

## VaYelech, <u>Deuteronomy 31:1 - 31:30</u>

**VaYelech** begins with Moshe passing the torch of leadership to Yehoshua (Joshua). Moshe then gives Yehoshua a command/blessing which applies to every Jewish leader: "Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid or feel insecure before them. God your Lord is the One who is going with you, and He will not fail you nor forsake you."

**Moshe** writes the entire Torah and gives it to the Cohanim and Elders. He then commands that in the future at the end of the *Shmita* (Sabbatical Year) the king should gather all the people during the Succot festival and read to them the Torah so "... that they will hear and learn and fear the Lord your God and be careful to perform all the words of the Torah."

**The Almighty** describes in a short paragraph the course of Jewish history (that's starting from <a href="Deuteronomy 31:16">Deuteronomy 31:16</a> for the curious). Lastly, before Moshe goes to "sleep with his forefathers," he assembles the people to teach them the song of Ha'azinu, the next weekly Torah portion, to remind them of the consequences of turning against the Almighty.