



MIZRACHI

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הַמִּזְרָחִי HAMIZRACHI PARSHA WEEKLY YOUTH EDITION

PARSHAT BESHALACH 5785 • 2025

PARSHA SUMMARY

Soon after the Jews leave Egypt, Pharaoh changes his mind and decides to chase them to bring them back. The Jews find themselves stuck between Pharaoh's army and the Yam Suf. Hashem tells Moshe to raise his staff over the water, and the sea splits into two, allowing Bnei Yisrael to cross safely. Once they are through, the sea closes and drowns Pharaoh and all the Egyptians. Moshe and Bnei Yisrael sing a song of thanks to Hashem for saving them.

While in the desert, the people get hungry and thirsty, and they complain to Moshe and Aaron. Hashem helps them by making the bitter water become sweet. Later, He tells Moshe to hit a rock with his staff, and water flows out. Every morning, Hashem sends manna from the sky, and in the evening, quails appear for the people to eat.

On Fridays, Bnei Yisrael are told to collect twice as much manna because none will fall on Shabbat, a day dedicated to rest. Some people don't listen and try to gather manna on Shabbat, but they find none. Aaron keeps a jar of manna as a reminder for future generations.

In Rephidim, Bnei Yisrael are attacked by Amalek. Yehoshua led Bnei Yisrael in battle, whilst Moshe stood at the top of the hill. When Moshe's hands were raised, Bnei Yisrael were winning, but when he put them down, Amalek were stronger. Aaron and Hur held his arms up until sunset, when Bnei Yisrael defeated Amalek.



MESSAGE FROM ISRAEL

Keep Calm and Carry On

In this week's parsha, the Jewish people were stuck. The sea was in front of them, the desert was on both sides, and the Egyptian army was chasing them from behind. Moshe davened to Hashem for help, but Hashem told him, "Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the people to move forward!"

It didn't make sense—how could they walk into the sea? But Moshe trusted Hashem, and the Jewish people stepped forward. When they showed courage and moved into the water, Hashem made the impossible happen—the sea split!

This teaches us that when we face challenges that feel impossible, we should daven and keep moving forward. With faith and effort, we can overcome anything, just like the Jewish people did.

Shabbat Shalom

Rabbi Doron Perez
Executive Chairman,
World Mizrachi



Dedicated by the Moshal family to the life and legacy of our family patriarch John Moshal –
יְחֹנָן הַלֵּל בֶּן מֵרְדֵּכִי ז"ל – a generous lifelong supporter of Jewish education.

QUESTIONS ON THE PARSHA

1. How did Pharaoh react after realizing that Bnei Yisrael had left Egypt?
2. Whose bones did Moshe bring with them from Egypt?
3. What song did Bnei Yisrael sing after they crossed the Yam Suf?
4. Who led the women in song?
5. How did Hashem protect Bnei Yisrael during their journey in the desert?
6. Who was the first person to enter the Yam Suf?
7. What special name is given to this Shabbat to commemorate the singing after the splitting of the Yam Suf?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Doing Our Part, Trusting Hashem

In this week's parsha, we learn that Bnei Yisrael left Mitzrayim "armed with weapons" – armed with weapons. Rashi explains that even though Hashem performed incredible miracles for them, they still prepared for battle. This teaches us an important lesson: while we trust in Hashem, we also have to put in effort and do our part. As Rabbeinu Bachya explains, the Torah wants us to act in natural ways and then leave the rest to Hashem. This balance is called hishtadlut – doing what we can while relying on Hashem for the results.

Dilemma of the Week: Yossi, a 7th grader, has a big math test coming up. His friend, Avi, tells him, "Don't worry about studying too much. Just daven to Hashem, and He will help you do well!" Yossi knows that tefillah is important, but he's not sure if he should rely only on tefillah or if he should also study hard. He remembers learning in school about how Bnei Yisrael prepared for battle even though they knew Hashem would help them. Yossi wonders: Should he spend hours studying, or should he just daven and trust that Hashem will help him succeed?

Discussion Questions

The Balance of Effort and Faith: Why do you think Bnei Yisrael took weapons with them if they knew Hashem would perform miracles?

Yossi's Choice: Do you think Yossi should study for the test, or is it enough to just daven? Why?

