

## Parshat Beshallach

### Friday 18th January 2019

Candle Lighting	6.45pm
Mincha	6.30pm
Maariv	6.45pm

### Shabbat 29th January 2019

Shacharit	9.00am
Mincha	7.40pm
Maariv	8.50pm

### A word from the Rabbi

#### BITTER WATERS OR BITTER PEOPLE

This week's Parsha finds the Israelites in the wilderness. They have crossed the sea and travelled for three days without finding water.

"Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore it was named Marah."

Although it seems straightforward, this paragraph is rather unclear. The subject of the predicate "they were bitter" is ambiguous: is the subject the "water" – and is the meaning of the paragraph that the water was not potable; or is the subject the travelling Israelites – and is the paragraph referring to the bitter character of the Israelites which made the water "difficult to swallow".

A bitter personality is toxic. The bitter person finds fault with everything, sees grace in nothing, and lives a life as a victim of the world.

A family had twin boys whose only resemblance to each other was their looks. If one felt it was too hot, the other thought it was too cold. If one said the TV was too loud, the other claimed the volume needed to be turned up. Opposite in every way, one was an eternal optimist, the other a doom and gloom pessimist.

Just to see what would happen, on the twins' birthday their father loaded the pessimist's room with every imaginable toy and game. The optimist's room he loaded with horse manure.

That night the father passed by the pessimist's room and found him sitting amid his new gifts crying bitterly.

"Why are you crying?" the father asked.

"Because my friends will be jealous, I'll have to read all these instructions before I can do anything with this stuff, I'll constantly need batteries, and my toys will eventually get broken," he answered.

Passing the optimist twin's room, the father found him dancing for joy in the pile of manure. "What are you so happy about?" he asked.

To which his optimist twin replied, "There's got to be a pony in here somewhere!"

Bitterness and pessimism can turn sweet waters bitter, but an optimist can turn bitter waters sweet.

**Shabbat shalom**

**We wish a hearty Mazal Tov on your Bar/Bat Mitzvah Anniversary to:**

Makayla Levy

Saul Levy

Michael Rom

**We wish a hearty Mazal Tov on your Wedding Anniversary to:**

Shlomi and Tzipi Avioz

Cecil and Glynis Bass

Richard and Hayley Bilski

Joel and Jenny Edelman

Ivan and Glenda Gordon

Alan and Renee Lurie

Mark and Elizabeth Milner

Kevin and Caryn Sandler

Colin and Hillary Simon

Rodney and Candice Walt

Jason and Monique Winderbaum

**We wish long life to the following Members who commemorate Yartzeit this week:**

Linda Subel

for her father

Joseph Boroda

Gerald Johnson

for his sister

Maureen Cohen

Nadine Brett

for her grandfather

Sidney Cohen

Sylvia Davidowitz

for her sister

Marsha Eisen

Brian Fine

for his father

Geoffrey Fine

Colin Fax

for his father

Charles Fox

Anita Gurwitz

for her husband

Alec Gurwitz

Moses Levitt

for his grandmother

Lieba Meller

Belinda Levy

for her father

Allan Sher

Colin Simon

for his mother

Edna Simon

Rochelle Trakman

for her mother

Lottie Smith

Arnold Steinberg

for his father

Harry Steinberg