

# *Peak of History - Forgotten?*

PARSHA INSIGHTS - MATOS MASAI (5759)

## **THE MOST MAJOR EVENT - OMITTED?**

The journeys of two generations of *Bnai Yisroel* [the Children of Israel] in the wilderness are recounted in today's *parsha* [Torah portion]. They include the adventures of the people who actually left Egypt, plus the travels of their children who eventually entered the land of Canaan (*Eretz Yisroel* [the Land of Israel]).

Among the locations traversed, we find that “they journeyed from Refidim and encamped in the Wilderness of Sinai. They journeyed from the Wilderness of Sinai and encamped in Kivros Hataava...” (33:15-16). Rav Moshe Feinstein notices something extremely peculiar. The travels and experiences of the Jews are being listed and reviewed in the *parsha*. A significant episode is deleted - the receiving of the Torah at Sinai! How could such an event not be mentioned? The verse merely states that we went from Refidim to Sinai, but it never says a word about *Matan Torah* [the giving of the Torah]!

Based on *Chazal* [our Sages], Rav Moshe comments that this teaches us something essential. We are supposed to view *EVERY DAY* as a time for receiving the Torah. Torah is never to be considered an “old edict” handed over to some ancient civilization on some ancient mountain called Sinai. If Scripture would have recorded the giving of the Torah among the rest of the journeys and incidents, people might mistakenly think of it as “just another historical event”. Consequently, it is totally omitted from the group of travels and episodes summarized in today's *parsha*.

The *chachamim* [wise Torah scholars] remind us that it is quite easy to notice the freshness and novelty of Torah each and every day. May we experience this ourselves as we delve into it with devotion.

*By Rabbi Moshe Heigh*

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