

## **#16 Beshalach Exodus 13:17-17:16**

**By Moshe Schwab**

While I was praying:

We are connected to an all-powerful God; the little things we do can matter in a big way.

God is strong and magnificent. He can do more than we imagine.

We are a light to those around us; we are like living lights.

God works in us in many ways and gives us peace and satisfaction; others on the outside see the difference.

In this portion, God is leading Israel to the Suf Sea which we now know is the Sea of Aqaba. There are actually pillars set there by Solomon where Israel crossed. Egypt chases after them perhaps because a statue of a pagan god was there where they crossed and the Pharaoh still somehow thought His god would prevail. All the plagues were associated with the pagan gods of Egypt,<sup>1</sup> At the Suf Sea, Moshe (Moses) says that God will fight for them. God parts the sea and they make it over to the other side. The Jewish writings say someone from the tribe of Judah took the first steps to walk through the sea. Can you imagine being the first one to take that step with walls of water on each side. The Egyptian army with 600 chariots tries to go after Israel, but the sea closes up. They have found chariot parts at the crossing site.

After Israel is safe on the other side they celebrate, but also began to complain about not having water. God provided water for them. They complain more and God provides manna and quail. Amalek attacked Israel, but Israel prevailed. While Moshe's hands are raised the Israelites prevailed so Aharon and Hur hold up Moshe's hands. Perhaps God did this to make sure the Israelites knew that it was God who fought for them and not because they were a great people.

In this portion, Israel walks through the water of the Suf Sea and God gives them manna in the desert. Yeshua walked on water the New Testament portion says and Yeshua says those who believe in Him will receive unlimited water (the spiritual life-giving water of the Holy Spirit that helps us to live right (so we can receive eternal life – John 4:14); He is like the rock in the wilderness that gave Israel water and life; only now He gives us spiritual life. Just like God gave Israel manna, Yeshua also creates food for thousands a couple of times. In this present time, we can rely on God and Yeshua for help. "Always give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah." Ephesians 5:20 CJB. Israel had a lot to be thankful for and so do those who believe in the Messiah.

The rock in the wilderness has been found where Moshe struck the rock and water came out from it. The real Mt. Sinai and Mt. Horeb have been found right next to each other just where the Bible says Israel was, in Midian. See a film by Ryan Mauro at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YjrxHqNy5CQ>.

God tells Moshe to strike the rock at Horeb (Exodus 17:6). Interestingly, there is one prominent rock made of Granite in this huge field by Mt. Horeb. Moshe must have understood which rock God wanted him to strike because Moshe lived in Midian after he fled Egypt. This huge rock perhaps some 70' tall is split in the middle and shows signs of water flowing from it! Psalm 78:15-16 NKJV says, "He split the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink in abundance like the depths. He also brought streams out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers."

Israel left Egypt by the power of God and God protected them and provided for them. Now that they were on the other side of the sea there was no turning back. It was an impassible barrier. In a sense, they died to their old lives when they passed through the sea. When we are immersed with the Holy Spirit, it is also a defining moment in our lives and there is no turning back from the truth that God is present in our lives and Yeshua is truly our Messiah. Rabbi Shaul (Paul) tells us in the New Testament that we are to die to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thoughtco.com/false-gods-of-the-old-testament-700162>

our old selves in Romans 6:6 CJB, "We know that our old self was put to death on the execution-stake with him, so that the entire body of our sinful propensities might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin."

In the Haftarah for this portion, it talks about how God continued to work on behalf of Israel. The same is true for those who believe in the Messiah Yeshua. God continues to work on behalf of His people. We are to be led by God and the Holy Spirit is with us (Romans 8:14 CJB, "All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons." Romans 8:11 CJB, "The Spirit of the One who raised Yeshua from the dead is living in you.")

Israel was connected to God in a big way. God made sure that they were set free so they could love and serve God. God provided all that they needed. The Sea of Aqaba is a huge body of water. They must have felt it was impossible to get to the other side. They could not do it without God's help, but with God's help they made it. Think about it; we are also connected to an all-powerful God through Yeshua. The big things that we think are impossible are possible with God. Jeremiah 32:17 CJB says, "ADONAI, God! You made heaven and earth by your great power and outstretched arm; nothing is too hard for you."

Just think, Israel had God on their side and we do too. The little things that we do when led by a great big God can matter in a big way. I've even asked for the rain to stop and it did. I could see clear sky over the rain drops; it stopped immediately. There are more important things than that though. The Holy Spirit helps us to overcome situations and can help us in everyday life. Shaul (Paul) said, "I can do all things through him who gives me power;" Philippians 4:13 CJB. Don't underestimate what God can do whether its something big or little.

