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

Overview

The world gets smaller every day. One of the fears of living in a global village is that the village store is going 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 optimistic solutions. The good news. You can relax and stop planning your Doomsday survival kit. You can sleep at night knowing that the world will work out just fine and that the good 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 G-d created the ABC of Creation, He has made sure that His plan will be

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

The letters of the Hebrew language are the building blocks of Creation. When G-d created this world, He 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-

Insights

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 of praise 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 to 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.

P

Prepared by Ohr Somayach in Jerusalem, Israel
- All rights reserved.

Written and Compiled by Rabbi Yaakov Asher Sinclair
General Editor: Rabbi Moshe Newman
Dedication opportunities are available for Torah Weekly Please contact us for details.

Production Design: Eli Ballon

Parshat Beshalach 15 Shevat 5760, 21 & 22 January 2000
fulfilled, right down to XY and Z. Every creature will worry that the world will become overpopulated. With an 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**

After 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 of Succot.