

Parshat Matot Masei

Esther Wein

12 July 2023

23 Tammuz 5783

Dedications:

Rivky Jungreis - Thank you to Hakadosh Baruch Hu and for continued good health for Godel Yehuda b Roizel and a refuah shelaimah b'karov l'cholei Yisrael.

Jenny Felder - L'iluy nishmat her father Zev ben Eliyahu Yosef

Hilda Zoldan - Refua Shelaima for her friend who is in intensive care. Basha Batya Bas Rochel Leah

Boondy Berkowitz and her mom Gloria Gettenberg - in memory of their husband and father Tzvi Elimelech ben Yitzchak Susswein who's yahrzeit is today - Bo bayom.

Beth Honig - L'iluy nishmat her father's 11th yahrtzeit which was on Monday - Shmuel Elyakim ben Yehoshua

A. The 42 stations in the desert

33:1-2

אֵלֶּה מַסְעֵי בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר יָצְאוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לְצַבְאֹתָם בְּיַד־מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן:

These were the marches of the Israelites who started out from the land of Egypt, troop by troop, in the charge of Moses and Aaron.

וַיִּכְתֹּב מֹשֶׁה אֶת־מוֹצְאֵיהֶם לְמַסְעֵיהֶם עַל־פִּי ה' וְאֵלֶּה מַסְעֵיהֶם לְמוֹצְאֵיהֶם:

Moses recorded the starting points of their various marches as directed by יהוה. Their marches, by starting points, were as follows:

1. Rashi:

THESE ARE THE JOURNEYS (STAGES) [OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL] — Why are these stations recorded here?

* In order to make known the loving acts of the Omnipresent: that although He had decreed against them to make them move about and wander in the wilderness, you should not think that they wandered and moved about without cessation from one station to another station all the forty years, and that they had no rest, for you see that there are here only forty-two stages. Deduct from them fourteen, all of which were their stopping places in the first year after they left Egypt, before the decree was made, viz., from the time when they journeyed from Rameses until when they came to Rithmah whence the spies were sent out — as it is said. (Numbers 12:16): “And afterwards the people journeyed from Hazeroth, [and encamped in the wilderness of Paran], whereupon the Lord said unto Moses, (Numbers 13:2) "Send thee men [who may search out the land]”; and here (v. 18) it states, “and they journeyed from Hazeroth and they encamped in Rithmah”, so you learn that it (Rithmah) is in the wilderness of Paran. — Further deduct from them the eight stages which were after Aaron’s death viz., those from Mount Hor to the plains of

Moab in the fortieth year (v. 38). It follows that during the whole of the thirty eight years they made only twenty journeys. This is excerpted from the work of R. Moses the Preacher. —

* **R. Tanchuma** gave another explanation of it (of the question why these stages are here recorded). A parable! It may be compared to the case of a king whose son was ill and whom he took to a distant place to cure him. When they returned home the father began to enumerate all the stages, saying to him, “Here we slept, here we caught cold, here you had the head-ache, etc.” (Midrash Tanchuma 4:10:3).

2. *Yechezkel 20 :35-36*

וְהִבֵּאתִי אֶתְכֶם אֶל-מִדְבַּר הָעַמִּים וְנִשְׁפַּטְתִּי אֶתְכֶם שָׁם פְּנִים אֶל-פְּנִים:

and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples; and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face.

כַּאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁפַּטְתִּי אֶת-אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם בְּמִדְבַּר אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם כִּן אֲשַׁפֵּט אֶתְכֶם נְאֻם אֲדֹנָי ה':

As I entered into judgment with your ancestors in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I enter into judgment with you—declares the Sovereign GOD.

B. Enumeration of the places we were “unwell”

1. **Rav Schwab:**

Notice that the most significant events are unmentioned!

Ex: kriyat Yam Suf, Where the Manna began, The Nes at Marah, Matan Torah, The building of the Mishkan, etc..

Furthermore, random “details” are included such as:

33:4

וּמִצְרַיִם מְקַבְּרִים אֶת אֲשֶׁר הִכָּהוּ בָהֶם כֹּל-בְּכוֹר וּבְאֵלֵהֶם עָשָׂה ה' שְׁפָטִים:

The Egyptians meanwhile were burying those among them whom יהוה had struck down, every [male] first-born—whereby יהוה executed judgment on their gods.

33:7-8

וַיִּסְעוּ מֵאֵתָם וַיֵּשֶׁב עַל-פִּי הַחִירֹת (אֲשֶׁר עַל-פְּנֵי בַעַל צְפוֹן) וַיִּחַנוּ לִפְנֵי מִגְדֹּל:

They set out from Etham and turned about toward Pi-hahiroth, which faces Baal-zephon, and they encamped before Migdol.

33:8,9

וַיִּסְעוּ מִפְּנֵי הַחִירֹת וַיַּעֲבְרוּ בְּתוֹךְ-הַיָּם הַמִּדְבָּרָה (וַיֵּלְכוּ דֶרֶךְ שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים בְּמִדְבַּר) אֵתָם וַיִּחַנוּ בְּמִרְהַ:

They set out from Pene-hahiroth and passed through the sea into the wilderness; and they made a three-days' journey in the wilderness of Etham and encamped at Marah.

וַיִּסְעוּ מִמִּרְהַ וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵילָמָה (וּבְאֵילָם שְׁתֵּי יָמִים עֲשָׂרָה עֵינֹת מַיִם וְשִׁבְעִים תַּמְרִים) וַיִּחַנוּ-שָׁם:

They set out from Marah and came to Elim. There were twelve springs in Elim and seventy palm trees, so they encamped there.

