

Parashat Beshalach / פרשת בשלח

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Bread from Heaven

This Weeks Reading List:

Torah: Exodus 13:17-17:16

Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31

B'rit HaChadashah: John 6:15-71

In this week's Torah portion HaShem provides bread and meat for beni-Yisrael (the children of Israel) and so I would like to talk about the use of "bread" that we find in the scriptures. Bread has been one of the foremost foods throughout history. Whether made from wheat, rye, barley, millet, rice, or even potato flour, it has been a basic part of life for all people throughout the world. In the Torah we find that bread also has spiritual, ceremonial, and sacrificial implications of great significance. In Parashat Beshlach we find bread is introduced as manna, Hashem's gift from Heaven.

Exodus 16:15-32

16:15 When the people of Isra'el saw it, they asked each other, "Man hu? [What is it?]"because they didn't know what it was. Moshe answered them, "It is the bread which ADONAI has given you to eat. 16:16 Here is what ADONAI has ordered: each man is to gather according to his appetite - each is to take an 'omer [two quarts] per person for everyone in his tent." 16:17 The people of Isra'el did this. Some gathered more, some less; 16:18 but when they put it in an 'omer-measure, whoever had gathered much had no excess; and whoever had gathered little had no shortage; nevertheless each person had gathered according to his appetite. 16:19 Moshe told them, "No one is to leave any of it till morning." 16:20 But they didn't pay attention to Moshe, and some kept the leftovers until morning. It bred worms and rotted, which made Moshe angry at them. 16:21 So they gathered it morning after morning, each person according to his appetite; but as the sun grew hot, it melted. 16:22 On the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two 'omers per person; and all the community leaders came and reported to Moshe. 16:23 He told them, "This is what ADONAI has said: 'Tomorrow is a holy Shabbat for ADONAI. Bake what you want to bake; boil what you want to boil; and whatever is left over, set aside and keep for the morning.'" 16:24 They set it aside till morning, as Moshe had ordered; and it didn't rot or have worms. 16:25 Moshe said, "Today, eat that; because today is a Shabbat for ADONAI - today you won't find it in the field. 16:26 Gather it six days, but the seventh day is the Shabbat - on that day there won't be any." 16:27 However, on the seventh day, some of the people went out to gather and found none. 16:28 ADONAI said to

Moshe, "How long will you refuse to observe my mitzvot and teachings? 16:29 Look, ADONAI has given you the Shabbat. This is why he is providing bread for two days on the sixth day. Each of you, stay where you are; no one is to leave his place on the seventh day." 16:30 So the people rested on the seventh day. 16:31 The people called the food man. It was like coriander seed, white; and it tasted like honey cakes. 16:32 Moshe said, "Here is what ADONAI has ordered: 'Let two quarts of man be kept through all your generations, so that they will be able to see the bread which I fed you in the desert when I brought you out of Egypt.'"

. In these sections of verses we find a rich reservoir of religious symbolism, historical tradition, and cultural associations. On the surface we find HaShem giving beni-Yisrael manna from heaven. But, if we look a little closer we find something interesting in the response of the people when they first see the manna upon the ground.

שמות 16:14-15

14 סָבִיב לַמַּחֲנֶה: וַתַּעַל שִׁכְבַּת הַטֶּל וְהָיָה עַל-פְּנֵי הַמִּדְבָּר בַּקֶּץ
15 מַחֲסָפִים בַּקֶּץ עַל-הָאָרֶץ: וַיֵּרְאוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ
אֶל-אָחִיו מִן הוּא כִּי לֹא יָדָע מַה-הוּא וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֲלֵהֶם
16 הוּא הַלֶּחֶם אֲשֶׁר נָתַן יְהוָה לָכֶם לֶאֱכֹלָהּ: זֶה הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר

Upon seeing the manna on the ground the people say: “Ma Hu” which means “what is He.” Now my question is who is “He” this is referring too? This among many others is a Remez (hint) of great significance in the Torah. Next, let’s look in the gospel of John chapter 6 where Yeshua explains who it is these verses are referring too.

