



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL
OF THE PALISADES

קהילה קדושה בית ישראל של הפלייס

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PARSHAT B'SHALACH
JANUARY 15, 2022- SH'VAT 13, 5782

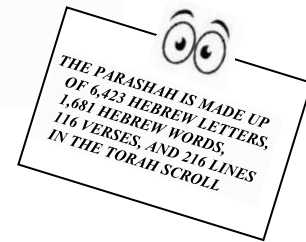
Then Moses held out his arm over the sea and the LORD drove back the sea with a strong east wind all that night, and turned the sea into dry ground. The waters were split, and the Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. – Exodus 14:21-22



GABBAI
FRED

בשלה

PARSHAT B'SHALACH - SHABBAT SHIRAH
TORAH – EXODUS 13:17 – 17:16
HAFTARAH (A) SHOFTIM (JUDGES) 4:4-5:31
(S) SHOFTIM (JUDGES) 5:1-5:31



PARSHAT B'SHALACH

This week's Parshah recounts the amazing miracle of the Mon-Manna which began falling daily from the sky and nourished the Jewish people for some 40 years in the desert.

The great Chassidic Master and Tzaddik Reb Mendel of Riminov famously praised studying these passages especially during the third day of the week when this portion is read from the Torah. He said that this is a great Segulah-protection/remedy to arouse Heavenly Compassion for one's flow of livelihood/parnasah.

Some even have the custom of reciting it every day and the optimal time is on this Tuesday! May Hashem bless you and your family with abundant "GEFEN"-Gezunt,Nachas and Parnassah.

"...Zeh Keili V'anvehu..." - this is my G-d and I shall exalt Him (Sh'mot 15:2).

As the Exodus from Egypt reaches its peak, Moshe Rabbenu and the children of Israel sing unto Hashem. Our sages wonder about the word "V'anvehu."

Some say that it means: building a house for Hashem - a reference to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and the "portable" dwelling place we strive to create for Him wherever we live. Others explain that "V'anvehu" refers to beautifying our observance of each Mitzvah. When it comes to Mitzvot, we strive for the best and most beautiful.

Each of us decides which precious items we carry along as we journey through life. What do you take with you?

Miriam, for example, packed musical instruments despite her limited luggage space and the sudden rush to leave Egypt. She knew that one day, Hashem would bless our people with incredible miracles and liberation and she would need the instruments to give proper thanks to Hashem.


Perhaps, Moshe most exemplified these ideals when he decided what to take with him when leaving Egypt. "Vayekach Moshe Et Atzmot Yosef Emo..." And Moshe took the remains of Yosef with him (Sh'mot 13:19).

My great but humble Rebbe, Reb Aleph Bais teaches that ordinary people collect worldly possessions throughout their lives while wise people gather Mitzvot. In this week's Torah Reading Parshat Beshalach, we find the Israelites packing up material wealth as they prepared to leave Egypt. Moshe Rabbenu, the truly wise man carries with him the remains of Joseph to be buried in Israel. Although the Israelites were obeying the command to gather up the wealth of Egypt to compensate for their years of slavery, nevertheless, one wonders if their motives were purely for the sake of heaven.

Moshe Rabbenu's act of Chesed - kindness, however, is beyond reproach. He demonstrates the ultimate way to do a Mitzvah. Not for any material reward - the rewards will come - rather, a Mitzvah's true reward is that you are given additional opportunities to come yet closer to Hashem. Each one of us needs a Moshe Rabbenu in our generation to guide us. Have you found yours yet?

THOUGHT QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Many people try to obtain the most beautiful Etrog, Sukkah or Tefillin to demonstrate their commitment to the Mitzvot between man and Hashem. How can this principle be applied to the Mitzvot between man and his fellow man?


SHABBAT SHIRA is the Shabbat of Song. The parsha contains the song of celebration שירת הים *shirat hayam*, Moses, Miriam, and the people Israel sang after the successful crossing of the Sea of Reeds and the defeat of the Egyptian army by the hand of G-d.




TU BISHVAT is referred to as the New Year for trees because the fruits of trees that blossom after the 15th of Shevat were counted in ancient times as belonging to the next year for purposes of tithing. To celebrate, we eat a tree fruit that we have not yet tasted this season, reciting the berachot פרי העץ בורא פרי *bor'ei pri* and שרחינו *shrachinu*. Other customs include holding a Tu Bishvat seder and eating fruits from Israel.