33:14

וַיִּסְעוּ מֵאֲלוֹשׁ וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּרֶפְדִּים וְלֹא-הָיָה שָׁם מַיִם לָעָם לְשָׁתוֹת:

They set out from Alush and encamped at Rephidim; it was there that the people had no water to drink.

2. The key:

R. Tanchuma gave another explanation of it (of the question why these stages are here recorded). A parable! It may be compared to the case of a king whose son was ill and whom he took to a distant place to cure him. When they returned home the father began to enumerate all the stages, saying to him, "Here we slept, here we caught cold, here you had the head-ache, etc." (Midrash Tanchuma 4:10:3.

The names are references to all the episodes where we were not well
We were not thriving,
Each of these special details is pointing out where we did not take the opportunity to to be inspired and moved to further growth.

Here you slept: = You didn't take the opportunity to arouse yourself and be inspired by the hashgacha and Chessed - 33:4
Egyptians burying their dead!
Baal Tzafon was the only one still standing

Here you were cold= Your inspiration was allowed to cool down- 33:7-8
3 days since Yam Suf till "bitter waters"
12 springs and 70 palm trees!
Refidim- where manna began!

Here You had a headache= death of Aharon
Nevertheless Am Yisrael and Hashem traveled together progressing until they were finally ready to enter EY

Story of the Chafetz Chaim

C. The secret of 42- Rav Moshe Shapira

1. Rav Tzadok Ha Kohen in Pri Tzedek BaHalotcha 1-

ידוע דמ"ב מסעות ומקומות החני' הם נגד שם מ"ב וכל אות הוא מדרגה בפ"ע ובין מדרגה למדרגה יש מסע שהולך ונוסע להגיע לאותו מדרגה ואז הוא בטרדא וכשמגיע להמדרגה הוא בנחת. וזה כל האדם כל ימי חייו בימי המעשה הוא בטרדא והוא הכנה לבוא לשבת דמי שלא טרח בע"ש מה יאכל בשבת

These stations are a reference to the 42 letter name of Hashem

Each letter is a madreiga, and there is a difficult journey from madreiga to madreiga, when one arrives at the next madreiga they find rest, this represents the life journey of a person - during the 6 days one is in a state of engaging in journweying which is a preparation for Shabbos - " If one does not prepare on erev shabbos - what will they eat on shabbos?"

2. Rambam MN 1:62

There was also a name of forty-two letters known among them. Every intelligent person knows that one word of forty-two letters is impossible. But it was a phrase of several words which had together forty-two letters. There is no doubt that the words had such a meaning as to convey a correct notion of the essence of God, in the way we have stated. This phrase of so many letters is called a name because, like other proper nouns, they represent one single object, and several words have been employed in order to explain more clearly the idea which the name represents: for an idea can more easily be comprehended if expressed in many words.

3. Ana BKOach- after Karbanot section, sefirat haomer, before Lcha Dodi and more

אָנָא, בְּכַח גְּדֻלַּת יְמִינֶךָ תַּתִּיר צְרוּרָה;
קִבַּל רַחֵם עֲמָךְ, שְׂגִבְנוּ, טְהַרְנוּ, נוֹרָא;
נָא גְבוּר, דּוֹרְשֵׁי יְחֻדְךָ כְּבַבְתָּ שְׁמַרְם;
בְּרַכְם, טְהַרְם, רַחֲמֵי צְדָקָתְךָ תָּמִיד גְּמִלְם;
חֲסִין קְדוּשׁ, בְּרוּב טוּבְךָ נִהַל עֲדָתְךָ;
יְחִיד גְּאֵה, לְעַמְךָ פָּנֵה, זוֹכְרֵי קִדְשֶׁתְךָ;
שׁוֹעֲתֵנוּ קִבַּל וּשְׁמַע צַעֲקָתֵנוּ, יוֹדַע תַּעֲלָמוֹת.

From bereishis to the beis of Ubohu

3. 6 x7=42

The 6 days=- This confined realm

6= cube

Vuv = 6= Hook/connector/ and..

The "Nekudah HaPenimi = 7

Shabbat = 7

After 42 stations= reach Eretz Yisreal or Shabbat

4. Kiddushin 71a

אמר רב יהודה אמר רב: שם בן ארבעים ושתים אותיות אין מוסרין אותו אלא למי :

שצנוע

ועניו,

ועומד בחצי ימיו,

ואינו כועס,

ואינו משתכר

, ואינו מעמיד על מדותיו.

וכל היודעו, והזהיר בו והמשמרו בטהרה – אהוב למעלה, ונחמד למטה, ואימתו מוטלת על הבריות, ונוחל שני עולמים – העולם הזה והעולם הבא.

Rav Yehuda says that Rav says: The forty-two-letter name of God may be transmitted only to one who is:

Modest

and humble,

and stands at least half his life,

and does not get angry,

and does not get drunk,

and does not insist upon his rights but is willing to yield.

There is no concern that such a person might reveal the name in a fit of anger or drunkenness. And anyone who knows this name and is careful with it and guards it in purity is beloved above and treasured below; and fear of him is cast upon the creatures; and he inherits two worlds, this world and the World-to-Come.

5. Maharal: Mimaamakim 464

The 42 step journey is a stage by stage process to build on our achievements in these areas

We were "unwell" in that we didn't find the growth opportunity in those moments

6. Facing the "UNWANTED"

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-unwanted/id1695604998?i=1000620606784>