Real-Life Effort: Can you think of a time when you had to put in effort and trust Hashem at the same time?

Too Much Effort? Is there such a thing as relying too much on our own efforts and not enough on Hashem? How can we find the right balance?

Avi's Advice: Do you think Avi's advice to rely only on tefillah is correct? Why or why not?

SOLVE IT AND SEND IT!

How high is the Red Canyon above sea level?

Send the answer to hamizrachiyouth@mizrachi.org to be entered into our monthly raffle!

PARSHA WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these parsha related words?

ENBSO
TACIRSOH
AYM UFS
ZA IARHSY
HAGTGKINVSNI
IMIRAM
TNARBUIOME
NANMA
ORKC



Is there something you might be relying on "just working out"? What steps can you take to make sure you're doing your part?



WORD OF THE WEEK

מָר – Mar – Bitter

(Shemot 15:23) וְלֹא יִכְלוּ לְשִׁתּוֹת מַיִם מִמֶּרֶה

The Hebrew word מָר (pronounced “mar”) means “bitter.” The root of the word is מ-ר-ר (Mem-Resh-Resh), which is associated with bitterness or something unpleasant. Interestingly, the same root is found in the word מוֹר (mor – myrrh), a fragrant spice used in the Mishkan, resulting in the same root having almost opposite meanings. This is perhaps due to the fact that the plant from which the spice is derived is bitter.



THIS WEEK IN JEWISH HISTORY

11 Shevat

Emblem for the State of Israel chosen (5709/1949)

The emblem was designed by two brothers, Gabriel and Maxim Shamir. The Emblem and Flag Committee asked the people of Israel to send in their designs for the state emblem. They received hundreds of submissions, and after a long review, they selected three final designs. These were then presented to the Provisional State Council, who chose the design by the Shamir brothers.



MEET OUR READERS!

NAME: EMMA

AGE: 7

LOCATION: MADRID



FAVORITE PARSHA: Vaera, because it is when Hashem tells Moshe that it is time to take Bnei Yisrael out of Mitzrayim.

FAVORITE JEWISH FOOD: Shnitzel!

WHERE I'D LIKE TO TRAVEL IN ISRAEL: To Herzliya to see my Saba and Savta.



WANT TO BE FEATURED IN A FUTURE EDITION?

If you'd like to be featured in an upcoming Youth Edition, and have a chance to win a prize, fill out the form at mizrachi.org/youthfeature or scan the QR code!



PARSHA ANSWERS

1. Pharaoh changed his mind and chased after them, bringing the Egyptian army with him.
2. Yosef's.
3. Bnei Yisrael sung Az Yashir.
4. Miriam led the women in song and dance.
5. Bnei Yisrael were protected by a pillar of clouds during the day and a pillar of fire during the night.
6. Nachshon ben Aminadav.
7. Shabbat Shirah.

JOURNEY THROUGH ISRAEL



In the past, local hunters used to trap wild animals, such as leopards, by luring them into the Red Canyon using goats or lambs and then blocking their escape with heavy stones.

Red Canyon (HaKanyon HaAdom)

The Red Canyon (HaKanyon HaAdom) is a narrow sandstone canyon in the Shani River (Nachal Shani) located in the Eilat Mountains, about 20 kilometers north of Eilat. The canyon's name comes from the reddish type of rock, caused by iron oxide, which glows brightly in the sunlight. The canyon was shaped over time by natural forces such as wind and water. In ancient times, the canyon area was used by travelers and traders making their way between Israel and the Sinai Peninsula. The canyon is about 200 meters long and 30 meters deep, with parts so narrow they can only be crossed by ladders and handrails. Despite the harsh desert conditions, unique plants such as desert broom (rotem hamidbar) and acacia trees grow here.

קום התהלך בארץ

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you find 10 differences between these two parsha pictures?



This illustration was taken from the book 'ב'דרכה של תורה' on the Parsha.

Special thanks to Ori Lerman (illustrations), Rabbi Weitz, and the Har Bracha Institution for their permission.



HaMizrachi Parsha Weekly Youth Edition is a project of the Mizrahi Schools Department headed by Rabbi Bentzi Mann. Please email ravbentzi@mizrachi.org with any questions or comments.