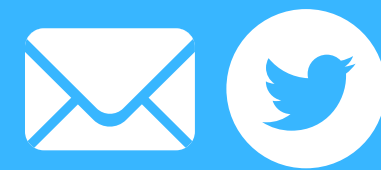




PARSHA PAGES



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Created by Adele Nemirov

BEHA'ALOSCHA - בהעלותך

WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS WEEK'S PARSHA?

Parshas Beha'aloscha begins with Hashem telling Moshe to teach Aharon how to light the candles on the **Menorah**. He then tells Moshe to prepare the **Levis** to work in the Mishkan with a special ceremony because the Levis have a unique role in serving Hashem instead of the firstborn sons. The Levis can work in the Mishkan from age 25 to 50, and afterwards they can only work as guards. Hashem commands the Jews to bring the **Passover Offering** in their second year in the desert on the **14th of Nisan**. However, a few men were unable to bring the Passover Offering because they were ritually impure from coming in contact with a dead body. They approached Moshe and Aharon and ask, "Why should we miss out?" Moshe asks Hashem what to do, and Hashem responds that anyone who was unable to bring the Passover Offering due to ritual impurity or distance can bring an offering one month later on the **14th of Iyar**, or **Pesach Sheini**, the Second Passover, and that someone who deliberately doesn't bring a Passover offering is punished. Once the Mishkan was set up, a cloud would cover it during the day and appear like fire at night. When the cloud moved, the Jews would carry the Mishkan and follow it, and set up their camp where it came to rest, as Hashem commanded. At times they would move frequently, and at other times they would stay in one place for many months. Hashem tells Moshe to make two silver **trumpets** that will be used to gather the people, move the camp, gather the priests, and used during war and on the holidays. On the **20th of Iyar** in the second year the Jews traveled from Sinai and settled in **Paran**, traveling in their war formation, with the Mishkan in the center of the camp. Moshe tries to convince his father-in-law, **Yisro**, to travel with the Jews. The Torah tells us the special phrase that Moshe would say when the **Aron**, Ark, would travel. The Jews complain about Hashem and a fire destroys some of them, and they name the place **Tavera**. Then, a group complains about not having meat to eat, and only having **Manna**. The Torah tells us how the Jews would collect and prepare the Manna. Moshe complains to Hashem about the challenge of leading the Jews, and Hashem tells him to gather 70 leaders to split the job. He also tells Moshe to prepare the people to eat meat the next day, but that He will give them an overabundance of meat. Moshe gathers the 70 leaders at the **Ohel Moed**, the Tent of Meeting, so that they could experience prophecy there. Two other men, **Eldad and Medad**, experienced prophecy in the camp. A young man tells Moshe about them, and Yehoshua says to restrain them, but Moshe says that he would rather all of the people experienced prophecy. When Moshe and the leaders return to the camp, Hashem sends **quail** to feed the Jews meat. Hashem strikes the people who had an inappropriate craving for meat with a plague, and the place is named **Kivrot HaTa'avah**, the graves of desire. Miriam and Aharon speak **lashon hara**, slander, about Moshe, and doubt his unique relationship with Hashem. The Torah tells us that Moshe was the most humble person on earth, and Hashem appears to Moshe, Aharon and Miriam and tells Aharon and Miriam that Moshe is the only prophet who spoke clearly and directly with Hashem, while the rest of the prophets spoke to Hashem in a dream-like state, and Miriam is stricken with **Tzara'as**. Aharon pleads to Moshe on her behalf, and Moshe asks Hashem to heal her. Miriam is sent out of the camp for one week because of her Tzara'as, and afterwards, the Jews travel from **Hatzeros** to **Paran**.

THINK ABOUT IT: The Jews complain many times in the desert. Even though some of their complaints are fair, they are often punished harshly. Why would complaining need such a harsh response? What is a better way to bring up problems?



MOSHE'S UNIQUE PROPHECY

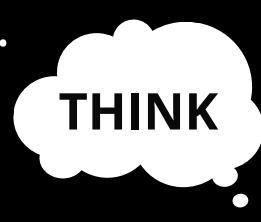
There are three stories in this week's **Parsha** about prophecy: Moshe picking 70 leaders to receive prophecy, Eldad and Medad's prophecy, and Miriam and Aharon doubting Moshe's unique prophecy. You might be wondering: **What was so special about Moshe's prophecy? Why is it important?** **Rambam** (1138-1204, Spain & Egypt) even includes the belief that Moshe was the greatest prophet in a unique way in his 13 foundations of faith! Hashem Himself explains that Moshe's prophecy was unique because he was the only person who spoke to Hashem "face to face", like a person speaks to a friend, and who received prophecy while awake, instead of a trance or dream. As Moshe revealed the Torah to the world, this unique relationship was essential to ensure that everything he taught was clear and accurate.

וְהָאִישׁ מֹשֶׁה עָנּוּ מְאֹד
מִכָּל הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר עַל פְּנֵי
הָאֲדָמָה: (במדבר יב:ג)
And Moshe was **very humble**, more than any other man on earth.

Why is it important that Moshe experienced this unique level of prophecy?

How can it connect to Moshe being exceptionally humble?

Would you want to be a prophet? Why? Why not?



BACKWARDS LETTERS

image from wikipedia.org



When the **Mishkan** traveled, Moshe would say two special phrases: **When the Ark was to set out, Moses would say: Advance, Hashem! May Your enemies be scattered, And may Your foes flee before You! And when it halted, he would say: Return, Hashem, You who are Israel's myriads of thousands! (Bamidbar 10:35-36)**

This section in the Torah is surrounded by two **backwards letters**, נ, nun! This is so unique that **Our Sages (Gemara Shabbos 116a)** teach that it is meant to be its own **Chumash**, book of the Torah. **Rashi** (1040-1105, France) explains that these letters are like brackets and that this section was moved here in order to separate negative stories about the Jews. **Rabbi Norman Lamm** (1927-2020, New York) explains, based on a **Midrash**, that these נs symbolize fish, and they are backwards because the Jews will sometimes need to swim against the tide of the world to commit to Hashem and Torah.