

[Kohelet Discussion](#)

Parshah Pinchas

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There are four major points in the parshah:

- Pinchas received God's reward for killing Zimri and Cozbi.
- The second count of men between 20 and 60 to properly divide inheritance according to names of fathers
- 5 daughters with no father asked for a part in the inheritance
- Moses asked God to find his successor, and God identifies Joshua (Yehoshua Bin Nun) as the man for the job.
- The parshah ends with the rules for communal sacrifices.

Let me set a background for the Pichas action. Jews were wandering around a desert and stopped at Shittim. They met Moabite women, who seduced some of them and not only physically but also into serving Baal Peor. G-d sent plaque to the Jews and they started dying. At this point Jewish prince Zimri openly brought a Moabite princess Cozbi to a Jewish camp. Pinchas acted as a zealot killing both on the spot.

There are many commentaries including Rachi, who explained that the tribes did not immediately accept Pinchas actions, done without the order from Moche.

The Sages do not treat Pinchas as a role model, rather considered his act as abnormal.

But God approved his action and rewarded Pinchas with covenants of Peace and everlasting priesthood, because Pinchas turned his anger away from the sons of Israel.

And G-d ordered Moses to count all men between 20 and 60 to divide the land between the tribes.

The rule was to distribute the land according to fathers of the tribe. 5 sisters of the Zelophehad tribe approached Moses. Their father died and they asked for their share of the land. This was an exception of the rule and Moses passed this request to G-d and G-d approved.

G-d let Moses know that his days are counted and someone else must lead the Jews to the Jewish land. As a good leader Moses pleaded G-d to find the best possible man his successor. G-d selected Joshua Bin Nun and said to Moses: take Joshua to Eleazar the priest and to the entire community, and charge him before their eyes.

God spoke to Moses and commanded him to have the sons of Israel bring offerings to God in each season of appointed meeting,

including Passover, the Sabbath, the New Moon (a time of spiritual renewal, when the prophets heard from the G-d), the Festival of Weeks (Shavuot), and the Day of Atonement.

This concludes the parshah. I just have several questions.

About zealots: do we have zealots now?

About Baal Peor: reading commentaries I found that serving Baal Peor was especially bad for Jews. Why it was so?

And the question related to 5 daughters: For centuries women asked men for permission as men were in command. This is rapidly changing now when physical power does not play decisive role and more women take commanding positions due to naturally better communication skills.

Will we shift to the world ruled by women? Or maybe we are already there?