rabbi Chanoch Yeres**

to his community at

Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael, Yemin Moshe

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Pi-n'chas

In this week's Parsha, we discuss the story of the daughters of Tz'lofchad. They came to Moshe because their father, Tz'lofchad, had died without any sons.

The daughters contended that they should not be left out of the inheritance. They wanted their father's portion of land in Eretz Yisrael. Moshe Rabbeinu presented the question before G-d who ruled in favor of the daughters.

The Midrash here points out that "There are times when an individual can take the reward of an entire generation.

No'ach stood up against an entire generation and took the reward destined to them. Avraham stood up to his generation and merited the reward meant for that generation. Lot stood up to the people of Sodom and took the reward destined for them." The Midrash concludes that the daughters of Tz'lofchad too, took the reward of their entire generation.

What did they do to earn such a reward? No'ach fought a generation for one hundred and twenty years. Avraham jumped into a furnace for his values. Lot stood up against the

immorality of his generation - but what did the daughters of Tz'lofchad do? All they did was to argue to receive their father's inheritance. What is so virtuous of that?

The Midrash answers that while everyone else was screaming and yelling to go back to Egypt, it was the determination of these women who remain steadfast that their future was in the Land of Israel and nowhere else. Moshe was impressed that they went against the tide.

We learn from this Midrash that the activities and deeds of every person cannot be judged in a vacuum but rather in the context of the times. Under normal circumstances, asking for one's father's inheritance does not constitute a brave and courageous act. However, this time in history, such a simple act is seen as an act of utmost bravery. In the climate of widespread criticism of the Land of Israel and yearning to return to Egypt, it was act of Tz'lofchad's daughters that prevailed against the swarm of hatred and criticism to Israel.

As Rabbi Frand once wrote, sometimes, even the most mundane of activities, given the atmosphere and climate, can be a most noble act - to such an extent that the Midrash equates the daughters of Tz'lofchad with Avraham Avinu himself. 🏹