

Torah: Sh'mot (Exodus) 13:17 – 15:26
 B'midbar (Numbers) 28:19-25
Haftarah: Sh'mu'el Bet (2Samuel) 22:1-51
Megillah: Shir HaSharim (Song of Songs) 1:1-8:14

וַיְהִי בְּשַׁלַּח פָּרְעֹה אֶת־הָעָם וְלֹא־נָחֵם אֱלֹהִים
 דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים כִּי קָרוֹב הוּא כִּי אָמַר אֱלֹהִים
 פֶּן־יִנָּחֵם הָעָם בְּרֹאֲתָם מִלִּחְמָה וְשָׁבוּ מִצְרָיִם׃

and it was when Paroh sent out the people and God did not lead them / the way of the land of the Philistines for it was nearer for God said / lest the people change their mind at seeing war and they return to Egypt

*va'yehiy b'shalakh Par'oh et-ha'am ve'lo-nakhám Elohiým
 dérekh éretz Pe'lishtiyim kiy qarov hu' kiy amar Elohiým
 pen-yinakhem ha'am bir'otam mil'khamah ve'shávú
 Mitz'ráy'mah*

This Shabbat falls during the intermediate days on the seventh day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. We break from our normal progression through Vayikra (Leviticus). Our reading details the departure of the children of Yis'rael from Egypt and the destruction of Paroh's army – the first big victory for the fledgling nation.

Aliyah Summary

- Ex. 13:17-19** Pharaoh sends out the people, God leads them by fire and cloud on an indirect route to avoid Egyptian forces.
- Ex. 13:20-22** 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. 14:15-25** 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. 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* – אָמֵן), 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'viyah* – הַנְּבִיָּה) and Aaron's sister. Immediately after her song, the crisis of water hits, but God provides.