Class # 41–Parshat Nitzavim - Vayelech

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

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9z4Dq0Uy4Dc>

# 2-Year-Old Detroit Lions Fan Gets 'Carried Away' Giving High-Fives to the Titans

Questions:

1. Can a two year old understand football?
2. Why is the parent sending the money to bring him to a professional football game?

*Joshua; The Torah*

31:7 Moses summoned Joshua, and in the presence of all Israel, said to him, 'Be strong and brave, since you will be the one to bring this nation to the land that God swore to their fathers that He would give it to them. You will be the one to parcel it out to them. 31:8 But God will be the One who will go before you, and He will be with you. He will never forsake you or abandon you, so do not be afraid and do not [let your spirit be broken](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=31#C4466).' 31:9 [Moses then wrote down this Torah](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=31#C4467). He gave it to Levi's descendants, the priests [in charge of](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=31#C4468) the ark of God's covenant, and to the elders of Israel. 31:10 Moses then gave them the following commandment:

'At the end of each seven years, at a fixed time on the festival of [Sukkoth](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=31#C4469), [after](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=31#C4470) the year of [release](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=31#C4471),

31:11 when all Israel comes to present themselves before God your Lord, in the [place that He will choose](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=31#C4472), [you must read](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=31#C4473) [[from] this Torah](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=31#C4474) before all Israel, so that they will be able to hear it. 31:12 'You must gather together the people, the men, women, children and [proselytes](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=31#C4475) from your settlements, and let them hear it. They will thus learn to be in awe of God your Lord, carefully keeping all the words of this Torah. 31:13 Their children, who do not know, will listen and learn to be in awe of God your Lord, as long as you live in the land which you are crossing the Jordan to occupy.'

**Rambam, Laws of the Festival offering, Ch. 3**

**Halacha 1**

It is a positive commandment to gather together the entire Jewish people - men, women, and children - after every Sabbatical year when they ascend for the pilgrimage holiday and to read so that they hear passages from the Torah that encourage them to perfom mitzvot and strengthem them in the true faith, as [Deuteronomy 31:10](http://www.chabad.org/9995#v10)-12 states: "At the end of a seven-year period, at the time of the Sabbatial year on the Sukkot holiday when all Israel come to appear... gather the nation, the men, the women, the children, and your stranger in your gates...."

**Halacha 3**

When would they read? On the day following the first day of the holiday of3 Sukkot which is the first day of *Chol HaMoed* of the eighth year. The kingwould read so the people would hear. The reading was held in the Women's Courtyard. He would read while seated. If he read while standing, it is praiseworthy.

From which passages in the Torah should he read? He starts from the beginning of the *chumash [Devarim]*: "These are the words..." until the end of the passage *Shema*. He then skips to the passage *Vehayah Im Shamoa*,and then skips to the passage *asair te'asair*. He then reads from that passage in order until the end of the blessing and curses, i.e., until the phrase: "besides the covenant He established with them in Choreb where he concludes.

**Halacha 4**

How is the reading conducted? Trumpets are sounded throughout Jerusalem to gather the people. A large wooden platform is brought and set up in the center of the Women's Courtyard. The king ascends and sits on it so that they will be able to hear his reading. All of the Jewish people who made the festive pilgrimage gather around him. The attendant of the synagogue would take the Torah scroll and give it to the head of the synagogue. He would give it to the *segen*, who would give it to the High Priest, who would give it to the king. The transfer involved many people as an expression of respect.

The king accepts the scroll while standing. If he desires, he may sit when reading. He opens it, looks at it, and recites the blessings like anyone who is reading the Torah in a synagogue. He reads the passages mentioned in the previous halachah until he completes them. He rolls the scroll closed and recites the blessing afterwards as it is done in synagogues. He adds seven blessings which are….

**Halacha 5**

The reading and the blessings are in the Holy Tongue, as implied by [Deuteronomy 31:11](http://www.chabad.org/9995#v11): "Read this Torah," i.e., in its wording. This applies even though foreigner speakers are present.

**Halacha 6**

Converts who do not understand are obligated to concentrate their attention and direct their hearing, listening with reverence and awe, rejoicing while trembling as on the day the Torah was given at Sinai.

Even great Sages who know the entire Torah are obligated to listen with exceedingly great concentration.

One who is unable to hear should focus his attention on this reading, for Scripture established it solely to strengthen the true faith. He should see himself as if he was just now commanded regarding the Torah and heard it from the Almighty. For the king is an agent to make known the word of God.