

Torah: Sh'mot (Exodus) 13:17 – 17:16
Haftarah: Shof'tim (Judges) 4:4-5:31
B'rit Hadashah: Revelation 15:1-8

| | <i>year 1</i> 13:7-15:26 | <i>year 2</i> 14:15-16:10 | <i>year3</i> 14:26-17:16 |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 13:17 – 22 | 14:15 – 20 | 14:26 – 15:21 |
| 2 | 14:1 – 4 | 14:21 – 25 | 15:22 – 15:26 |
| 3 | 14:5 – 8 | 14:26 – 15:21 | 15:27 – 16:10 |
| 4 | 14:9 – 14 | 15:22 – 26 | 16:1 – 27 |
| 5 | 14:15 – 20 | 15:27 – 16:3 | 16:28 – 36 |
| 6 | 14:21 – 25 | 16:4 – 7 | 17:1 – 7 |
| 7 | 14:26 – 15:26 | 16:8 – 10 | 17:8 – 16 |

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| and it was in Pharoah's sending out the people / that God did not lead them by the road, the Philistine land because it was near | <i>va'yehi b'shallakh Paroh et ha'am ve'lo nakham Elohiym derekh éretz P'lishtim ki qarov hu</i> | וַיְהִי בְשַׁלַּח פְּרָעוֹה אֶת־הָעָם וְלֹא־נָחַם אֱלֹהִים דֶּרֶךְ אֲרָץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים כִּי קָרוֹב הוּא |
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The children of Israel left Egypt and headed for the Sea of Reeds. Pharaoh and his troops pursue. The Sea splits and the Israelites pass through on dry ground, then the Sea crashes down on the Egyptian troops killing them. Moses leads all the people in the Song of the Sea, and Miriam leads the women in a victory song. They continue through the wilderness, where HaShem feeds them manna, which appeared every day and a double portion on the sixth day to last through Shabbat. The parshah ends with the battle against Amalek, in which the warrior nation attacks the weakest from behind. But the Israelites ultimately prevail under Moses faithful hands.

In the haftarah, the story of Deborah, the Judge and Prophetess, and Balak battle the enemy commander Sisera. Like the Torah portion, this contains one of the great songs of victory.

Year 1 Aliyah Highlights

- Ex. 13:17-22** Pharaoh sends out the people, God leads them by fire and cloud on an indirect route to avoid Egyptian forces. Moses takes the bones of Joseph with him to fulfill their promise to him.
- Ex. 14:1-4** HaShem orders Moses to change directions to irresistibly draw Pharaoh to chase them.
- Ex. 14:5-8** The requested 3-day leave (Ex. 3:18, 5:3, 8:23, 12:31) has come and gone. HaShem hardens Pharaoh's heart and remorse causes him to chariot-up and pursue the fleeing people.
- Ex. 14:9-14** Seeing the advancing Egyptians, fear and rebellion (Ps. 106:7) strikes the people of Israel. Moses consoles and encourages them.
- Ex. 14:15-20** It is time for action, not prayer. HaShem orders the people to advance, Moses to lift his staff and reach out his hand. HaShem will part the waters (Is. 63:12), harden Egyptian hearts, win glory for himself. The angel/cloud moves behind the camp, keeping the Egyptians at bay.
- Ex. 14:21-25** Moses complies. An east wind (Ex. 10:13) divides the water leaving dry land. The people cross over. Egyptians pursue. HaShem does battle for Israel, as Moses previously said (Ex. 14:14)
- Ex. 14:26-15:26** HaShem orders Moses to reach out his hand, and the waters destroys Pharaoh's army. Fear of Egypt now turns into fear of HaShem, and faith (*a-man* – אֱמָנָה), not belief in a doctrine or creed, but in trust and loyalty expressed in obedience and commitment. Moses receives the title, "servant of HaShem." Gratitude is expressed in song to HaShem, celebrating the defeat of the Egyptians, the incomparability of HaShem, the effect upon the surrounding nations, and confidence in the Kingship of HaShem. Miryam is now named, and called "the prophetess" (*ha'ne'viah* – הַנְּבִיָּה) and Aaron's sister. Immediately after her song, the crisis of water hits, but God provides.

Parashah 16 B'shalakh בְּשַׁלַּח

Theme

Process of Deliverance: Ten plagues against the “gods” of Egypt, and Pharaoh expels the people who serve HaShem. Moses continues to “reach out” his hand (yad – יָד - Ex. 14:16/21, 14:26/27). HaShem tests (nasah – נָסָה) the people, teaching them to trust him to care for them, not as a tyrant (Pharaoh) but in love.

Thought Focus

HaShem our Healer – Ex. 15:26 “I am HaShem your healer.” Just as he healed the waters at Marah so will he heal us. Healing is not only for our bodies and minds, but for the environment/world. Healing is not something HaShem does from time to time. It is an attribute of his character.

Forgiveness Removes Bitterness –HaShem turns bitter water to sweet (Ex. 15:25). What if he is revealing his desire for his people, to turn the bitterness of their (our?) lives (Ex. 1:14) into sweet refreshing water. Paul says to “get rid of all bitterness” by forgiving each other, “just as in the Messiah God has also forgiven you” (Eph. 4:31-32). Yeshua teaches that the forgiveness is the reverse of vengeance (Mat. 18:22 citing Ge. 4:24)

Daily Devotional 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)
4. (14:26) What have others sown against you that could “return” to them? What are you sowing that may “return” onto you? (Psa 17:15, Pro 26:27, Ecc 10:8, Isa 59:18, Isa 65:7, Jer 32:19, Jer 50:29, Hos 8:7, Ecc 11:1, Mat 25:14-30, 1Co 3:6, 1Co 9:11, Hos 10:12, Deu 15:7-11, Rom 1:8-15)
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)