**Some Questions to Ponder:**

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat, which reading touched your heart and fired your imagination?

I was intrigued by the Hakham’s commentary with his connection between Herod and Yehudah Ish Kariot.

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in D’barim 2:3?

**turn northward** – What direction had they been traveling?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in D’barim 2:5?

**not so much as a foot step** – What is the meaning of this pasuk?

**[I have given Mount Seir] to Esau for an inheritance** – To whom was the inheritance given?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in D’barim 2:6

**you shall buy** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: תִּכְרוּ?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in D’barim 2:9?

**and do not provoke them to war** – What do we understand from this statement?

**Ar** – What is Ar?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in D’barim 2:11?

**They... are considered Rephaim...** – Why are they considered Rephaim?

**Emim** – Why are they called Emim?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in D’barim 2:17?

**that the Lord spoke to me** – What does this teach us?

**the men of war** – Who were these men?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in D’barim 2:23?

**But the Avim who dwell in open cities** – What are the Avim?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in D’barim 2:25?

**under the entire heaven** – What does this pasuk teach us?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in D’barim 2:29?

**Just as the children of Esau...did for me** – To what is this pasuk referring?

**until I cross the Jordan** - To what is this pasuk referring?

1. Why did G-d forbid the Jews to provoke Ammon?

It was a reward for the modesty shown by their ancestress [Lot’s younger daughter], who did not publicize her father’s conduct, as did his elder daughter, who named her son Moab [ מוֹאָב like מֵאָב , from the father] (Baba Kamma 38b).

1. What important Halakhic principle can be understood from Debarim 2:6?

Be willing to pay for things not required in order to bring peace and friendship between neighbors.

1. In your opinion, what critical reasons can you propose for Yehudah Ish Keruyoth to be identified as an Moabite?

Moab and Edom were neighbors. This suggests that Yehudah was a mixed Moabite and Edomite. This suggestion helps us to understand that there may be collusion between Herod and Yehudah Ish Kariot.

1. In your opinion what is the intent of Hakham Tsefet’s pericope by the hand of his scribe Mordechai (Mark) for this Shabbat?

To show how sin can crouch at the door even of one who has studied with The Master. Further, we see that it is important for a talmid to be loyal and betrayal will often bring death.

Dr. Elizabeth Oakley: It seems to me that he is using the hermeneutic principle of Gezerah Shavah. He is accentuating the positive by using the negative. The overall lesson is that we must have a true and faithful love for each other. We should see ourselves as on unit or community and be willing to give our all to protect and defend our Jewish brothers and sisters.

Walter Oakley: Defection and conspiracy can happen even within the ranks of the Master’s talmidim. And watch out for the spies.

1. In what way does the Torah, Psalm, Prophetic reading of Obadiah + Micah, and Mark 14:10-11 point to the fact that this is the fifth of the seven Sabbaths of Consolation?

**Torah**: The remaining people were consoled that their wandering in the wilderness was complete and it was time to begin possessing the land.

**Obadiah**: The enemy who hated us will eventually be overthrown by our people.

**Micah**: The people were consoled by understanding that their sins brought judgment, but that judgment would end and the end of the matter would be greater than it is now.

**Mark**: If the prophecy of the betrayal of the Master came true, then so also would the people be consoled with the Master’s resurrection and triumphant return.

1. What part of the Torah Seder fired the heart and imagination of the Psalmist for this week?

The Psalmist focused on the final end of the Kennites, Kennezites, and the Kadmonites who are given to Lot and Esau, who are spared in our parasha. Even these foes will eventually be brought down.

1. What part of the Torah Seder fired the heart and the imagination of the prophets Obadiah and Micah this week?

Obadiah focused on the conquest of Edom which was spared in Moshe’s day.

Micah focused first on the punishment of the Israelites for their sins, even as our parasha speaks of the end of the 38 years where the rebellious died for their sins. Finally, the Prophet speaks of the judgment of mighty kings in response to the Torah’s judgment against Og, one of the mightiest kings the world has ever seen.

1. What part of the Torah Seder fired the heart and the imagination of the prophet in the Special Ashlamata?

The Prophet looks at the end of the matter when the time for punishment has passed and it is time for the reward when there is no more rebuke and the Gentiles will also Know HaShem, even as our parasha turns from the time of punishment in the wilderness, to the time of victory as we begin to take possession of the Promised Land.

1. What part/s of the Torah Seder, Psalm, and the prophets fired the heart and the imagination of Hakham Tsefet for this week?
2. After taking into consideration all the above texts and our Torah Seder, what would you say is the general prophetic message from the Scriptures for this coming week?

This is a scary time as we begin the transition from a comfortable position to a new and better position, therefore, take courage and redouble your efforts to do the right things.

We must not give the impression that we are in this Torah for money.

**Walter Oakley: The Unasked Question**

Hod – Building successful relationships with appropriate boundaries. Balancing Netzach so that relationships in the community will flourish in their specific sphere.

26. So I sent messengers from the desert of Kedemoth to Sihon, king of Heshbon, with words of peace, saying, 27. Allow me to pass through your land: I will go along by the highway, I will turn neither to the right nor to the left.

Psa 108: 9. Gilead is mine, Manasseh is mine, and Ephraim is the strength of my head; Judah is my prince. 10. Moab is my washbasin, on Edom I shall cast my shoe; on Philistia I shall shout.