



## Parshat Beshalach

For the week ending 15 Shevat 5760  
21 & 22 January 2000

### Overview

**P** cloud and fire on a circuitous route, avoiding the Pelishtim (Philistines). Pharaoh regrets the loss of so many slaves and chases the Jews with his army. The Jews are very afraid as the Egyptians draw close, but Hashem protects them. Moshe raises his staff and Hashem splits the sea, enabling the Jews to cross safely. Pharaoh, his heart hardened by Hashem, commands his army to pursue, whereupon the waters crash down upon the Egyptian army. Moshe and Miriam lead the men and women, respectively, in a song aters at Marah, the people complain. Moshe miraculously produces potable water. In Marah they receive certain mitzvot. The people complain to Moshe and Aharon that they ate better food in Egypt. Hashem sends quail for meat and provides manna, a miraculous bread that falls from the sky every day except Shabbat. On Friday a double portion descends to supply the Shabbat needs. No one is able obtain more than his daily portion, but manna collected on Friday suffices for two days so the Jews can rest on Shabbat. Some manna is set aside as a memorial for future generations. When the Jews again complain about a lack of water, Moshe miraculously produces water from a rock. Then Amalek attacks. Joshua leads the Jews in battle while Moshe prays for their welfare.

### Insights

#### The ABC Of Ecology

*from it, for every man according to what he eats an omer per person according to the number of your people, everyone according to whomever is in his tent shall you*

**T**he world gets smaller every day. One of the fears of living in a global village is that the village store is going to run out of food. Will we wake up one day and find our planet can no longer support its population? For years, science fiction has dwelled on highly

the good news. You can relax and stop planning your

The letters of the Hebrew language are the building blocks of Creation. When G-d created this -d said: Let -d said, let there be sky....And G-d

convention; it means that existence consists of nothing more than G-d speaking, that it is built out of letters

and words. This explains why the Hebrew word for *davar*, is comprised of the same letters as the *dibur*.

than G-

prayer we say three times a day called *Ashrei* (*Ashrei* is the first word of this prayer.) *Ashrei* is a combination of two of the Psalms of King David. What is so important about these particular Psalms that we say them three times a day?

If you open a *siddur* letters of each line of *Ashrei* go in alphabetical order: The first line starts with *aleph*, the second with *beit*, etc. *Ashrei* also contains the verse

This is a promise that G-d will sustain each one of us. What is the connection between having enough to eat and the *aleph-beit*?

With that same *aleph-beit* that G-d created the world, He creates a sufficiency for every living thing. G-d created this world with a plan. Man is the centerpiece of this plan. Just as He created the ABC of Creation, He has made sure that His plan will be

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fulfilled, right down to XY and Z. Every creature will

worry that the world will become overpopulated. With  
-d fabricated existence,  
the *aleph-beit*, He provided a sufficiency for His  
Creation at all times.

*to what he eats an omer per person according to the  
number of your people, everyone according to*

miraculous food that sustained the Jewish People for 40  
years in the desert. Manna is the prototype of G-d

sustaining man miraculously, providing for his every  
need. Just as in *Ashrei*, the above verse illustrates  
that every person receives according to his needs.  
And interestingly, it also contains all twenty-two letters  
of the Hebrew alphabet. Also, if you count the Hebrew  
letters of this verse, you will find they add up to 70.

who are constantly sustained by the Creator.

Sources:

*Rabbi Sholem Fishbane in the name of Rabbi Uziel Milevsky  
from Rabbeinu Bachye*

## Haftarah: Shoftim 4:3 - 5:31

### TWO GREAT WOMEN

**A**fter 20 years of Canaanite oppression, the  
core of the Jewish people are lead to  
repentance by Devorah the Prophetess.  
The Sages compare the results of her

Through her shining example, she rejuvenated the  
bearers of the light of Torah.

In the merit of this mass repentance, Devorah  
receives a prophecy that she should lead 10,000 men  
into battle and that G-d would deliver the Canaanite  
General Sisera into the hands of the Jewish army. G-d

Jews overpower them. Sisera flees to the  
encampment of Chever, who was at peace with the

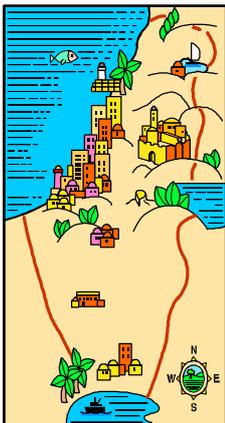
King of Canaan. There he seeks refuge in the tent of

guaranteeing his safety. When he requested water to  
drink, she gave him milk to make him drowsy. When  
he was fast asleep, she picked up a hammer and  
drove a tent peg through his temple. Thus Israel was  
saved. After the victory, Devorah leads the Nation in a  
song of praise to G-d. This song outlines the recurring  
theme in the history of Israel: Oppression  
Repentance Victory.

Both the Parsha and the Haftara contain a  
national song of praise to G-d. Perhaps another  
similarity is to be found in the words our of Sages that  
the Exodus took place in the merit of the righteous  
women of Israel, who played as great a role then as  
would Devorah and Yael in the future.

## LOVE OF THE LAND

*Selections from classical Torah sources which express the special relationship between the People of Israel and Eretz Yisrael*



### MOTZA

This small settlement just outside Jerusalem is mentioned in the Talmud (*Mesechta Succah 45a*) as the source of the *aravah* willow branches that were brought daily to the *Beit Hamikdash* during the Succot Festival and placed alongside the altar. This place was also known as Kalania, both names referring to the special status it enjoyed of being exempt from government taxes.

Motza is an attractive suburb of the capital, and home of an old Jerusalem winery. Its numerous *aravah* willow trees continue to supply the branches used by Jerusalemites for the fulfillment of the *mitzvot* on Succot.

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