Parashah 16 B'shalach - בשלוח

“After he had let go”

Torah: Sh’mot (Exodus) 13:17-17:16

Aliyah 1 - 13:17 - 14:8 Yisra’el leaves Egypt, armed, w/Yosef’s bones, led by God’s pillars of fire/cloud
Aliyah 2 - 14:9 - 14 Pharaoh pursues, Yisra’el doubts; Moshe encourages: Adonai will do battle!
Aliyah 3 - 14:15 - 25 Adonai parts the Sea of Suf, Yisra’el crosses on dry land, Pharaoh pursues
Aliyah 4 - 14:26-15:26 Pharaoh’s army destroyed by the sea; Yisra’el saved; Song of Moshe / Miryam
Aliyah 5 - 15:27-16:10 People grumble to Moshe/God; God appears in the cloud
Aliyah 6 - 16:11 - 36 God provides quail, manna; Shabbat given, people rested; jar of manna set aside
Aliyah 7 - 17:1 - 16 People grumble; Y’hoshua defeats ‘Amalek under Moshes raised hands

Haftarah: Shof’tim (Judges) 4:4-5:31, 5:1-31

B’rit Hadashah: John 6:22-40

1. If Yeshua is the fulfillment of Pesach (prophetically parallels Yeshua’s sacrifice), what is the fulfillment (parallel) for the exodus from Egypt? What does this tell us about God’s ways and His plans?

2. Considering Yosef’s bones, what did the children of Yisra’el leave behind in Egypt? What is significant about Yosef’s bones?

3. (14:31) What did the Israelites think when they saw the Egyptians, dead on the shore?

4. (15:20) When was the last time Miryam was mentioned? From where did she get her tambourine?

5. (15:23) How are the bitter waters reflective of the hearts of the Israelites?

6. (15:27) What is the significance of “twelve” and “seventy” at Eilim?
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7. (16:4) What does “manna” represent? What does Yeshua say about it? (Yn 6:30-35)

8. (17:6) How does water from the rock speak of Messiah?

9. (16:29) In this portion it is stated that “no one is to leave his place” on the seventh day. What is a person’s “place?” Are there any indicators of how Yeshua and his disciples interpreted this mitzvah?

Questions for reflection and application:

1. (13:17) God’s ways are not our ways. Which way are you walking, His or yours? (Isa 55:8-9, Jer 6:16, Hos 14:9, Mic 4:2, Psa 25:4-7, Lam 3:39-40, Luk 10:2-9)

2. (14:9) Our circumstances can sometimes seem hopeless. Do you see them with eyes of faith? (2Ki 6:14-17, 1Jo 4:4, Heb 12:1, Luk 16:27-28, Joh 3:31-36)

3. (14:15) There is a time to cry out, and a time to act. Are you waiting, or acting? (1Ki 18:21, Rev 3:15, Jam 1:5-8, Pro 3:5-7, Rom 14:22-23)


5. (15:27) Do you see and trust that God prepares the way for you in which to walk? (Psa 23:5, Psa 23:4, Isa 43:2, Mat 3:15, Luk 5:24, Joh 11:14-15, Eph 2:10, 2Ki 6:15-17, Eph 1:3-4)

6. (16:12) Do you distinguish your “needs” from your “wants?” (1Co 10:9-12, Lam 4:9, 1Th 5:14-18)

7. (17:2) Have you come to a place where you trust God, or are you continually “testing” Him to prove Himself to you? (Num 14:22, Deu 6:16, Psa 95:8-9, Mat 6:31-33, Heb 3:12-14, Col 2:8, Eph 4:22)