

This Week in Jewish History

Highlights from "The Israel Bible"

10 Sh'vat

Anniversary of the death of Ariel Sharon

Ariel Sharon (1928-2014) was born in the Israeli agricultural community of Kfar Malal. He was an Israeli general and politician and served as Israel's eleventh Prime Minister from 2001-2006.

While summarizing the wars fought by B'nei Yisrael to take possession of the Promised Land, Yehoshua reminds them of the wars Moshe fought.

"These were vanquished by Moshe, the servant of Hashem, and the Israelites; and Moshe, the servant of Hashem, assigned that territory as a possession to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Menashe." (Yehoshua 12:6)

Moshe had led the people in battle against Sihon and Og, and captured the Gilad and the Bashan. This area became the inheritance of the tribes of Gad, Reuven and half of Menashe (see Numbers 32:33). The area of the Bashan is now known as the Golan Heights, which Israel conquered in the Six-Day War from Syria. Towering over the north of the country, the Golan Heights provides an essential strategic perch that is vital for Israel's security. Coupled with its biblical significance, the Golan Heights remain an important part of the State of Israel. In his final interview before suffering a massive stroke in 2006, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told Japanese reporters, "I am a Jew, and

that is the most important thing for me. Therefore when it comes to the security of Israel I will not make any compromises...I don't see any situation where Israel will not be sitting on the Golan Heights."

"The Israel Bible" is edited by Rabbi Tuly Weisz and co-published by Israel365 & Koren Jerusalem's Menorah Books and was the #1 new release Bible on Amazon