יוחנן 6:31-32

אָבוֹתֵינוּ אָכְלוּ אֶת-הֶמֶן בַּמִּדְבָּר כִּפְתוּב לָחֶם שָׁמַיִם נָתַן-לָמוּ לֶאֱכֹל:
וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם יֵשׁוּעַ אָמֵן אָמֵן אֲנִי אֵימַר לָכֶם מֹשֶׁה לֹא נָתַן לָכֶם לָחֶם
שָׁמַיִם כִּי אִם-אָבִי נָתַן לָכֶם לָחֶם אֲמַת מִן-הַשָּׁמַיִם:

John 6:31-32

6:31 Our fathers ate man in the desert -- as it says in the Tanakh, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' 6:32 Yeshua said to them, "Yes, indeed! I tell you it wasn't Moshe who gave you the bread from heaven. But my Father is giving you the genuine bread from heaven; (CJB)

6:41 יוחנן

וַיִּלְנוּ עָלָיו הַיְהוּדִים עַל כִּי־אָמַר אָנֹכִי הוּא לֶחֶם הַיָּרֵד מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם:

John 6:41

6:41 At this the Judeans began grumbling about him because he said, "I am the bread which has come down from heaven." (CJB)

6:41 יוחנן

זֶה הוּא הַלֶּחֶם הַיָּרֵד מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם לְבַעֲבוֹר יִאֲכַל־אָדָם מִמֶּנּוּ וְלֹא יָמוּת:

John 6:50

6:50 But the bread that comes down from heaven is such that a person may eat it and not die. (CJB)

6:41 יוחנן

זֶה הוּא הַלֶּחֶם הַיָּרֵד מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם לֹא כַּמֶּן אֲשֶׁר אָכְלוּ אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם וּמָתוּ הֲאֵל כֹּל מִן־הַלֶּחֶם הַזֶּה יִחְיֶה לְעוֹלָם:

John 6:58

6:58 So this is the bread that has come down from heaven -- it is not like the bread the fathers ate; they're dead, but whoever eats this bread will live forever!" (CJB)

For beni-Yisrael, the unleavened bread was a reminder of fleeing from Mitzrayim (Egypt) to a new life in Eretz Canaan the Promised Land. The manna from Heaven preserved beni-Yisrael's life during their journey through the wilderness and in the Temple, the showbread reminded Yisrael that HaShem was the provider and sustainer of their earthly lives. Yeshua challenged the people to see the historical significance of the bread from Heaven; being the true bread from Heaven. Yeshua showed that the meaning of ancient traditions can be superseded by a new and eternal revelation.

Hebrews 8:1-10

8:1 Here is the whole point of what we have been saying: we do have just such a cohen gadol as has been described. And he does sit at the right hand of HaG'dulah in heaven. 8:2 There he serves in the Holy Place, that is, in the true Tent of Meeting, the one erected not by human beings but by ADONAI. 8:3 For every cohen gadol is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so this cohen gadol too has to have something he can offer. 8:4 Now if he were on earth, he wouldn't be a cohen at all, since there already are cohanim offering the gifts required by the Torah. 8:5 But what they are serving is only a copy and shadow of the heavenly original; for when Moshe was about to erect the Tent, God warned him, "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern you

were shown on the mountain." 8:6 But now the work Yeshua has been given to do is far superior to theirs, just as the covenant he mediates is better. For this covenant has been given as Torah on the basis of better promises. 8:7 Indeed, if the first covenant had not given ground for faultfinding, there would have been no need for a second one. 8:8 For God does find fault with the people when he says, "'See! The days are coming,' says ADONAI, 'when I will establish over the house of Isra'el and over the house of Y'hudah a new covenant. 8:9 "It will not be like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by their hand and led them forth out of the land of Egypt; because they, for their part, did not remain faithful to my covenant; so I, for my part, stopped concerning myself with them,' says ADONAI. 8:10 "'For this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Isra'el after those days,' says ADONAI: 'I will put my Torah in their minds and write it on their hearts; I will be their God, and they will be my people. (CJB)

HaShem made a new covenant with His people in Yeshua's blood so today all peoples and all nations can be blessed in Him. I count myself among the blessed of Yeshua for I know I am a doer of His Word and Obey His Word and most of all by faith in HaShem's Messiah Yeshua.

Are you a doer of His Word and are you Obeying His Word?

If you have a desire for a closer relationship with HaShem you can do so by repenting and then following Yeshua; by doing so you too can become a doer of His Word and be blessed in the assurance of your salvation.

Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:

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