

Notes for Parshah Beshalach Exodus 13:17-17:16

ISRAELITES MOVE INTO THE WILDERNESS

When the Israelites left Egypt God sent them by a longer way to avoid the Philistines as God feared that war with them would make the people return to Egypt.

When Moses was leaving with the people he brought with him the bones of Joseph who was buried in Egypt to fulfill the request Joseph made when he passed to have his body brought out of Egypt.

God guided the Israelites as a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. The route that God had the Israelites take brought them to the Sea of Reeds.

Meanwhile in Egypt once again Pharaoh now missed the work of the Israelites and wished for them to return. He led his army into the wilderness to bring them back.

THE SEA OF REEDS AND THE FINAL BLOW TO EGYPT

As the people were trapped at the Sea of Reeds they saw the Egyptians coming toward them. They cried to Moses that he brought them out to die in the wilderness.

God told Moses to hold his hand over the sea and the wind blew the water aside leaving a path of dry land for the Israelites to cross.

When the Egyptians followed the water rushed back and drowned them all.

After the escape Moses sang songs of praise to God for the miracle of saving the people. Then Miriam led the women in song and dance to continue the praise.

IN THE WILDERNESS

Now in the wilderness the people were without water and called to Moses. When they reached Miribah the water there was bitter, God showed Moses how to sweeten the water and the people drank.

God then promised to follow God's law God will keep them free of diseases and will keep them healthy.

After more travel the people complained about the lack of food and God sent quail to eat and then each morning the people could get manna, a form of bread. Each day they would gather it only for that day except on the day before Shabbat in which they would gather for that day and the Shabbat.

Moses and Aaron kept a jar of manna with the sacred objects to remember the miracle.

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WATER FROM A ROCK

In the wilderness of Sin the people were without water and God told Moses to strike a rock and water would flow. Moses was nervous that the people would rebel against him because of the lack water and other comforts. God promised to care for the people.

AMALEK ATTACKS

Moses calls on Joshua to put together an army as Amalek attacked the people as they settled in Rephailim.

As Joshua fights Moses climbs a hill and when he outstretched his hands over the battle the Israelites won. When Moses grew weary Aaron and Hur held his hands up to help the battle.

While the Israelites won, there was damage to the people. God told Moses to write down the story as a reminder for eternity, and to blot out the name of Amalek. Moses told the people that the Israelites will battle Amalek forever.