



#16 Beshalach Exodus 13:17-17:16
Torah Teaching and teaching A Better Way to Live
by Moshe Schwab

Names

Kefa – Peter
Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one;
Christ in the Greek means to be smudged
Moshe – Moses
Shaul – Paul
Yeshua – Jesus' real name
Yĕhōvâh – God's real name forever (Ex. 3:15)
Yochanan – John

Terms

Haftarah – reading from the prophets
Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible
Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible
Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the
Torah
Beshalach – the 16th Torah portion

(We also use transliterations from Hebrew)

Beshalach means, “when he let go.” This portion begins with Pharoah letting Israel go and God leading Israel to the Suf Sea (which we now know is the Gulf of Aqaba). Pharoah let go of Israel reluctantly. We should be more than reluctant to let go of God. Instead, be secure in what you do and be immovable spiritually. Have you ever tried to move something large and almost immovable? While life can push and pull on our attitudes and mindset and cause us to waiver, we are to be immovable spiritually.

Psalm 16:7-9 NKJV

I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel;
My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.
I have set the LORD always before me;
Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.
Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;
My flesh also will rest in hope.

King David says that God has given him counsel. God’s commandments are His counsel. Deuteronomy 4:6 tells us that God’s commandments give us wisdom and understanding so this is the counsel King David is talking about. That should be the starting point for all our behaviors.

King David wrote that God is always at his right hand. Have you ever heard the expression, “at hand?” It means that something is nearby and ready for use. King David understood that God was at hand in all He faced. He believed in God’s counsel and that God was with him and it made him glad and joyful.

If only we all could be like that. We all have responsibilities. Some more than others but imagine the serious situations that a king would have. In all the riches and the entire kingdom as his resources, King David made God his point of contact with reality and life. Although we may face all kinds of situations, be secure and immovable in your relationship with God and don't let anything come between you and God – not riches, not wrong desires, or power.

Also, watch how fast you proceed in what you do. Since we are to obey God's commandments, consider them in all we do and listen for God to speak to us; always use good sense. God expects us to think things through first and foremost. Proverbs 14:8 NKJV says that the prudent, those who use good sense, understands the path they are on in life: "The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way, but the folly of fools is deceit."

Fools may not believe they are foolish; they are being deceived though. It goes to say in Proverbs 14:12 NKJV, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." Things can go bad fast for the thoughtless. My dad told me a story about some men that he knew who decided to rob a bank and got shot and killed. He was teaching me to stay away from bad people and evil.

We need to bolt our lives to reality and God's wisdom and proceed with thoughtfulness. Think before you do something. Have you ever seen signs that say, "proceed with caution?" That's a good rule life. Some people charge ahead through life without considering the consequences of what they do. The Bible tells us to diligently keep our hearts – in the right place spiritually (Proverbs 4:23).

In contrast to those who don't follow God's commandments, those who do what is "right and good (Deuteronomy 6:18), shine like the stars. Daniel 12:3 NKJV says, "Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever." Isn't that wonderful! Shine like a star and turn others toward doing what is right.

God's ways give us comfort and blessing, so do what is right. Isaiah 41:10 NKJV says, "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." Don't decide to do things on your own without God. God can and will help us because He is God; be on God's side, that will always be the winning side.

Haven't you always wanted to be on the winning side? We cheer for our sport teams and enjoy competing at games and winning. With God, we will be a winner. Also, God guarantees eternal life and a future kingdom to those who keep His commandments and follow Him. I've talked about the Hebrew James lately (the epistle of James in Hebrew). There are some obvious changes in the Greek that were inserted by heretics and are not in the Hebrew.

James 1:25 NKJV says, "He who looks into the perfect law of liberty." The Hebrew says, "But anyone who observes himself by the whole Torah, which is the instruction of the Examiner, and stands in Torah."¹ The Torah is the first five books of the Bible. All the early believers were Jewish. They knew what he was talking about and that they were to keep the Torah. Ya'akov (James) was the leader of the first century church and made the decisions at the time (Acts 15).

The translation from the Hebrew does not sound like a law of liberty does it. We have to remember that the Roman Empire outlawed keeping some of God's commandments (like keeping God's feasts, they are God's feasts, not just Jewish feasts; Leviticus 23:2). Their Greek text contains added words and some slanted speech against keeping God's law (and against the

¹ From The Epistle of James (YA'AKOV) A Translation from the Hebrew, by Dr. Miles Jones, p. 24.

Jews because they wanted to be in charge). The word liberty was added to the Greek text to make it seem like God changed His mind about keeping His commandments. Numbers 23:19 NKJV says, "God is not a man, that He should lie." God did not lie to us at Mount Sinai; it is man that is a liar.

Some people are heading for the lake of fire because of these liars. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and **all liars** shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone. You teachers need to stop lying.

Be a useful and strong believer; protect your heart from the elements of the worldly. Proverbs 4:23-27 NKJV, "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse lips far from you. Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil."

Keep your heart with diligence spiritually. Perverse means to deliberately and willfully do evil. It says in Proverbs that we are not to even talk about doing those things. Think about what you are doing and saying and do what is right; do and say what is right. You have a choice. Keep your heart from thinking and doing evil. You can do it.

