

Beshalach- The Aftermath of deliverance



Torah: Shemoth (Exodus) 13:17-17:16, Shophtim (Judges) 4:4-5:31, 1 Cor 10:1-5.

Introduction:

In this marvellous Torah portion, we once again get to experience the amazing power experienced by the Yisraelites as **YHWH** delivers them from certain death at the hand of a villainous enemy bent on their destruction or at least on their recapture to expose them once more to the torturous labour they had formerly been subjected to. This great feat is so memorable that each year when we read this portion it seems to recapture our attention fully. However today we will venture into the aftermath of that experience and see just why & how they could possibly fail numerous times to trust that YHWH would provide for them and see how that might not be limited to their experience but might give us today something that could challenge us too.

WWW.NETZARIMANTOECIE.COM

The Events of the Portion

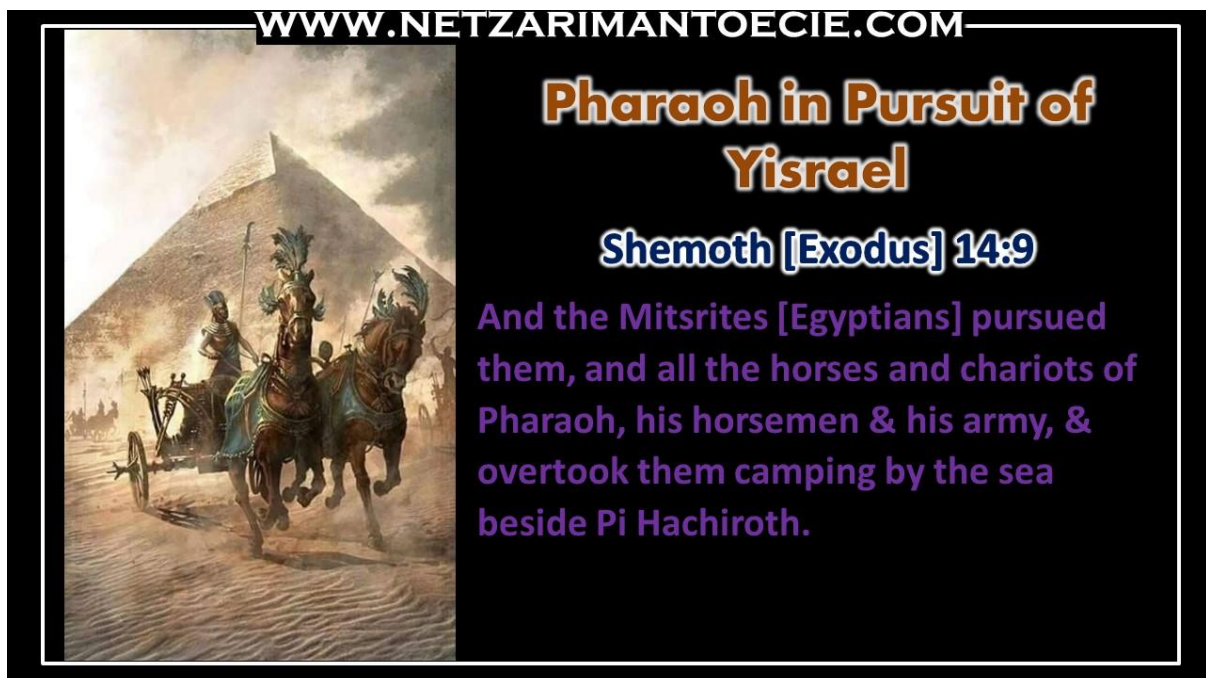
1. YHWH leads Yisrael via the wilderness route to encamp by the Sea of reeds [Yam Suph] prompting the Mitsrites to follow.
2. Yisrael panics but Mosheh calms them & assures them of their salvation.
3. Mosheh is instructed to raise his staff, the sea divides & Yisrael walks across on dry land after which the Mitsrites follow.
4. The Mitsrites are drowned & Yisrael celebrates after which the tests begin. These include the sweetening of the bitter waters, the provision of Quails & Manna, the striking of the rock for water.
5. Finally, Amalek attacks & Yisrael is victorious.

The Glorious Timeline of Yahweh:

If we can believe that Yahweh is in control of all events, then the claim of Mosheh for Yisrael to go 3 days into the wilderness to sacrifice to Yahweh is a clue as it is repeated three times.



We must also consider that YHWH surely would not violate His Shabbat. We can therefore say that Passover was most possibly the 3rd day of the week with them travelling 3 full days & camping by the sea.



Shemoth [Exodus] 14:9 And the Mitsrites [Egyptians] pursued them, and all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen & his army, & overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi HaChiroth.

