

Pine Street Parsha



Parashat Beshalach

19 January 2019

13 Shvat 5779



SIDRA
HAFTORAH

366
1152



320
1105

1st Aliya: The Bnai Yisroel (Children of Israel – Jews) had left Mitzrayim (Egypt). The closest route to Eretz Yisroel (The Land of Israel) was along the Mediterranean coast up into Israel. However; this territory was occupied by the Philistines. The Bnai Yisroel were not ready for a battle, so Hashem (G-d) lead them toward the Sea of Reeds. Pharaoh was informed that The Bnai Yisroel appeared to be lost, and he strengthened his resolve and that of his people and pursued the Jews into the Desert.

2nd Aliya: The Egyptians caught up to the Jews as they were camped by the edge of the sea. (Imagine the thundering sound, and cloud of dust that 600 charging chariots must have made and you can begin to understand the pure terror that must have struck the hearts of the people.) Moshe reassured them that they only had to trust Hashem and stand silently as His awesome majesty wiped out the might of Mitzrayim.

3rd Aliya: Moshe was told to stretch out his staff over the sea. Hashem separated the Jews from the Egyptians with a cloud cover and caused an Easterly wind to blow the entire night. As the waters parted, the Bnai Yisroel entered between the towering walls of water and crossed to the other side. The Egyptians chased after them into the parted waters of the sea.

4th Aliya: Moshe stretched his arm back over the sea and the waters returned to their natural state, drowning the might and glory of Egypt's best. The Bnai Yisroel witnessed G-d's awesome display of justice and they believed in the reality of Hashem and in the appointment of Moshe as His most trusted servant. Moshe, and then Miriam, lead the Bnai Yisroel in a spontaneous song of exaltation and thanksgiving. The incident with the bitter waters at Marah is detailed.

5th Aliya: The Bnai Yisroel struggled with the realities of their experience, attempting to balance faith with practical concerns for survival. The concerns for food and water were overwhelming and Moshe promised them quail and Maana. These "miracles" were introduced to the Jews as evidence of Hashem's love, caring, honor and glory.

6th Aliya: The Bnai Yisroel were given strict instructions regarding the gathering and eating of the Maana. They were introduced to Shabbos, and an urn of Manna was saved for posterity.

7th Aliya: The nation traveled to Rephidim, and confronted Moshe over the issue of water. Moshe saw this as an unnecessary challenge to Hashem's caring and love. Hashem instructed Moshe to hit the rock and bring forth water. The final episode in the Parsha was Amalek's unprovoked attack on the newly independent nation. Yehoshua lead the attack against Amalek while Moshe, Aharon, and Chur (Miriam's son) stood atop the battle field with Moshe's arms stretched heavenward. Hashem commanded us to eradicate and never forget Amalek's evil.

Upcoming events at Pine Street

Chai Club in February (Details to follow)



Tu BiShvat (Hebrew: ט"ו בשבט) is a Jewish holiday occurring on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat (in 2018, **Tu BiShvat** begins at sunset on January 0 and ends at nightfall on January 21). It is also called "Rosh HaShanah La'llanot" (Hebrew: ראש השנה לאילנות), literally "New Year of the Trees."

Those who partake in a **Tu BiShevat** seder will eat at least 15 different types of fruits. It is also customary to include the seven species mentioned in the Torah: Wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates.



The Consecration of the tombstone in loving memory of the late Minnie Ginsberg will take place at 11-30am on Sunday 20 January 2019 at the West Park Cemetery. We wish the family a long and good life.

Mazeltov and best wishes to all Pine St. Shul Class of 2018 students on their outstanding Matric results ☺

Mazeltov and best wishes to:

Debbie and Gary Laing and Brian and Linda Flax on the birth of a granddaughter. Mazeltov to new parents Talia and Ariel Flax and to great grandparents Rhona Weiner, Pat Laing, Phillip and Rilla Jacobson and Una Flax.

Mazeltov and best wishes to:

Robbie and Gaby Cohen on the Batmitzvah of their daughter Hannah. Mazeltov to grandparents Lionel and Norma Cohen and Bernard and Irene Abro.

Mazeltov and best wishes to:

Rabbi Gerson who will be celebrating his 60th Birthday on Wednesday 23 January 2019.

Mazeltov and best wishes to:

Sheila Bogatie who celebrated her 80th Birthday.

Mazeltov and best wishes to:

Charles Goralsky who celebrated his 80th Birthday.

Details of all Shiurim are on the Notice Board.