The Bible says that God can be a strong tower for us. Proverbs 18:10 CJB, "The name of ADONAI is a strong tower; a righteous person runs to it and is raised high [above danger]. A lot of things can happen in life, but we can run to God. So, keep running to Him and relying on Him. Psalm 46:2-3 CJB says, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we are unafraid, even if the earth gives way, even if the mountains tumble into the depths of the sea." Isn't God beautiful. We can't get that kind of help from people. It says, He will always be there to help us.

Of course, we don't have to wait for trouble to rely on God. It says in Ephesians 3:20 CJB says, "Now to him who by his power working in us is able to do far beyond anything we can ask or imagine." This is a verse we should memorize and think about often. We should be relying on God more. Israel had no choice, but to rely on God, and we can rely on God too. He is with us and wants to help us. My experience has been as I have been faithful to God, He brings things to pass in my life that I never imagined could come true, even at times the desires of my heart. "Trust in ADONAI, and do good; settle in the land, and feed on faithfulness. Then you will delight yourself in ADONAI, and he will give you your heart's desire;" Psalm 37:3-4 CJB.

It says to trust in our God YeHoVah<sup>2</sup> and be faithful. There is something special about trusting in God. It will show itself in our life. When times get tough, we trust in God and guess what; we don't act all crazy and frustrated like some people do. When we trust in God things just seem to work out. God may not work things out the way you want them to, but He will work it out. One time I asked God for it to stop raining so my friends and I could go for a walk and it started snowing. We were astonished.

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<sup>2</sup> Yehovah is God's true name (Exodus 3:15) as seen in the pointing of over 1,000 Hebrew manuscripts to date. It is not wrong to say God's name. That was a commandment made up in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century by the rabbis to protect people because some were being killed by the Romans for saying God's name. The law was supposed to be rescinded, at a later time, but it was not.

Some people long to have a "grip" on life. They can be filled with anxiety and fear. Isaiah 8:12 CJB, "Don't fear what they fear or be awestruck by it." Don't be like others who are filled with anxiety. Instead, trust in God. Here is a beautiful scripture that God gave to Israel, "Don't be afraid, for I am with you; don't be distressed, for I am your God. I give you strength, I give you help, I support you with my victorious right hand;" Isaiah 41:10 CJB. If you are a believer and trust in God, this scripture is for you too just like it was for Israel.

So many people today are stressed out. According to CNBC, 30% of American are stressed out about money.<sup>3</sup> Aren't we supposed to be one of the richest nations in the world? So, why all the stress? Our lives can be a light to others who can actually see the difference between their life and our life. When we rely on God, we don't react the same as those who without faith. Actually, our lives can be a whole lot different and happier. "May God, the source of hope, fill you completely with joy and shalom as you continue trusting, so that by the power of the Ruach HaKodesh you may overflow with hope;" Romans 15:13 CJB.

We have hope it says; we can have a hope for so much including eternal life. God wants us to have joy and shalom (peace and satisfaction) through trust in Him. The Holy Spirit can cause us to overflow with hope. In every area of life, we can have hope. When I was single, I trusted in God for a spouse. I wasn't going to jump at the first opportunity. I asked God to bring the right person for me. I have trusted in God for work, for good friends, and for God to provide for me. It wasn't always easy, but God has helped me a lot, and even brought me the desires of my heart at times.

God has helped me be at peace and satisfied. One day in the research department where I worked somebody said that I smiled a lot. I had decided to rely on God. I prayed every morning that I would trust in God and it was working. Doing things God's way works in every area of life. That's what God wants for us. Proverbs 10:28 says, "What the righteous hope for will end in joy; what the wicked expect will come to nothing." People who don't have God can't relate sometimes to the life God gives us through Him.

If you haven't given God a chance, why not give it a try. A Jewish guy I know saw how believers related to each other and decided to check it out. He was an atheist at the time, but He found out that God was real and the believers in Yeshua he knew really had an authentic joy. Isn't that great!

Think about how has God given you joy or something to be happy about?

- A number of my friends have been healed.
- I have been healed a number of times.
- God has provided for me when I've been poor and when I've had abundance.
- God is real to me and it excites me and gives me joy.
- When I obeyed God, I could see my life going better. That has shown me the goodness of God in His commandments.

Israel passed through the sea to safety with great joy. It can be like that for us who believe in the Messiah. We become new people through him and can have a satisfying and joyful life. "Taste, and see that ADONAI is good. How blessed are those who take refuge in him!" Psalm 34:9 CJB. God led Israel to a new life through Him and we can be led to a new life through the Messiah Yeshua.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/03/19/30-percent-of-americans-are-stressed-out-about-money-constantly.html>