Torah Teaching

Beshalach means, "when he let go." This portion begins with God leading Israel to the Suf Sea (which we now know is the Gulf of Aqaba) instead of through the land of the P'lishtim. Also, Israel picks up Joseph's bones from Succoth on the way. God hardens Pharaoh's heart while they are on their way and Pharaoh then chases after Israel with more than 600 chariots and men, but Moshe says that God will fight for them. God tells Moshe to lift up his rod over the sea, the sea parts, and the pillar of cloud that led them is now behind them, protecting them from the Egyptian army.

Israel went through the sea on dry ground between walls of water. The Egyptians tried to follow them through the sea the next day, but Moshe held his rod over the sea and it covered the Egyptians. Then the people sang a song of victory to the Lord. In the song they exalted God and praised God for saving them. Also, Miriam the prophet and sister of Aharon sang a song and the women joined her with tambourines and dancing.

There are a number of videos now that show the route that Israel took to the Sea of Aqaba to the real Mt. Sinai in Midian of Arabia. You can do a search on YouTube for Red Sea Crossing and Ron Wyatt for a good video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nsa7ebyUVD4&t=673s>. In the videos, you can see the route that Israel took through the Wadi with mountains on either side. That is why the Egyptians couldn't proceed because they were trapped in the wadi until Israel made it to the other side. There were actually pillars put at the crossing point by King Solomon.

God provided miraculously for Israel.

Now on the other side of the sea, the people grumbled and the Lord provided water for them at Marah. Then they came to Eilim which had 12 springs and 70 palm trees. The number 12

causes us to think of the 12 tribes of Israel and 70, the nations of the world. Then as they proceeded in the desert, the people grumbled again and God provided *man* (manna) and quail for them to eat. When the Israelites saw the manna, they said, "*mahn hu*" which means "what is it." The manna (*mahn* in Hebrew), "was like coriander seed and it tasted like honey cakes," it says in Deuteronomy 16:31 CJB. They gathered only enough manna for every day, except the sixth day they gathered two days of manna. The people rested on Shabbat. They put away some manna to be kept through the ages and they ate manna for forty years.

While camped at Refidim, the people grumbled about having no water, so Moshe struck a rock and water came out from it. Amalek's army came up against Israel and Israel prevailed while Moshe's arms were raised. Aaron and Hur held up Moshe's arms and Israel defeated Amalek. The Lord said he will blot out the memory of Amalek.

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. In the same way, we are immersed with the Holy Spirit after we believe in Yeshua the Messiah and experience the powers of the age to come to some extent.

*We receive the power of God through the Holy Spirit
Yeshua said. Acts 1:8 NKJV says, "But you shall receive
power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."*

Receiving the Holy Spirit is a defining moment in the lives of believers in Yeshua the Messiah because there is no turning back from the truth that God is present in our lives. We experience the power of God. Rabbi Shaul tells us in the New Testament that we are to die to our old selves in Romans 6:6 and so leave our old lives behind much like Israel had to die to their old way of life after they crossed to the other side of the Sea of Aqaba.

The place where Israel crossed the Sea of Aqaba is very imposing to see. At the end of the wadi that Israel took on their way to the sea, there is an enormous beach that could hold a couple of a million people. Solomon had marked the crossing point with two pillars, one on each side of the sea. Interestingly, in one of the videos online, there are shells plastered onto the side of the seashore that Israel had fled to as though a great wind had pushed them there. There is video of chariot parts on the bottom of the Sea of Aqaba where Israel crossed.

The Haftarah for Beshalach is Judges 4:4 to 5:31. In this portion, D'vorah (Deborah) the prophet tells Barak to take 10,000 men to fight against Sisra and his army. Because he asks D'vorah to go with him, D'vorah says a woman will get the credit for Sisra's death. Israel defeats Sisra's army and a woman kills Sisra. They then sang a song extolling those who volunteered, praising God, and praising the woman who killed Sisra.

Just as God defeated the Egyptians at the Gulf of Aqaba, God continues to help Israel to defeat its enemies after they enter Canaan. Also, we should consider that although we seem to be at risk in the present, God is at work on our behalf. In the end, God will be victorious even though the people of this world can be so against the things of God. Judges 4:23 CJB says: "Thus God on that day defeated Yavin" (Jabin) "the king of Kena'an" (Canaanites) "in the presence of the people of Isra'el."

God is for His people and helps His people both in the Old Testament portion and our present era. God is the same today as He was years ago; a caring and good God. Some 2 million people left Egypt in faith and God provided for them. What an amazing act of faith of so many people. Those who trust in God will be blessed; "Blessed is the man who trusts in You!" Psalms 84:12 NKJV.

A Better Way to Live
(A teaching to accompany the Torah portion Beshalach)
by Moshe Schwab

The result of the Fall in Eden has caused mankind to have more reliance on ourselves. Even little things can sometimes be difficult; we often have a personal or philosophical view of work (work ethic). I had a simple work ethic when I was young: work hard, do a good job, listen and do what I'm told to do, be respectful of others, and be honest. It seemed to work because it took me two days to get promoted at this one job I had. At other places, at least I kept my job and I can be proud of my work whether I was sweeping the floor or designing circuit boards and writing firmware (computer code).