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Celebrating a Simcha – For only R540-00 you can have a plaque done for our Simcha Board and celebrate your Simcha for Life!. Please call Sue at the office for more details.

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Our Chazzan has released two CD's. His latest album 'The Best of Italian Hits' and a Cantorial CD. Both CD's are available for purchase at the Office. Please call Sue for details.

We wish those families commemorating a Yahrzeit a long and good life



Friday 18 January 2019

Carol Moss – Father
Zena Cohen – Mother

Shabbas 19 January 2019

Thelma Krouse – Brother
Barbara Fine – Husband
Fran Gilchrist – Father
Caron Kruger – Father
Vera Meyer – Sister
Norman Krawchuk – Sister
Irma Kurlansky – Lionel's late Mother
Robert Schneider-Kuper - Father

Sunday 20 January 2019

Rodney Fittinghoff – Brother
Trent Lockstone – Father
Denis Cohen – Marie Meyerovitch
Naftali Ringo – Mother

Monday 21 January 2019

Allan Sadman – Father
Merle Toblib – Father

Tuesday 22 January 2019

Stephen Kangisser – Aunt
Shabtai Salitan – Mother

Wednesday 23 January 2019

Fay Lazarus – Mother
Avril Freund – Husband
Allan Josman –Chad's late Mother
Rohna Lubner – David's late Sister

Thursday 24 January 2019

Peter Durbach – Mother
Philip Fingleson – Sister
Eunice Buchalter – Mother
Luba Segall – Mike's late Father
Thelma Cohen – Father

Friday 25 January 2019

Martin Flekser – Mother
Walter Fluxman – Father
Carol Berger – Sister
Janice Friedland - Aunt



The Haftorah for Parshat Beshalach

Shoftim (Judges) Chapters 4 (The story) and Chapter 5 (The Song)

The Jezre'el Valley is where this week's Haftorah took place. 10,000 Jewish soldiers were able to stop the invincible general of the Canaanites, Sisera and his 900 "Tanks". As they rolled down the hill in the picture, Hashem made a miracle happen - a flashflood came and the earth became muddy. The Israelites were able to kill everyone except Sisera. Read on to see what happens to him!

The connection of the Haftorah to the Parsha: The Parsha of Beshalach contains the song that Moshe sang at the Yam Suf (Sea of Reeds), after Hashem rescued the Nation of Israel from the Egyptian army. The Haftorah contains the song that was sung after Deborah defeated the Canaanites.

The storyline of this week's Haftorah: The Israelites sin by worshipping idols and are subdued by the Canaanites (Canaanites). The Prophetess Deborah, wife of Lapidot, becomes the leader of the Jews. Lapidot, means "flames", He was called that because he would prepare the wicks for the menorah in the Mishkan, which was in Shiloh at the time. Deborah sends Barak a prophetic message to wage war against the Canaanites. Hashem confuses Sisera's camp with a flash flood rainstorm, killing all his men. The enemy is defeated; just one person remains, general Sisera. Sisera flees for safety to the tent of Yael the Kenite.

Moses' father was from the Kenites. The Kenites were friendly with both the Israelites and the Canaanites. When Sisera gets to Yael's tent he asks her for some water. She gives him warm milk instead. He falls asleep from the milk. Yael then takes a spike that was holding her tent in place, and drives it through his temple, killing him.

The Victory Song of Deborah - Shirat Devorah Deborah's Song –

5:1-3 Introduction: Deborah sings praises to Hashem. She tells us that Torah study and observance brings victory to Bnei Yisrael.

5:4-5 without learning Torah we would have lost and our enemies would have won.

5:6-13 Deborah's Song begins with the description of Matan Torah (The Giving of the Torah). Deborah instructs the people of Israel to resume doing circumcisions again, resulting in Hashem blessing Israel again. When you want evil decrees to be reversed, praise Hashem. Devorah thanks Hashem for the most recent victory and for Hashem's protection from their enemy. **5:14-18** Devorah sings praise for the Jews who joined her in the battle and condemns the tribes who did not.

5:19-22 the miracles of the war are recalled.

5:23-27 Meroz is cursed and Yael is blessed for killing Sisera

5:28-30 Devorah concludes her song by recalling the false hopes that were in Sisera's camp. This miraculous event broke the power King Yavin had over the Israelites.

Welcome back to all who have been away. I hope everyone is rested and ready to get going in 2019. Mazaltov to students on the outstanding Matric results. May all the school leavers be blessed with continued success in their chosen disciplines.

