

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT DEVARIM

9-10 AUGUST | 6 AV

“Words, words, words” (*Hamlet, Shakespeare*)



**KENDAL
EDER**

Events Executive, Tribe

Parashat Devarim begins the final book of the Torah, which is a series of speeches given by Moshe (Moses) to the Israelites before they enter the Land of Israel. The name ‘Devarim’ means ‘words,’ highlighting the significant role that speech and communication play throughout the book.

Moshe’s choice to review the journey of the Israelites serves two purposes: to remind them of their past and to prepare them for their future. This highlights the impact of words in shaping our communal memory and identity.

In Devarim 1:1, the Torah states:

“These are the words that Moshe spoke to all Israel beyond the Jordan.”

This opening verse emphasises that what follows are Moshe’s words, his personal message to the people, sharing the values and lessons he wishes them to carry on into the future.

Moshe’s speeches in Devarim also include his criticisms of Israel’s mistakes. Each type of speech carries its own weight and responsibility. For example, Moshe spoke to the Israelites about their past mistakes with care and love, ensuring that the words build rather than destroy. This teaches us about the responsibility we have when using words, especially when addressing others’ failings.

In Devarim 4:2, we are commanded: “Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract

from it.”

This instruction about the holiness and integrity of God’s words reflects the broader principle that our own words should be spoken with caution. Misusing words can lead to misunderstanding.

Lastly, Moshe’s speeches empower the Israelites. By recalling their history, the miracles they witnessed, and the covenant they entered into, he instils in them a sense of purpose and destiny. His words serve to motivate them for the challenges ahead.

Parashat Devarim teaches us about the power of words. Words can instruct, remind and empower. As we read Moshe’s final words to the Israelites, we are reminded of the long-lasting impact of our words. We should strive to use our words wisely to build those around us.

Word Finder!

How many words can you make using the letters of the phrase...

PARASHAT DEVARIM

Can you find any 7-letter words?!

Here are some words to get you started: **SHAPE, SHARP, VASE...**

Some 7-letter words you might have found: ADVERTS, AVIARS, DEPARTS, HARDEST, HARVEST, PARADES, PHRASED, SHARPER, STARVED, THREADS, TRADERS, TRASHED...