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Shabbat Shirah Beshalach

Sat. 7 - 8 Feb. 2020 - 13th of Sh'vat, 5780

י"ג בשבט תש"פ

שבת שירה פ' בשלח

Issue Number 938

Baal Koreh <i>Yom Shabbat Kodesh</i>	Rabbi Asher Sebbag	(Page-366).
Mufteer & Haftarah	Mr Yossi Tamman	(Page -1153).

Mincha, Shir Hashirim, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit.	16:30
Shabbat Candles.	16:42
Shabbat Shahrit - Followed by Kiddush. (Shema 09:48).	08:30
Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a.	*
Mincha Shabbat - Followed by Seuda Shelishit. (*) (Sunset - 17:02).	16:30
Arbit Motzei Shabbat.	17:54
Shahrit Weekday - (Sunday - 7:30).	06:30
Mincha & Arbit.	16:45
Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a.	16:00
Next Friday: Mincha, Shir Hashirim, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit.	16:45
Next Friday: Candles. Shabbat. Yitro	16:55

Beshalach 5780 (Exodus 13:17-17:16)

Feb 3, 2020 | by [Rabbi Yitzchak Zweig](#)

GOOD MORNING! A few weeks ago, a good friend relayed the following story to me: His son was playing basketball in their driveway with a couple of friends. At one point, his son took an inadvertent blow to his mouth and a tooth crown popped out. After a fruitless search, he went inside and told his mother.

My friend's wife went outside, took up the cause, and found the crown in no time. Their son said in astonishment, "Mom, I looked for 15 minutes but couldn't find it - how did you find it so quickly?" She explained, "You were looking for a small piece of enamel, I was looking for \$1,300 dollars!"

Understanding the true value of things and appreciating what you have is

one of the keys to lifelong happiness. Unfortunately, the human condition makes this difficult to achieve. Our sages teach, "A person who has one hundred wants two hundred and person with two hundred wants four hundred" (*Koheles Rabbah* 1:13).

Empirically, it would seem that it doesn't make a difference what sums we are discussing. Meaning, even if a person has one hundred million dollars he wants two hundred million; if he has two hundred million he wants four hundred million.

Honestly, is there a significant difference in one's quality of life between having one hundred million dollars to having two hundred million?

Yet there is clearly an insatiable desire to accumulate ever more and more. This would probably explain why the world

has about 2,500 billionaires (not surprisingly, New York City has the most billionaires of any city in the world with over a hundred). Unless one has acquired wealth the old-fashioned way - by inheriting it - there seems to be a powerful force driving one to continue spending energy, effort, and time working to gain more.

This week's Torah reading teaches us a powerful lesson regarding wealth and also instructs us on how a person can know when they are satisfied with what they have. Seemingly, the goal is to know when you have enough, but this is obviously quite difficult to achieve. (Similarly, many people have the same issue when it comes to eating, how does one incorporate a habit that will enable them not to overeat?)

God decreed that Abraham's descendants were to go to a land that was not their own and become slaves for four hundred years (Genesis 15:13). In the next verse, God promises Abraham that when his descendants leave the land of their bondage they will do so bearing great wealth. How did God fulfill this promise?

God pleaded with Moses that the Jewish people should ask their Egyptian neighbors for fine jewelry and clothes so that when they left Egypt they would have wealth (see *Exodus* 11:2). They did so and managed to accumulate significant going away presents (ibid 12:35-36). Yet according to our sages, all that they managed to get from the Egyptians as they were leaving paled in comparison to the booty they seized from the Egyptian soldiers who came to slaughter them but instead were drowned by God in the Red Sea.

Before we go on, I want to digress for a moment. In reading the above two paragraphs (or the original story in the Torah for that matter), one might walk away

with the feeling that the Jewish people wrongly plundered the Egyptian populace. In fact, according to the Talmud (*Sanhedrin* 91a), this very accusation was raised before the court of Alexander the Great once he had conquered all of Eurasia.

The Jewish people were subpoenaed to answer the claim of the Egyptians that they stole their gold and silver upon leaving Egypt and never returned it. After all, the Egyptians had proof; the Jewish nation's own bible corroborated their accusation!

Gaviah Ben Peshiah, a sage who appears just this one time in the entire Talmud, gave the following answer: "You have a legitimate claim, for the Torah records that we left Egypt with much of your gold and silver."

"But the very same Torah says that we were slaves for four hundred and thirty years (*Exodus* 12:40) - so in fact, we have a counterclaim! Pay us the wages for 600,000 slaves who labored day and night for four hundred and thirty years; for those wages surely exceed anything we might have taken when we left Egypt!" Alexander the Great turned to the Egyptian plaintiffs and demanded that they answer the counterclaim. "Give us three days to answer" the Egyptians pleaded. He granted them the time and they promptly disappeared and never returned.

Returning to our discussion, the Torah records in this week's parsha that there was so much wealth on the banks of the Red Sea that Moses literally had to pull them away from the riverbank. This was because all the precious gold, silver, and fine jewelry that the Egyptian soldiers had worn (they even adorned their horses with jewels!) had sunk to the bottom of the Red Sea when they and their horses drowned. However, God delivered a miracle and all the gold, silver, and jewels were brought up by the sea and deposited onto the riverbanks

from which the Jewish people were able to collect them.

Moses wanted the Jewish people to leave the riverbanks but struggled to get to them to comply because of all the wealth that was still on the riverbank. Even after they had collected a large amount, there was still more to be had and they didn't want to leave.

