

Remote Youth Groups!!!

Parshas Beshalach

Tefillah of the week

יגדל אלוקים חי וישתבח...

Exalted is the living G-d and praised...

This tefillah is based on the 13 attributes of faith that were taught to us by the Rambam. These are the 13 things that all Jews must believe in and if they don't they aren't considered "believers".

3 categories of belief mentioned here:

1. The nature of belief in G-d
2. The authenticity of the Torah and G-d's prophets
3. Man's responsibility and ultimate reward

The Torah is called "Toras Emes" (Torah of truth) here, which has many meanings. It means that both the written law and the oral law were given to Moshe and passed down to us. It also means that we don't sugar coat the Torah. It's true and we say it how it is. The torah doesn't change based on the generation we're in, the Torah is eternal and applies to all generations.

Parsha Summary and Discussion

Finally, in last week's parshah, after years of the Jews' enslavement and then all the ten plagues that G-d heaped upon the Egyptians, Pharaoh had let the Jews out of Egypt. But in this week's parshah, no sooner are the Jews out of Egypt that Pharaoh changes his mind and begins chasing after them!

Now, in front of the Jews is the sea, and behind them is Pharaoh with thousands of soldiers. If they move forward they will drown, but if they turn around, or do nothing, Pharaoh and his army will reach them and they will be forced back to Egypt. What should they do?! They are trapped!

Discuss – The Rabbis teach us that there were different groups among the Jews that decided on different strategies to do in this situation. Some

decided to turn back and go back to Egypt, some wanted to fight with the Egyptians. What would you do?

G-d tells Moshe to take his stick and strike the sea. Moshe does, and an amazing miracle happens--the sea splits, allowing the Jews to walk through on dry land! The Egyptians try to follow the Jews into the sea, but the sea begins to flow again and closes in on them.

Discuss - The way the miracle happened was that Nachshon walked into the sea until his neck and then it split. Why couldn't G-d make it split before, why only after he walked in up to his neck?

When the Jews come to the other side, they sing a song of thanks to G-d, awesomely grateful for the miraculous way they were saved.

Discuss – They only sang the praise after the Egyptians were dead, even though before that, when they left Egypt, they thought they were scott-free. They were only truly free after their tormentors were no longer able to cause them more pain.

Now, the Jews have come to the desert, and they are worried that they will not have food to eat. So G-d sends quail for the Jews to have meat, and every morning, a special food called Manna falls to the ground. The Jews collect one portion of Manna every day, but on Friday there is a double portion for Shabbat. Then Moshe hits a rock and it becomes a fountain, giving the Jews water.

Discuss – What were they eating until then? (The Matzah that they took out with them)

Next, a nation called Amalek comes and attacks the Jews. Moshe sends Joshua to gather an army from the Jews and go fight them. Joshua does this, and he wins against the Amalekites. But G-d is very angry, and promises to never forget what Amalek did to the Jews, that they were the first one to attack them in the desert.

Mitzvah of the Week

There is a positive commandment to believe in G-d. This is the first of the ten commandments, and the Rambam teaches us that it is the basis of all commandments. Included in this commandment is the idea that G-d has no physical form, nor any beginning or end, and that he constantly runs our lives.

Parsha Questions

Q: What two things were the Jews trapped between at the sea?

A: Between the sea and the Egyptians

Q: What were two of the choices that the Jews wanted to do at the sea?

A: To go back to Egypt, to fight the Egyptians

Q: Who walked into the sea before it split?

A: Nachshon

Q: What did Moshe do with his staff?

A: Hit the sea

Q: What did the Jews do after they passed through the sea safely?

A: Sang praise to Hashem

Q: How did Hashem arrange for the Jews to have food in the desert?

A: He gave them quail and Manna

Q: What nation attacked the Jews first?

A: Amalek

Q: What did Hashem command us about Amalek?

A: Never to forget and to destroy them

Q: What is the Mitzvah of the week?

A: To believe in Hashem

Q: What are other components of this Mitzvah?

A: To believe that He has no form, no beginning or end, and that he runs the world

Harder Questions

1. What percentage of the Jewish People died during the plague of darkness?

13:18 - Eighty percent (four-fifths).

2. Why did the oath that Yosef administered to his brothers apply to Moshe's generation?

13:19 - Yosef made his brothers swear that they would make their children swear.

3. Why did the Egyptians want to pursue the Jewish People?
14:5 - To regain their wealth.
4. Where did the Egyptians get animals to pull their chariots?
14:7 - From those Egyptians who feared the word of G-d and kept their animals inside during the plagues.
5. What does it mean that the Jewish People "took hold of their fathers' craft" (*tafsu umnut avotam*)?
14:10 - They cried out to G-d.
6. How did G-d cause the wheels of the Egyptian chariots to fall off?
14:25 - He melted them with fire.
7. Why were the dead Egyptians cast out of the sea?
14:30 - So that the Jewish People would see the destruction of the Egyptians and be assured of no further pursuit.
8. To what future time is the verse hinting when it uses the future tense of "Then Moshe and *Bnei Yisrael* will sing"?
15:1 - Resurrection of the dead during the time of *mashiach* .
9. Why are the Egyptians compared to stone, lead, and straw?
15:5 - The wickedest ones floated like straw, dying slowly. The average ones suffered less, sinking like stone. Those still more righteous sunk like lead, dying immediately.
10. The princes of Edom and Moav had nothing to fear from the Jewish People. Why, then, were they "confused and gripped with trembling"?
15:14 - They felt horrible seeing Israel in a state of glory.
11. Moshe foretold that he would not enter the Land of Israel. Which word in the parsha indicates this?
15:17 - "*T'vi-aimo* ..." -- "Bring them" (and not "bring us").
12. Why is Miriam referred to as "Aharon's sister" and not as "Moshe's sister"?
15:20 - Aharon put himself at risk for her when she was struck with *tzara'at* . (See *Bamidbar* 12:12)
13. The Jewish women trusted that G-d would grant the Jewish People a miraculous victory over the Egyptians. How do we see this?
15:20 - They brought musical instruments with them in preparation for the miraculous victory celebration.
14. Which sections of the Torah did the Jewish People receive at Marah?
15:25 - Shabbat, Red Heifer, Judicial Laws.
15. When did *Bnei Yisrael* run out of food?
16:1 - 15th of Iyar.

16. What lesson in *derech eretz* concerning the eating of meat is taught in this week's Parsha?

16:8 - One should not eat meat to the point of satiation.

17. How did non-Jews experience the taste of the manna?

16:21 - The sun melted whatever manna remained in the fields.

This flowed into streams from which animals drank. Whoever ate these animals tasted manna.

18. The Prophet Yirmiyahu showed the Jewish People a jar of manna prepared in the time of Moshe. Why?

16:32 - The people claimed they couldn't study Torah because they were too busy earning a livelihood. Yirmiyahu showed them the manna saying: "If you study Torah, G-d will provide for you just as he provided for your ancestors in the desert."

19. Which verse in this week's parsha alludes to the plague of blood?

17:5 - "And your staff with which you smote the river...."

20. Why did Moshe's hands become heavy during the war against Amalek?

17:12 - Because he was remiss in his duty, since he, not Yehoshua, should have led the battle.

Good Shabbos!!!