**Class #26–Do we all have to make Aliyah?**

Advanced Fellowship Parsha Class - Sponsored in memory of Alice Toby Barbanel *Z”l*

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*The Ultimate Excuse For Not Making Aliyah by* ***Rabbi Sholom Gold***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rC0n0AxrBYI>

1. What belief do many observant Jews have concerning making Aliyah to Israel?
2. Why don’t more American Jews make Aliyah?
3. What does the story of the Chofetz Chaim teach us about making Aliyah?
4. Is there a good reason not to make Aliyah?

***Moshe calls his Father-in-law, Chovev to make Aliyah!***

10:29 Moses said to his father-in-law, Chovev son of Reuel the Midianite, 'We are now on our way to the place that God promised to give us. Come with us and we will let you share the benefit of all the good things that God has promised Israel.'

10:30 'I will not go,' replied [Chovev]. 'I will rather return to my land and my birthplace.'

10:31 'Do not abandon us,' said [Moses]. 'After all, you are familiar with the places where we are going to camp in the desert, and you can be our guide.

10:32 If you go with us, we will share with you whatever good God grants us.'

*Rashi*

**WE ARE NOW ON TO THE PLACE** – Immediately — within three days — we shall enter the Land of Canaan. They said this, because on this first journey after leaving Sinai they really set out with a view to entering the Land of Israel, only that they sinned at the incident of "those who complained" which prevented their further progress ([Numbers 11:1](https://mg.alhatorah.org/#!Bemidbar/11.1)). — But why did Moses include himself with them in the statement " we are journeying" to enter the land? Because the decree that he should not enter it had not yet been made regarding him, and he was yet under the belief that he would enter ([cf. Sifrei Bemidbar 78:3](https://mg.alhatorah.org/SP/Sifre%20Bemidbar/Bemidbar/78.3#e2)).

1. How old do you think Yitro was?
2. What did Yitro have to do to get to Moshe in the Wilderness of Sinai?
3. Why was Yitro there with Moshe for a year?
4. Why do the rabbis say that Yitro converted to Judaism?
5. Why did Yitro not want to go with Moshe to the Land of Israel?

***RALBAG***

**The Eighth benefit of the Story** is that is it proper for all perfected people to help others perfect themselves as much as possible. We see that even though Moshe had complete trust that Yitro’s belief in Hashem, he was nervous that Yitro’s family will remain in their pagan ways. Therefore, Moshe sought to have Yitro remain with the Jewish people in order that his family would join him and become engaged in the Jewish way. In order to sweeten the deal, Moshe promised him property in Israel [even though he was not from the tribes]. Yitro did not listen to Moshe’s counsel, because Yitro was confident that he will be able to educate his family out of the pagan ways into a full acceptance of Hashem. We see that Yitro’s family ultimately made Aliyah and allied themselves with the Jewish People.

**Rashi**

**AND IT SHALL BE THAT WHAT GOODNESS [THE LORD SHALL DO UNTO US, THE SAME WILL WE DO UNTO THEE]** – What good did they bestow upon him (i.e. when did they redeem their promise)? They (our Sages) say: When the Israelites were parceling out the Land the most fertile part of Jericho proved to extend over an area of 500 by 500 cubits; they left it unparcelled and said: He in whose portion of land the Sanctuary will be built shall take it as a substitute for giving up the land upon which the Temple was built. In the meantime, however, they gave it to the children of Jethro — to Jonadab the son of Rechab, [as it is said, ([Judges 1:16](https://mg.alhatorah.org/#!Shofetim/1.16)) "And the children of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up out of the city of the palm tree" (which is identical with Jericho; cf. Deuteronomy 34:3)] ([Sifrei Bemidbar 81](https://mg.alhatorah.org/SP/Sifre%20Bemidbar/Bemidbar/81%22%20%5Cl%20%22e2%22%20%5Co%20%22Sifre%20Bemidbar%2081%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)).

1. According to the Ralbag, what is the value about being in Israel?
2. What did Moshe and Yitro agree about? What did they disagree about?
3. In your own decision about making Aliyah, what would Moshe counsel you? How would Yitro counsel you?