It was back to school for the rest and welcome to school for some. May you all enjoy the benefits offered you during your school careers.

Shabbat Shalom

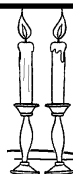
Rabbi Gerson

Know the Parsha

- How did B'nai Yisrael know the way to travel in the desert?**
- What had been the attitude of B'nai Yisrael when they saw the Egyptian soldiers moving in on them, and what was it after they saw the Egyptians drowned?**
- What do we find strange about these attitudes? What does it say about us as human beings?**
- After B'nai Yisrael left the sea and went into the wilderness, they quickly encountered a problem. What was it and how was it resolved?**
- At this point, Hashem made for us a statute and an ordinance. What did He say to us?**

Answers

- Hashem provided a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night for them to follow.
- First they were afraid and said they wished they had never listened to Moshe and had stayed in Egypt where they were safe; afterwards, they feared Hashem; they believed in Him, and in His servant, Moshe.
- They had seen Hashem's great miracles only a few days before; how quickly they could lose their faith, and then how quickly it was restored.
- After 3 days, they found no water to drink. Hashem showed Moshe a certain tree and he cast it into the bitter waters, and the waters were made sweet.
- That if we diligently hearken unto His voice and do what is right in His eyes, will pay heed to His commandments and keep all His statutes, He would ensure that B'nai Yisrael would suffer none of the diseases which He had placed upon the Egyptians; i.e., the plagues and various catastrophes.



**Shabbat Candles
before 6.15 pm**



Havdalah 7.38 pm

Rabbi Berel Wein on Parshat BeShalach

This week the Torah introduces us to the miraculous heavenly food – the *mannah* that fell from heaven and sustained the Jewish people for 40-years during their sojourn in the desert of Sinai. This food had miraculous qualities; it could acquire whatever taste the person eating it desired, it produced no waste material, but it had a very limited shelf life. It could not be stored for the next day and rotted away if not consumed daily.

This changed in preparation for the Sabbath, when the second portion collected on Friday in honor of the Sabbath remained fresh, to be eaten on the Sabbath day though the *manna* fell beforehand. This heavenly food however proved to be a source of constant controversy and tension within the camp of the Jewish people. Despite it being an obvious gift directly from heaven, or perhaps ironically, because it was such an obvious gift from heaven, the Jewish people tended to grumble about it.

We will see throughout the narrative of the Jewish people in the desert of Sinai that there were constant complaints about this heavenly gift. It became the focal point directed against Moshe and the God of Israel throughout the years of wandering in the Sinai desert. There is a streak within human nature that is present regarding unwanted and unasked for gifts. Such gifts always carry with them a sense of responsibility and even obligation to the donor.

In the words of God to original man that, 'you will eat your bread by the sweat of your brow,' there lies not only a curse but also an implicit blessing as well. By earning our bread by working we feel a sense of accomplishment and, more than that, of the right to eat bread that it is truly earned. When the Lord gives us free bread, so to speak, we resented it.

It is the nature of young children to attempt to do everything by themselves even when they are physically unable to do so, and to resent adult interference. Human beings are born with self-confidence and self-reliance. We believe from our youngest years to our old age that we can do it all by ourselves. So, when the Jewish people were presented with a gift of bread from heaven, they resented it for they realized that in this world there truly is no free lunch. That gift always comes with obligations and responsibilities, spoken or unspoken, to the one who granted the gift

They remembered the food of Egypt, even though they were slaves, because they felt that they had earned it and it was rightfully theirs. The *mannah* that fell from heaven carried with it not only the sense of being a gift, but also the realization that it carried with it duties and obligations. They realized that it was not free but was always controversial in their minds and hearts.



Your Best Moments Are Your Best Teachers

Your best moments are your best teachers. We each have moments that are special in our lives, moments when we go beyond what we are usually able to do. Moments when we are especially spiritual and elevated, self-confident and courageous, happy and joyful, kind and compassionate, calm and serene, persuasive and influential, insightful and intuitive, forgiving and understanding, and creative and innovative.

During our best moments, we go beyond our own selves in almost unbelievable ways.

Each best moment in our life sheds light on what we can possibly do and who we can possibly be. Our best moments raise our self-image to a degree that our ordinary moments can't and don't.

(From Rabbi Zelig Pliskin's book: "Building Your Self-image and the Self-image of Others" (Artscroll) Chapter 13)

Minyanaires and Minyan Makers

Join our minyanim once, twice three times a day, a week or a month.

Put your name on the minyan standby list.

Contact Rabbi Gerson for details