My work ethic didn't come from a desire to be successful or get ahead, but from the Bible. It says we are to do all in the name of Yeshua the Messiah; I took that literally and tried my best to do a good job. Colossians 3:17 NKJV says, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." It's good to give our employers an honest day's work.

I remember this one person I worked with. When I began working with him, the bosses told me he works fast and gets his job done and he did great work. Those in charge probably wished they all had people like him. I learned a lot of good things from watching him work. People have different reasons for the work they do.

How are people's worldly attitudes different from a believer's attitude of work?

*They may be expecting something in return and when that doesn't happen, they may become lazy or ungrateful for their job. Instead, we should view work as an opportunity to serve and create value for what we have accomplished.

*Some don't have a good work ethic; they may work slow or may not do a good job. Instead, work is an opportunity to represent ourselves and how God is using us.

*Some people's work ethic is entirely selfish. Instead, a believer cares about their work no matter what. He values what he gives to others even in the little things and realizes it reflects on what kind of person they are and what God wants them to be.

*Some people don't understand that they are representing themselves and God by how they work.

*Some don't understand that their bad behaviors could cause harm to the people who rely on their employer to stay solvent and provide for themselves and their families. Being a good worker brings blessing just like being a godly person brings blessing.

It's always better to stay God focused and kingdom focused.

We are to not live in this world like the worldly do. The above is a good example of godly focus versus being worldly focused. The person who acts out at work can have a negative impact on the work environment, cause people pain, and be a test to others instead of a help to others. Wouldn't it be great if we all had great attitudes?

We are to be good to others. Leviticus 19:18 NKJV says, "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. We recently talked about some scriptures in Philippians. I'd like to talk about them some more. Shaul says in Philippians 4:8-9, "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you;" Have a good attitude; think and do what is right. These things are important if you want peace in your life.

Shaul talks about truth, being noble and just, and being pure.

Don't we all want to know the truth? God's word is truth and we can trust God. He is the creator and knows what is best for us. What about our words? Are we an honest person? A dishonest person causes pain and distrust. Whereas, an honest person brings peace and trust. What about a person who is noble; that is a person who does what is good? Those are people who are refreshing and make our hearts light. Being just and fair communicates goodness, and is one of the foundations of a good society. Being pure communicates a desire to do what is right. Don't you want to be treated right and to have good relationships because people do what is right? Surely those who have good virtues are a blessing to others and society.

In the first century, synagogues were called schools of virtue because they taught right and good values; they taught about how to love others and God. Virtues are a good thing because they help us to be considerate and caring. Shaul also taught virtues. Shaul commands us to love others just as the Torah says we are to love others in Leviticus 19:18. Yeshua also taught us to love others. Shaul called his synagogue in Ephesus the School of Tyrannus; Tyrannus perhaps means terrible (as in powerful). Shaul teaches virtues in all his letters and also about the power of the Holy Spirit.

Why play with life and take chances spiritually? Why do that and live like that? A godly life has so much to offer.

Viewing life as God's kingdom people results in peace and so much more. A good life and a godly attitude offers so much to us and others. Ya'akov said in James 4:10 NKJV, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." When we do what is right, we take the things of God seriously; life will go a whole lot better and God will also work on our behalf supernaturally. How God does that is up to Him. The Bible says that God won't forget the good we do. Hebrews 6:10 NKJV says, "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love." It's a win win for us. Doing things God's way is the best way to live and God will not forget that.

God will also work on our behalf supernaturally.

Also, we are to love God with all our heart. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up;" Deuteronomy 6:5-7 NKJV. God cares about us enough to reach out to us and give us a good way to live. Why not take that seriously?

God brings a steady flow of peace and blessing into our lives.

God keeps everything going even though mankind seems to tax the earth's existence by selfishness, violence, and a lack of compassion and virtue. I recommend understanding good attitudes and virtues better. Possibly read a book on virtues. Bring good into your life. Don't allow darkness to rule your life; instead allow God and goodness to rule in your life.

Shaul said in Colossians 3:12-17 NKJV, "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

It says to be holy, be tender, be kind, be humble, be meek, be patient, bear with each other, forgive each other, let go of your complaints, love others with a pure heart, and have a generous attitude towards others. Doesn't that sound great? Let the peace of God rule in you. Put on peace and be peaceful. Do all in the name of the Messiah Yeshua and be a person of thanks for all God has given us. We are to do it, so do it. These are good things; God's ways are good.

Don't we all want what is good?

Just as Israel was changed as they went through the sea, we need to be a changed people with the help of the Torah, the scriptures, and the Holy Spirit that we receive through the Messiah Yeshua. Israel left Egypt behind and we should leave our old natures behind and put on good and godly ways. The Israelites ate food and drink given them by God (1 Corinthians 10:1-4). In the same way, but in a spiritual sense, Yēhōvāh gives us spiritual food to live by so that we can live a kingdom life. A life that is different than the worldly point of view; a much better way to live.