



Project: Sermon Resource for Shluchim
 Distribution Date: July 17, 2007/ ב' מנחם אב תשס"ז
 Parsha: Devorim / דברים

ב"ה

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1. Valid excuses?

- Terrorists are excused because of bad living conditions.
- Serial killers are excused because of sad childhoods.
- We blame our upbringings for our mistakes.

Is this kosher?



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2. Devarim: "The Torah's Sequel"

Moses repeats the Jews history before his passing.

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3. Strange choice of opening story.

Why does Moses begin with the spies when the Golden Calf happened over a year before?



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4. Moses changes some details:

Moses: "You all approached me and asked me to send spies."

Numbers: "G-d spoke to Moses, send for yourself spies."



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5. A major discrepancy:
 Moses says the spies gave a positive report but the people refused to go.
 Numbers: The spies warn against fighting the local nations!
 Q: Why doesn't Moses mention their warning?



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6. Devarim isn't a history. Moses is admonishing the people.
 Moses chooses the mistake he feels has the most important lesson.

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7. What is that lesson?
 "Don't try to pass the blame - Take responsibility for your actions!"
 G-d told Moses to send the spies but it was originally the people's idea.
 The spies said victory was impossible but the people chose to agree.



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8. The Nazis would claim, "I was just following orders."
 Human beings always have freedom of choice and can never blame others for their actions.



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9. The first people to "pass the blame": Adam and Eve.
 But G-d doesn't take excuses. The humans are punished for they chose to "Follow orders".



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10. The lesson for us:
 If you sin you must take the whole responsibility.
 If you do a mitzvah you get all the credit!

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