



## *Parshas Beshalach 2024, progress and growth*

*The Parsha Perspective is in honor of Eretz Yisroel. May G-d protect our brave soldiers. May G-d return all the hostages and return them immediately.*

*The Parsha Perspective is in honor of the Refuah Shlema of HaRav Amitai Ben Shoshanna and those who need to experience a speedy and complete recovery with G-d's help. And in loving memory of Edward Ben Efraim, Shlomo Ben Edward, and Yirachmiel Daniel Ben Gedalia. May their souls be uplifted and memories a blessing.*

The release date of this episode coincides with Tu B'Shvat, the 15th of Shevat, the new year for trees. Around this time, trees stop absorbing water from the ground and instead draw nourishment from their sap.

This Shabbos is called **Shabbos Shira**, the Shabbos of Praise, in honor of the special song the Jewish nation sang to G-d for the miraculous salvation.

Our Parsha begins with Pharaoh regretting his decision to free the Jewish nation; he decides to chase after them and finish his Jewish problem. As the Jewish nation approached the Yam Suf - the sea of reeds, they noticed the Egyptian army quickly approaching from behind and trapping them against the water.

They panicked and cried to Moshe, **"why have you taken us out of Egypt? We would have rather stayed in Egypt as slaves."** Moshe Rabbeinu responded, **"Don't be afraid! Stand firm and see the salvation that G-d will do for you today. G-d will fight on your behalf, and you should remain silent."**

G-d told Moshe to stretch his stick over the water to split for the Jewish nation. Moshe did as G-d instructed, and a strong wind came from the east and split the water creating a dry path for the Jewish people to pass through.

As they finished crossing the sea, the waters immediately came crashing down on Pharaoh and his armies. Moshe and his sister Miriam led the Jewish people in song and dance as the water spat out the deceased Egyptians. They thanked and praised G-d for the incredible and awesome miracle that had just occurred.

However, a question comes to mind: As mentioned, the Jewish nation sang praises to G-d for the splitting of the Sea of Reeds and their salvation. It is a song we recite daily called "Az Yashir Moshe U'Beni Yisroel - Then Moshe and the Jewish people sang." The Pasuk writes: (15:20) *"Then the Prophetess, Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand and all the women followed her and danced with their tamarines."* But how did the women, specifically Miriam Hanivah, know to have their tambourines ready to praise G-d for the splitting of the Sea of Reeds? Why did they seemingly prepare for miracles and salvation that the rest of the nation did not conceive of?!

Rashi, Rav Shlomo Yitzchaki, the leading Torah commentary gives a deeper and powerful explanation. He quotes the Michilta (15:20:2) that the women were so confident that G-d would save them, that they prepared musical instruments to honor their salvation. They had complete faith in G-d to fulfill His Covenant and to keep His promise to bring to the land of Israel.

The Rabbienu Bachya, Rav Bachya Ben Asher adds that Moshe's sister, Miriam Hanivah, led the women in song using prophecy at a similar level as her brother, Aaron Hakohen. She foretold the Jewish nation's salvation and exodus from Egypt when she was just a young girl. Now, with the same prophecy, she leads the woman in song and dance in honor of the splitting of the Sea of Reeds.

According to the Rabbeinu Bachya, prophecy only exists when there is happiness and joy, since most men were worried and lacked faith in G-d, they lost their prophecy. But the women kept their belief and therefore merited an extraordinary divine awareness of G-d and His Holiness. They were led by Miriam Hanivah, the one who prophesized the redemption and miracles that G-d would perform for the Jewish people.

I believe there is a profound connection between Tu B'shevat and our Torah Portion, Parshas Beshalach. On Tu Be'shevat, we commemorate the idea of rejuvenation and growth, along with the perspective that their fruits and seeds will go on to produce their own. This progression and sequence sustains our world as much as it teaches us a powerful message, we must consistently grow and work together for future generations.

Led by Miriam Hanivah, the Jewish women maintained their trust in G-d, they knew that He would fulfill His promises and prepared themselves to celebrate His power and strength. They realize that all they need to do is be prepared and let G-d lead the way and pave the path for their redemption.

In our daily life, we must continue the journey towards accomplishing our goals and potential. Despite the challenges we face, we must prepare ourselves to take advantage of the opportunities G-d places before us.

Even as we hit multiple bumps in this journey called life, we must not lose our energy or spirit. The whole purpose of a challenge is to build our character and strength to find our direction. We must set the wheels in motion and believe that our efforts will be met with the G-d's support as we define our determination to fulfill our unique potential.

**"The Torah is compared to rain precisely to emphasize that its most important effect is to make each of us grow into what we could become."**

**- Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks**

*Have a meaningful Shabbos!*  
*Rabbi Sholom Yemini*