





The voyage was uneventful for the first ten days, and then we saw British planes overhead. The Olim were sent below and the deck was covered with a large tarpaulin. When we were only a day's sailing from Haifa we saw a British warship heading in our direction. The Palyam men on the ship brought up a machine gun that we had brought with us, and pointed it toward the warship. I received a helio message from the ship saying: "This is the Israeli warship, "Eilat". Ruthie, go to your station and receive orders for bringing the Olim into Haifa.

-Ruth Chaiken

**Yehoshua 4:19**

And the people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month and encamped in Gilgal, on the east border of Jericho.

**יהושע ד:יט**

והעם עלו מן-הירדן בעשור לחדש הראשון ויחנו בגלגל בקצה מזרח יריחו:

**Shmuel I 7:15-16**

And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. And he went from year to year in circuit to Beth-el, and Gilgal, and Mizpah; and he judged Israel in all those places.

**שמואל א' ז:טו-טז**

וישפט שמואל את-ישראל כל ימי תייו: והלך מדי שנה בשנה וסבב בית-אל והגלגל והמצפה ושפט את-ישראל את כל-המקומות האלה:

**Melachim II 2:1**

And it came to pass, when Hashem was to take Elijah up by a whirlwind into heaven, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for Hashem has sent me as far as Beth-el." And Elisha said, "As Hashem lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So they went down to Beth-el.

**מלכים ב' ב:א**

ויהי בהעלות ה' את-אליהו בסערה השמים וילך אליהו ואלישע מן-הגלגל: ויאמר אליהו אל-אלישע שב-נא פה כי ה' שלחני עד-בית-אל ויאמר אלישע חיה' וחי-נפשי אמ-אעזבה וירדו בית-אל:

**Yehoshua 9:6**

And they went to Joshua to the camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a far country; now make a covenant with us."

**יהושע ט:ו**

וילכו אל-יהושע אל-המחנה הגלגל ויאמרו אליו ואל-איש ישראל מארץ רחוקה באנו ועתה כרתו-לנו ברית:

## 1. Devarim 11:29

## 1. דברים יא:כט

**For the land which you go in to possess isn't as the land of Egypt that you came out from, where you sowed your seed, and watered it with your foot, as a garden of herbs.**

כִּי הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אָתָּה בָּא-שָׂמָה לְרִשְׁתָּהּ לֹא  
כְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם הוּא אֲשֶׁר יִצְאֲתֶם מִשָּׁם אֲשֶׁר  
תִּזְרַע אֶת-זֵרְעֶךָ וְהִשְׁקִיתָ בְּרַגְלֶךָ כְּגַן הַיֵּרֻק:

## 6. Yehoshua 1:2-3

"Moses, My servant, is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you, and all this people, to the land which I give to them, to the Children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, to you have I given it, as I spoke to Moses.

## 6. יהושע א:ב-ג

מֹשֶׁה עַבְדִּי מֵת וְעַתָּה קוּם עֲבַר אֶת־הַיַּרְדֵּן  
הַזֶּה אַתָּה וְכָל־הָעָם הַזֶּה אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר  
אֲנִי נֹתֵן לָהֶם לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: כָּל־מְקוֹם אֲשֶׁר  
תֵּדְרֹךְ כַּף־רַגְלְכֶם בָּהּ לָכֶם נֹתַתִּיו כַּאֲשֶׁר  
דִּבַּרְתִּי אֶל־מֹשֶׁה:

## 7. Beresheit 13:17

**Arise! Walk through the land to its length and to its breadth because I will give it to you."**

## 7. בראשית יג:יז

קוּם הַתְּהַלֵּךְ בְּאַרְצְךָ  
לְאַרְכָּהּ וּלְרֹחְבָּהּ כִּי  
אֶתְּנֶנָּה:



I believe that there is no better way to feel the connection to the land of Israel than to walk its length and breadth, cross its valleys, challenge its mountain tops, and hike its trails; even the most forsaken ones. Only when you walk the expanse by foot, absorb the sweet perfume of its landscapes and see with your own eyes its ancient ruins and modern cities, only then can you feel the real connection to the Land of Israel and feel yourself a son on this land.