But this story begs the following question: Since the entire episode was a miracle, why didn't God just bring forth the exact amount that He wanted the Jewish people to take? Once they had collected everything, they would have surely left on their own without Moses having to admonish them to leave. Why should the sea deposit onto the banks more than they should take? Moreover, why would Moses even care if they stayed and collected more?

There is a very deep message here. God promised our forefather Abraham that the Jewish people would leave Egypt wealthy. But at what point can you consider yourself wealthy? At what point are you satisfied with what you have?

The answer is when you leave gold, silver, and precious jewels laying on the ground in front of you and you can just walk away. That is what Moses was trying to teach them: You are wealthy now and you do not need any more. When they realized that they had so much that they could simply walk away from more they finally understood that they were in fact wealthy and left the riverbank. Thus, God fulfilled his promise to Abraham.

In a similar (but much more mundane) vein, I recall hearing many years ago that Weight Watchers recommended, as a lifestyle change, a habit of leaving food on your plate during meals. In other words, instead of blindly consuming everything on your plate, consider how you feel, and when

you feel satisfied stop eating and leave what is left on your plate. (I'll bet you didn't think you were going to get dieting tips from me today!)

When a person can honestly look at everything he has and say, "I have enough," then he can finally walk away from the pressures, the time, and the mind space required to stay in the "rat race." More importantly, he can begin to focus on other life enriching endeavors (family, travel, acquiring knowledge, etc.) and can truly begin to enjoy all the blessings that he has been given.



TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK

Beshalach, Exodus 13:17 - 17:16

The Jewish people leave Egypt. Pharaoh regrets letting them go, pursues them leading his chosen chariot corps and a huge army. The Jews rebel and cry out to Moses, "Weren't there enough graves in Egypt? Why did you bring us out here to die in the desert?" The *Yam Soof*, the Sea of Reeds (usually mistranslated as the Red Sea) splits, the Jews cross over, the Egyptians pursue and the sea returns and drowns the Egyptians. Moses with the men and Miriam with the women -- each separately -- sing praises of thanks to the Almighty.

They arrive at Marah and rebel over the bitter water. Moses throws a certain tree in the water to make it drinkable. The Almighty then tells the Israelites, "If you obey God your Lord and do what is upright in His eyes, carefully heeding all His commandments and keeping all His decrees, then I will not strike you with any of the sicknesses that I brought on Egypt. I am God who heals you." (This is why the Hagaddah strives to prove there were more than 10 plagues in Egypt -- the greater the

number of afflictions, the greater number from which we are protected.)

Later the Israelites rebel over lack of food; God provides quail and *manna* (a double portion was given on the sixth day to last through Shabbat; we have two challahs for each meal on Shabbat to commemorate the double portion of *manna*). Moses then instructs them concerning the laws of Shabbat. At Rephidim, they rebel again over water. God tells Moses to strike a stone (later in the

Torah God tells Moses to speak to the stone, not here!) which then gave forth water. Finally, the portion concludes with the war against Amalek and the command to "obliterate the memory of Amalek from under the heavens."



In loving memory of
Rabbi Kalman Packouz
Kalman Moshe ben
Reuven Avigdor
1950-2019

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Yitzchak Zweig

Seuda Shelishit: presented by Jacob Oved הי"ו, in memory of his late father **Aboudi** ben Yetzhak & Freha ז"ל. Together wish Daniel Shemtov הי"ו, in memory of his late mother **Matilda** Mazaltov bat Sarah ע"ה.

Erev Tu Beshvat: Sunday 9 February. 2020 / 15 Shvat 5780 - 19:30 at the Synagogue, please approach Ghassan Cohen or David Gigi for donations, everyone is welcome.

Security Alert: Please be very vigilant when you leave the Synagogue. Do not stand in groups and chat, go home without gathering on the main road. Be safe and alert.

Kolel every Sunday: We are still having a Kolel every Sunday at the Synagogue hall from 09.30am - 12.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

THE KEHILLA WISHES חיים ארוכים "LONG LIFE" TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE YAHRZEIT

02 Shevat	Mrs Esther Ezekiel	07 Shevat	Mr Nadhim N. Mouallim
03 Shevat	Mr Cesar Sassoon	07 Shevat	Mr Reuben Isaac Ezekiel
03 Shevat	Mr Joe Sassoon	10 Shevat	Mr Ezra H. Eddie Cohen
03 Shevat	Mr Robert M. E. Sassoon	16 Shevat	Mrs Iran Michael Yadeger
06 Shevat	Chacham Joe David	20 Shevat	Mr Joseph Lawee
06 Shevat	Mr Jack David	20 Shevat	Mr Maurice Lawee
06 Shevat	Mr Haim L. Eida	26 Shevat	Mr Raphael Mansour
06 Shevat	Mr Benny Benaiah	26 Shevat	Mr Samy Dallal
07 Shevat	Mr Joseph Lawee	27 Shevat	Mr Moshe Nahari
07 Shevat	Mr Maurice Lawee	29 Shevat	Mr Ivan Ezekiel

Join Prof Eliyahu Kelman on Sunday the 16th of February at 7.00pm till 8.30pm

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Ohel David Entrance fee donation of £5 to cover synagogue expenses

Refreshments served

Quote of the Week

**He who knows that enough is enough
will always have enough.**