B'shalach Aliyah Summary

General Overview: In this week's reading, *Beshalach*, Pharaoh pursues the Israelites into the desert. The Red Sea splits, the Israelites cross the sea while the Egyptian army is drowned. Moses and the Israelites sing a special song thanking G-d for this miracle. The Israelites complain about a lack of food and drink. G-d sends Manna and quail for them to eat, and miraculously produces water from a rock. Amalek attacks the Israelites and is soundly defeated.

First Aliyah: After Pharaoh sent the Israelites from his land, G-d did not allow them to take the most direct route to the Promised Land, fearing that any confrontation would then frighten the Israelites, causing them to return to Egypt via this short route. Instead G-d had them take the circuitous desert route, leading them with a pillar of cloud during daytime and a pillar of fire after dark. G-d then commanded the Israelites to backtrack and encamp along the Red Sea. They would thus appear to be hopelessly lost, which would prompt the Egyptians to pursue them. The Israelites followed this instruction, and, indeed, the Egyptians armies set out after the "lost" and cornered Israelites.

Second Aliyah: The Israelites noticed the approaching Egyptian armies, and they panicked. "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us to die in the desert?" they screamed at Moses. "Don't be afraid," Moses reassured. "Stand firm and see G-d's salvation that He will wreak for you today . . . G-d will fight for you, and you shall remain silent."

Third Aliyah: G-d instructed Moses, "Speak to the children of Israel and let them travel!" G-d told Moses to stretch out his staff over the sea and divide it, and the Israelites should then proceed through the split sea. "And the Egyptians shall know that I am G-d, when I will be glorified through Pharaoh, through his chariots, and through his horsemen." Meanwhile, the pillar of cloud that normally led the Israelites moved to their rear, insulating the Israelites and plunging the Egyptian camp into darkness. Moses stretched out his staff and the sea divided, and the Israelites walked on the seabed, on dry land. The Egyptians quickly pursued them into the sea.

Fourth Aliyah: Moses stretched his hand over the sea and the waters that had been standing like walls now fell upon the Egyptians, drowning them all. Moses then led the Israelites in song, praising G-d for the wondrous miracle that had transpired. Miriam, Moses' sister, then led the women in song and dance, with musical accompaniment. The Israelites traveled on in the desert, journeying three days without encountering water. They then arrived in Marah, where there was water—but bitter water. Moses miraculously sweetened the water.

Fifth Aliyah: One month after the Exodus, the Israelites' provisions ran dry. They complained to Moses, mentioning nostalgically "the fleshpots of Egypt," that they left behind. G-d responded that He will rain down bread from heaven in the mornings, and meat will be provided every night.

Sixth Aliyah: The meat, in the form of quails, appeared in the evening and covered the Israelite camp. In the morning, bread – called manna – fell from heaven, encased between layers of morning dew. Moses told the Israelites to gather one *omer* (a biblical measure) of manna per household member every day. Miraculously, no matter how much manna one picked, he arrived home with precisely one *omer* per head. Furthermore, Moses commanded the Israelites not to leave any manna over from one day to the next. Some disregarded this instruction, and next morning found their manna worm-infested. On Friday everyone picked two *omers*. Moses explained that the second portion was to be prepared and set aside for Shabbat—when no manna would fall. Again some disregarded Moses' directive, and went out pick manna on Shabbat. G-d was angered by this disobedience. G-d instructed Moses to take a jar of manna and place it in the (yet to be constructed) Tabernacle, as a testament for all future generations.

Seventh Aliyah: The Israelites journeyed further and as they arrived in Rephidim their drinking water ran out again. The Israelites complained, and G-d instructed Moses to smite a certain rock with his staff. Water came pouring out of the rock and the people drank. The Amalekites then came and attacked the Israelites. Moses directed his student Joshua to assemble an army and battle Amalek. Joshua did so, and the Israelites were victorious—aided by Moses' prayer atop a mountain. G-d told Moses to record in the Book that He will "surely erase the memory of Amalek from under the heavens."

