

Parashat Beha'alotkha / פרשת בהעלתך

The Lord is Directing our lives

Shabbat Sivan 16th, 5767, June 2nd, 2007
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This Weeks Reading List:

Torah: Num 8:1-12:16

Haftarah: Zech 2:14-4:7

B'rit HaChadashah: 1 Cor 10:6-13 Rev 11:1-19

While reading through Parashat Beha'alotkha the thing that jumped out at me was how the Lord directed the lives of the children of Israel while they were wondering in the wilderness. I believe this shows a pattern how God works in our lives. For example, in Bamidbar / Numbers 8:6, God showed Moshe a pattern for how the beaten gold flowers were to be crafted. What is not mentioned is the exact pattern; we are simply told that God showed Moshe a pattern for how it was to be done.

Numbers 8:1-8

8:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 8:2 Speak unto Aaron and say unto him, When thou lightest the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light over against the candlestick. 8:3 And Aaron did so; he lighted the lamps thereof over against the candlestick, as the LORD commanded Moses. 8:4 And this work of the candlestick was of beaten gold, unto the shaft thereof, unto the flowers thereof, was beaten work: according unto the pattern which the LORD had shewed Moses, so he made the candlestick. 8:5 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 8:6 Take the Levites from among the children of Israel, and cleanse them. 8:7 And thus shalt thou do unto them, to cleanse them: Sprinkle water of purifying upon them, and let them shave all their flesh, and let them wash their clothes, and so make themselves clean. 8:8 Then let them take a young bullock with his meat offering, even fine flour mingled with oil, and another young bullock shalt thou take for a sin offering. (KJV)

I believe the reason we are not told the exact pattern how the beaten gold flowers were to be crafted is an example for how God works in our lives. God has a particular plan and pattern designed for each of us in our walk with the Lord. Even though each of us is different, and our calling before the Lord is different, some being ministers, others teachers, etc, God has a particular pattern for our lives one which will bring glory and honor to Him and his Holy Name. So, Just like Israel in the desert, God is directing and leading our lives if we allow him too.

Numbers 9:15-22

9:15 And on the day that the tabernacle was reared up the cloud covered the tabernacle, namely, the tent of the testimony: and at even there was upon the tabernacle as it were the appearance of fire, until the morning. 9:16 So it was alway: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night. 9:17 And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel pitched their tents. 9:18 At the commandment of the LORD the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the LORD they pitched: as long as the cloud abode upon the tabernacle they rested in their tents. 9:19 And when the cloud tarried long upon the tabernacle many days, then the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD, and journeyed not. 9:20 And so it was, when the cloud was a few days upon the tabernacle; according to the commandment of the LORD they abode in their tents, and according to the commandment of the LORD they journeyed. 9:21 And so it was, when the cloud abode from even unto the morning, and that the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they journeyed: whether it was by day or by night that the cloud was taken up, they journeyed. 9:22 Or whether it were two days, or a month, or a year, that the cloud tarried upon the tabernacle, remaining thereon, the children of Israel abode in their tents, and journeyed not: but when it was taken up, they journeyed. (KJV)

In the Torah, God is actively leading Israel from one place to the next as they journey through the desert. In the same way God works in our lives as believers in Yeshua Hamoshiach. The Lord caused the children of Israel to tarry in one place in the wilderness sometimes for a month, sometimes for a year, and in our lives, sometimes it takes a lifetime before we realize our issues and sins. This journey of life is not easy, a lot of things I know I should not do, I do and the results are not good. For example, if I watch something on television that causes me to have impure thoughts, or want to slack in reading the Word of God. The Lord will convict me, and humble me, and show me what area in my life needs addressing and this can come with a heavy price (depending upon my stubbornness to listen to the Holy Spirit). Sometimes God takes drastic measures which can cause me to want to complain. When I complain to others, I am also complaining to the Lord like the Children of Israel. Complaining is a big problem, because it is a heart issue. Our hearts should be focused upon the Lord and serving him and others, not upon ourselves and how bad we may have it or assume to have it in our life. Hashem shows us the gravity of the problem by two examples in Parashat Beha'alotkha, (i) the Lord burned in the midst of Israel where some died and (ii) Miriam was made leprous because of her complaining.

Numbers 11:1-11

11:1 And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp. 11:2 And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched. 11:3 And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the LORD burnt among them. 11:4 And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? 11:5 We remember the fish, which

we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: 11:6 But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes. 11:7 And the manna was as coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium. 11:8 And the people went about, and gathered it, and ground it in mills, or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil. 11:9 And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it. 11:10 Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased. 11:11 And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me? (KJV)

Numbers 12:5-16

12:5 And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. 12:6 And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. 12:7 My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. 12:8 With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses? 12:9 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed. 12:10 And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous. 12:11 And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. 12:12 Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb. 12:13 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee. 12:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again. 12:15 And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again. 12:16 And afterward the people removed from Hazeroth, and pitched in the wilderness of Paran. (KJV)

The Lord does not like a complaining heart, and one of the easiest things to do is to complain because it seemingly does not hurt others, however it demonstrates a deeper spiritual issue. The apostle Paul puts it this way in the book of Philippians, (i) do not do things through strife and vain glory, (ii) do not look on your own things, but be concerned for others, (iii) have the mind of Yeshua Hamoshiach, (iv) God is working in you to do his good pleasure and (v) do not complain or murmur but be blameless in the midst of a perverse nation and shine as a light to the world.

Philippians 2:2-15

2:2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in

Christ Jesus: 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; (KJV)

Remember we serve a Holy God, and are children of the Most High God through faith in Yeshua Hamoshiach. However, though we are children of God, we also serve an awesome and fearsome God. It should be our hearts desire to serve the Lord, and doing so by offering our bodies in service to the Lord. This is done by consciously living and leading our lives as God would want us to in humility and humbleness. If we do not actively live our lives for the Lord, rest assured, He will humble you by drastic means to get your attention. It is up to you which path you will walk, the easy path (your consciously and actively walking in God's ways), or the difficult road (God humbling you through any means possible).

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:

Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
"Yeshua" King Messiah for ever and ever