

Beit Chachamin

PARSHAT BESHALACH

30TH JANUARY, 2026

COME & LEARN

THE BIG RECAP [PARSHA SUMMARY]

1 – God leads the Israelites away from the land of the Philistines to avoid battle, guiding them through the wilderness toward the Sea of Reeds. Moses takes Joseph’s bones with him. The Lord goes ahead of the people in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. God instructs Moses to camp by the sea, saying that Pharaoh will pursue them so His power can be shown. Pharaoh and his officials regret letting the Israelites go, and he gathers his chariots and army to chase them.

2 – The Egyptians overtake the Israelites by the sea, with Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and troops closing in. Terrified, the Israelites cry out to God and complain to Moses that he brought them out to die in the wilderness. Moses tells them to stay calm and watch the Lord deliver them, saying, “The Lord will fight for you; you need only be still.”

3 – God tells Moses to lift his staff and stretch out his hand over the sea so the waters divide. The pillar of cloud moves between the Egyptian and Israelite camps leaving darkness on one side, light on the other. All night, God drives back the sea with a strong east wind, turning the seabed to dry land. The Israelites cross safely, and the Egyptians follow. The Lord throws the Egyptian army into confusion, causing their chariot wheels to jam as they try to flee.

4 – At dawn, God tells Moses to stretch out his hand again, and the waters rush back over the Egyptians. The sea covers Pharaoh’s army, and not one survives. The Israelites see God’s power and put their faith in Him and in Moses. Moses and the Israelites sing to God, celebrating His victory.

4 (cont.) – Miriam leads the women with drums and dancing. The people travel into the wilderness of Shur, where they find no water for three days. At Marah, Moses makes the bitter water drinkable by God’s command. There, God sets laws for them and promises healing if they follow His ways.

5 – The Israelites camp at Elim, where twelve springs and seventy palm trees provide rest. They journey into the wilderness of Sin and complain about the lack of food, longing for what they ate in Egypt. God announces that He will rain down bread from heaven, and the people will gather it daily. Moses tells Aaron to tell the Israelites that God heard their complaints. As he does so, God’s glory appears in the cloud.

6 – That evening, quail arrive and cover the camp. In the morning, thin flakes appear like frost (manna). Each person gathers what they need for the day, twice as much on the sixth day. Some ignore God’s instructions and keep extra overnight, but it rots. None appears on the seventh day, the Sabbath. God commands that a portion be kept as a reminder for generations. The Israelites eat manna for forty years.

7 – The people travel to Rephidim and again complain to Moses about the lack of water. God tells Moses to strike the rock at Horeb, and water flows out for everyone to drink. The place is called Massah and Meribah for the Israelites’ challenge and doubt. Amalek attacks at Rephidim. When Moses holds up his hands, Israel prevails; when he lowers them, Amalek gains ground. Aaron and Hur support Moses’s hands until sunset, and Joshua defeats Amalek. God commands that Amalek’s memory be erased, and Moses builds an altar named “The Lord is my banner.”

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In this week's parsha how the Israelites voice fear of hunger and thirst in the wilderness.

EXODUS 15:23–25

**וַיָּבֹאוּ מַרְתָּה וְלֹא יָכְלוּ לִשְׁתֶּת מַיִם מִמַּרְתָּה כִּי מְרִים הֵם עֲלֵיכֶן קָרָא שְׁמָהּ מַרְתָּה:
וַיִּלְנוּ הָעָם עַל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר מִהֲנִשְׁתָּה:
וַיִּצְעַק אֶל־יְהוָה וַיֹּרְהוּ יְהוָה עֵץ וַיִּשְׁלַךְ אֶל־הַמַּיִם וַיִּמְתְּקוּ הַמַּיִם שָׁם שָׁם לֹא חָק וּמִשְׁפָּט וְשָׁם
נִסָּהוּ:**

They came to Marah, but they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; that is why it was named Marah.

And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

So he cried out to GOD, and GOD showed him a piece of wood; he threw it into the water and the water became sweet.

There a fixed rule was made for them; there they were put to the test:

EXODUS 16:2–4

**וַיִּלְנוּ כָּל־עַדַּת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל עַל־מֹשֶׁה וְעַל־אַהֲרֹן בַּמִּדְבָּר:
וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵהֶם בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִי־יִתֵּן מוֹתֵנוּ בְּיַד־יְהוָה בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בְּשַׁבְּתֵנוּ עַל־סִיר הַבָּשָׂר בְּאֲכָלְנוּ
לֶחֶם לִשְׁבַע כִּי־הוֹצֵאתֶם אֶתְנוּ אֶל־הַמִּדְבָּר הַזֶּה לְהַמִּית אֶת־כָּל־הַקְּהָל הַזֶּה בְּרָעַב:
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה הִנְנִי מִמְטִיר לָכֶם לֶחֶם מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֵּצֵא הָעָם וַלְקִטּוֹ דְּבַר־יוֹם בְּיוֹמוֹ לְמַעַן
אֲנִסֶּנּוּ הַיֵּלֶךְ בְּתוֹרָתִי אִם־לֹא:**

In the wilderness, the whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.

The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by GOD's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots, when we ate our fill of bread! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to starve this whole congregation to death."

And GOD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread for you from the sky, and the people shall go out and gather each day that day's portion—that I may thus test them, to see whether they will follow My instructions or not.

EXODUS 17:2 & 17:6-7

**וַיִּרְבּוּ הָעָם עִם־מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמְרוּ תִנּוּ־לָנוּ מַיִם וְנִשְׁתָּה וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם מֹשֶׁה מִהֲתִרְיֹבוּן עַמְדֵי מִהֲתִנְסֹן
אֶת־יְהוָה:**

The people quarreled with Moses. "Give us water to drink," they said; and Moses replied to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you try GOD?"

**הִנְנִי עֹמֵד לְפָנֶיךָ שָׁם | עַל־הַצּוּר בְּחָרֵב וְהִכִּיתָ בַּצּוּר וַיֵּצֵאוּ מִמֶּנּוּ מַיִם וְשָׁתָה הָעָם וַיַּעַשׂ כֵּן מֹשֶׁה
לְעֵינֵי זְקֵנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:**

**וַיִּקְרָא שְׁם הַמָּקוֹם מַסָּה וּמְרִיבָה עַל־רֵיב | בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל נִסְתֵּם אֶת־יְהוָה לֵאמֹר הֲיֵשׁ יְהוָה
בְּקִרְבָנוּ אִם־אֵין:**

I will be standing there before you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock and water will issue from it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

The place was named Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and because they tried GOD, saying, "Is GOD present among us or not?"

The Israelites repeatedly fear death from hunger or thirst in the wilderness, and God responds each time with sweetened water, manna and quail, and water from a rock.

Teaching them to live with God's sustaining presence