Parshas Va’eschanan – 16 Av 5758, 7 & 8 August 1998

Parsha Questions

1. “And I prayed to Hashem at that time...” Why ‘at that time’?
2. What is Ha’Levanon?
3. Part of Moshe’s request was granted. Which part?
4. What did Hashem tell Yehoshua after the battle of Ai?
5. When do the nations view the Jews as a wise people?
6. How did the decree that Moshe not enter the Land affect him even in death?
7. What is hinted by the word V’noshanem?
8. “You’ll serve man-made gods...” Is this literal?
9. Why is East called Mizrach?
10. How often is Mitzraim mentioned in the 10 commandments?
11. “Keep the Shabbos day as I have commanded you.” When did Hashem command us to keep Shabbos.

12. What is meant by ‘Hashem, our G-d, Hashem is One?’
13. What are two meanings of loving Hashem ‘with all your might?’
14. How well-versed must one be in Torah?
15. ‘And teach them to your children...’ Your children refers to whom?
16. Where does the word Totafos come from?
17. Who is fit to swear in Hashem’s name?
18. What does it mean that the Jews are the “smallest nation.”
19. When someone serves Hashem with love, how many generations receive reward?
20. Why are evil-doers rewarded in this world?

Moshe thought perhaps the vow against his entering the Land had been annulled (see question#1 and answer).

If so, why did he need to pray to enter the Land?

I Did Not Know That!

“And you will be careful to do (the mitzvos) ... a land flowing with milk and honey.” (6:3)
If we carefully observe the mitzvos, then it is a land flowing with milk and honey. If not, it is transformed into a barren wasteland.

Moznaim LaTorah
Recommended Reading List

**Ramban**

4:2 Adding or Subtracting 416 Coveting Property
4:9 Mt. Sinai 418 Loving Hashem
4:27 Dispersion 419 Learning Torah
6:5 Love and Fear 420 Reading the Shema
6:18 Spirit of the Law 421 Tefillin of the Hand
6:20 Significance of the Mitzvos 422 Tefillin of the Head
7:6 Hashem’s People 423 Mezuza

**Sforno**

4:3 Baal-Peor
4:9 Philosophy
4:39 Aleinu
6:4 Shema Yisrael

**Sefer Hachinuch**

416 Coveting Property
418 Loving Hashem
419 Learning Torah
420 Reading the Shema
421 Tefillin of the Hand
422 Tefillin of the Head
423 Mezuza
427 Intermarriage

Answers to this Week’s Questions

All references are to the verses and Rashi’s commentary, unless otherwise stated

1. 3:23 - Defeating Sichon and Og, whose lands were part of Eretz Canaan, Moshe thought perhaps Hashem had annulled the vow against his entering the Land.
2. 3:25 - Ha’Levanon means the Beis Hamikdash, which ‘whitens’ (lavan), i.e., atones for, the Jewish People.
3. 3:27 - Moshe was allowed to see the Land.
4. 3:28 - Joshua must lead the army into battle.
5. 4:6 - When we study Torah and do mitzvos.
6. 4:22 - Even his bones weren’t buried in the Land.
7. 4:25 - The gematria of V’noshantem, 852, hints at the number of years until the first exile.
8. 4:28 - No. It means you’ll serve others who serve idols.
9. 4:41 - It’s the direction from which the sun shines. (Mizrach means shining.)
10. 5:6, 5:15 - Twice.
11. 5:13 - Before Matan Torah, at Marah. (Shmos 15:25)
12. 6:4 - Hashem, who is now our G-d, but not [accepted as] G-d of the other nations, will eventually be [accepted as] the one and only G-d.
13. 6:5 - 1) With everything you own. 2) Whether Hashem treats you with kindness or harshness.
14. 6:7 - If asked a Torah question, one should be able to reply quickly and clearly.
15. 6:7 - Your students
16. 6:8 - Tot means two in Caspi. Fos means two in Afriki. Together they allude to the four sections of tefillin.
17. 6:13 - One who serves Hashem and reveres His name.
18. 7:7 - The B’nei Yisrael are the humblest nation.
19. 7:9 - 2,000
20. 7:10 - So that they get no reward in the next world.

There were two separate aspects: (1) Hashem’s **Decree** that he not enter, and (2) Hashem’s **Vow** that he not enter. Only after Moshe thought the Vow had been annulled was he able to pray for the rescinding of the **Decree**.

*In the name of Rabbi Yitzchak Ze’ev Solevetchik*