

Devarim – Keep Moving

5777 - 2017

In this week's Torah portion, Moses recounts the story of the wilderness and he uses the expression, "*Rav Lahem*" twice. In the beginning of the Parsha Moses says: "You have dwelt long enough (*Rav Lahem*) at this mountain (Mount Horeb/Sinai)" (1:6). Later, Moses adds: "You have circled this mountain (Har Seir) long enough (*Rav Lahem*); turn northward" (2:3).

"*Rav Lahem!*" is the voice of God calling to the people to say that they have stayed too long in one place without moving or advancing, which is never a good thing. The Jewish people are a wandering people. Our history begins with the journey of Abraham and it continues through our present day. When we aren't on the move, we become stagnant. God urges us to keep moving! The same idea can be applied to our relationships, professions, and in other areas of our lives. When we go for a long period of time without change, without challenging ourselves, God is calling to us and saying: "*Rav Lahem.*" He is urging us to keep moving towards our promised land.

Shabbat Shalom!

Rabbi Uri