This then would be the 5th day of the week [Fri] 3 days of travel. When then did their deliverance occur? Not before sunset but rather as seen in these verses:



Shemoth [Exodus] 14:26 Then YHWH said to Mosheh, “Stretch out your hand over the sea and let the waters come back upon the Mitsrites, on their chariots and on their horsemen.” **27** And Mosheh stretched out his hand over the sea and the sea returned to its usual flow, at the break of day [dawn], with the Mitsrites fleeing into it. Thus, YHWH overthrew the Mitsrites in the midst of the sea,

Could this also reflect in Yeshua the true Passover lamb who was 3 days in the Earth and rising to bring deliverance at the breaking of the dawn at the end of 3 days. **Selah [Meditate on that]**



The joy of this timeline is that it shows the great glorious rejoicing of all the people over their deliverance which finally was complete at the breaking forth of the Shabbat something that only Yahweh could orchestrate. This also leads to the thought that dawn is the start of the day not sunset.



Finally, the entire army of **Mitsrayim** (Egypt) had been wiped out in a single, foul swoop. The Almighty had brought to bear the power of an entire ocean to carry out His Will. This is... truly epic. And their response, according to the verse, is that **“they believed”**. After all this we could surely imagine that their faith in YHWH would be at its peak and that nothing could happen that could diminish their faith. Mosheh & Miriyam then lead in the songs of praise to Yahweh.



However, just three days after that miracle at the sea, the people become thirsty. They arrive at an oasis of water, but the water was bitter. Instead of them turning to Elohim we find them coming to Mosheh & screaming at him saying **“we are going to die!”** And Mosheh must urgently seek supernatural help & miraculously save them. He throws a stick that YHWH showed him into the bitter waters, which sweetens it.

But then, it seems to happen again, and even worse, this time. The people now start to worry about food – and again, their faith just seems to evaporate.

WWW.NETZARIMANTOECIE.COM



The People Complain

Shemoth [Exodus] 16:3 “If only we had died by the hand of YHWH in the land of Mitsrayim, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to satisfaction!

They say this time, **Shemoth [Exodus] 16:3** “If only we had died by the hand of HWHY in the land of Mitsrayim, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to satisfaction!

It seems while they travelled all was ok but now, we find them arriving at the wilderness of Sin but once they stopped for the Shabbat rest on the 16th of the **2nd month Zif** they complained again.

How do I know it is Shabbat you may ask?

It is by the words of Mosheh in:

Shemoth [Exodus] 16:22 “And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one.

Gathering the Manna



Shemoth [Exodus] 16:22 "And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one."

Therefore, the Manna begins to fall at the dawn of the 1st day of the week.

I have another question for you. Yisrael had arrived here & complained about lack of meat even though they had all their flocks so why could they not eat them? Well, we read this in:

Vayiqra [Leviticus] 17:3-4 Any man from the house of Yisra'el who slaughters a bull or a lamb or a goat in the camp, or who slaughters it outside the camp, **4** and does not bring it to the door of the Tent of Meeting, to bring an offering to YHWH before the Dwelling Place of YHWH, blood-guilt is reckoned to that man. He has shed blood and that man shall be cut off from among his people,

Northern Mitsrite Quails



North Egyptian Quail

This helps us understand why they clamoured for the **flesh pots** of Mitsrayim. These Quails

are heavy birds that fly low in large flocks and bed down just before sunset. These are Kosher & not listed as sacrificial animals. We also read this which is mistranslated as with the killing of the lamb for Passover in:

WWW.NETZARIMANTOECIE.COM

#2 Understanding <beyn ha arbayim>

The Hebrew phrase <beyn ha arbayim>
 (“between the eveningS”)
 is better understood in English as
 “between the mixingS.”
 “What mixingS”?

The mixing of boqer [dawn] twilight & the mixing of ereb [dusk] twilight.

Shemoth [Exodus] 16:12b Speak to them, saying, ‘between the evenings [dusk to dawn] you are to eat meat and you shall know that I am YHWH your Elohim.’

The Hebrew word **Erev** has also the meaning: “**to mix**” as mixing light with darkness therefore the **twilight** of **evening** but also of the **dawn**.

Yahweh’s provision therefore comes out of their grumblings which then escalates even more in a third incident. Again, they were thirsty – and again – they have seemed to forget YHWH’s incredible salvation at the sea. They panic, again screaming for water. And this time, look how bad it is: Mosheh, this leader who took them through the Split Sea, he actually fears for his life! He turns to YHWH and says:

What am I going to do with these people?

If this keeps going, they’re going to stone me!

Mosheh Strikes the Rock



Yahweh now stands on the Rock & instruct Mosheh to hit the Rock & water then flows from it.

The final story in this week's parashat is unusual since their faith... just seems to come right back.

You see, immediately after the people complain about the lack of water, and the lack of food, and again about the lack of water, a nation known as Amalek ambushes Yisrael, and suddenly, war is thrust upon the people: Their very first battle since leaving slavery. Since their faith in YHWH seems to have dwindled and they in danger of annihilation by this brutal enemy army we would expect them to crumble, give up, pack their bags, & go back to Mitsrayim (Egypt).

But when you read the text...it's almost calm. Amalek attacks, and... The people don't panic. It's just like, okay, what's our plan?



Mosheh draws up a battle strategy, **Yahushua** (Joshua) pulls an army together, the people follow instructions and begin to fight. Mosheh goes up to a mountain and holds up his staff & hands to Elohim supported by **Aaron & Hur**... and the people of Yisrael win the war and move on with their lives.

But what is going on, that is the Question.

How Does Faith Work?

What we now need to do is to try to work out how their faith functioned because the same reasoning that filled their minds may just be what we struggle with every day though we may not see it. I would even like to suggest that throughout the whole exodus story the people had only seen Elohim in one way: a powerful force concerned with the bigger picture. We saw in **Parshat Va'era** that YHWH had an agenda: to teach the world that He's the only Elohim & the greatest among the host of false Elohim. From Yisrael's perspective, their freedom could've been an incidental by-product of YHWH's agenda – they were freed when Mitsrayim (Egypt) was destroyed. YHWH never did anything actively for them... He just didn't afflict them like He did Mitsrayim.

In Yisrael's anguish they ask this question which we may find ourselves asking some time as well since they say this:



“Is YHWH with us, or not?” But I think we are now in a position to see something deeper in this phrase. They're asking, **“Is YHWH among us or not?”**

Think about it: a person could have grown up with his or her own economic hardship; But YHWH, Elohim isn't **mortal**. Can Elohim understand those hardships? Can YHWH really be close to me?

The real question we still need to answer is: Do we have faith in a different aspect of YHWH entirely – the **side of YHWH** that cares about my daily, all too human, needs? Does YHWH

understand the sorrow and fear that I struggle with every day? Is YHWH here, is He right here, in my life?

After the third complaint, YHWH tells Mosheh – take in your hand the staff with which you hit the Nile and you hit the rock, and water will come out. YHWH commands Mosheh to take that very same staff and to replicate that action. **Hitting the rock** in the same way as he hit the Nile is a throwback, a way of saying: "**The Elohim that did all those miracles in Mitsrayim (Egypt)? That's the same Elohim providing for you right now!**"

And it's even more than that: This staff, which was an **agent of destruction**, isn't just the weapon of a vengeful Elohim. It's a tool of YHWH who dearly loves you and wants to sustain you.

So, we can say today that the same Elohim who through his son **defeated the worst enemy** bent on the destruction of all mankind for serving YHWH has defeated the enemy but now that same mighty Elohim through Yahusha [**Yeshua**] wants also to comfort & provide for us in all our needs. Often, we think **the Master** came to save us from the Devil & sin and that was his master plan but today he wants to do more, He wants to be with us through his **Ruach** (Spirit) but many of us still feel a bit deserted, but we need to see him different and that is true faith.

Why does YHWH wait so long to provide water and food for them since he knows they have run out & are becoming desperate? Why let it get to the point of complaining?! YHWH actually tells us why. It's all in order to test them.

Maybe Mosheh wants to train them to pass the test, to realize that YHWH really is with them. Don't complain to me...complain to YHWH – He is truly listening!

How to Understand True Belief in Yahweh

The struggle with faith is not just a matter of cultivating more of it. It's a matter of cultivating a **type of faith**, and a relationship with YHWH, that has... complexity in it. YHWH, the outwardly powerful, omnipotent King and Master, is also the Elohim to whom **I matter** intensely, who is there with me in my own, seemingly small, personal struggles. It may seem like I'm insignificant to YHWH, that the Almighty couldn't possibly be concerned with my petty concerns, when there is the whole world to contend with. But to YHWH, each one of us, matters & our seemingly insignificant needs matter.

YHWH clearly demonstrates that to Yisrael over and over again, with **miracles** that are loving instead of destructive. The first and most important thing they need to know as a nation is that YHWH wants to have a relationship. So now we also need to look in our life & truly look how YHWH has worked mightily & see how we are working to enrich our relationship with him & not just keep him at **arm's length**.

Throughout the Torah we are learning how we as human beings, can have a loving relationship with the Divine? Our life now then is about recognizing YHWH as Creator, protector, restorer, Father & provider all of which has been made possible by **Yahusha [Yeshua]** which we know is the ultimate good news that should daily cause us to rejoice.

May we never stoop to reacting as they did but maintain that faith in each area of our life to the praise of him who called us.

Haftarah: Shophtim [Judges] 4:4- 24



This week's haftarah describes the fall of the Canaanite General Sisera and his armies, who were swept away by the Kishon River as found in the song of Deborah, the song of thanks. This parallels this week's Torah portion which discusses the drowning of the Mitsrite forces in the Yam Suph [**the Red Sea**] and the subsequent songs led by Mosheh and Miriyam.

Netzarim Ketuvim: QorintYah Aleph [1 Corinthians] 10:1-6



Shaul [Paul] in this reading speaks of self-discipline not to be disqualified since we know

how that generation that came out of Mitsrayim never entered the promised land. They all were guided by Yahweh's presence through the cloud & the column of fire & went through the sea. The Hebrew legend is that this particular rock followed them in the wilderness which Shaul [Paul] equates as being Mashiach [Messiah]. Only two of that generation were permitted to enter the promised land. This therefore is meant for us to understand the goodness of Elohim but also his severity over disobedience in the areas of idolatry, immorality & complaining that we may always remain faithful to YHWH & our Master Yeshua.

Amein and Shavua Tov Aliekhem! [A Good Week unto You]