

פרשיות חקת / Parashat Chukat

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32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of G-d
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HaShem Works Behind the Scenes

השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Numbers 19:1-22:1

הפטרה: Judges 11:1-33

הברית: John 3:10-21 Hebrews 9:11-28

החדשה

10 In this week's reading, *Bamidbar / Numbers 21:11-22:1*, the children of Yisrael go to war against Sihon the king of the Amorites. After Yisrael conquered Sihon a proverb was written about Heshbon.

Bamidbar / Numbers 21:27-30

15 *21:27 Therefore those who use proverbs say, 'Come to Heshbon! Let it be built! So let the city of Sihon be established. 21:28 'For a fire went forth from Heshbon, A flame from the town of Sihon; It devoured Ar of Moab, The dominant heights of the Arnon. 21:29 'Woe to you, O Moab! You are ruined, O people of Chemosh! He has given his sons as fugitives, And his daughters into captivity, To an Amorite king, Sihon. 21:30 'But we have cast them down, Heshbon is ruined as far as Dibon, Then we have laid waste even to Nophah, Which reaches to Medeba.'*

25 The proverb interestingly attributes the destruction of Moab and the people going into captivity to Chemosh. Chemosh was the god of the Moabites. The word Chemosh meant the destroyer or subdue. According to the scriptures the worship of this god was called "the abomination of Moab" and was introduced at Jerusalem by King Solomon (see *1 Kings 11:7*) and later abolished by Josiah (see *2 Kings 23:13*). The people worship the abomination of Moab (Chemosh) when unknowingly their god is working to deliver them into captivity. I believe there is a literary parallel that may be used here to show how the gods of the nations operate and how HaShem works.

30 Later on in the Torah, Og went out to make war against Yisrael. HaShem said to Moshe "do not fear him, for into your hand have I given him and his entire people and his land, and you shall do to him as you did to Sihon King of the Amorites who dwells in Heshbon" (see *Devarim / Deuteronomy 3:1*). Here HaShem is making a connection between Sihon and Og. These are words of encouragement and assurance that Yisrael will defeat Og. The understanding is that if Heshbon had remained in their fortress it would have been very difficult to defeat the people. However, HaShem placed it in their hearts to leave their fortress so that Yisrael could defeat Heshbon. The miracle of the defeat of Sihon indicates that (i) HaShem does not perform a miracle for no reason and (ii) HaShem is working in the background for future purposes. Though we may not

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במדבר 21:21-30

21 וישלח ישראל מלאכים אל־סיחון מלך־האמרי לאמר:
 22 אעברה בארצה לא נטה בשדה ובכרם לא נשתה מי
 23 באר בדרך המלך נלך עד אשר־נעבר נבלה: ולא־נתן
 סיחון את־ישראל עבר בנבלו ויאסף סיחון את־כל־עמו
 ויצא לקראת ישראל המדברה ויבא יהצה וילחם
 24 בישראל: ויבהו ישראל לפי־הרב ויירש את־ארצו
 25 מארנן עד־נבק עד־בני עמון כי עו נביל בני עמון: ויקח
 ישראל את כל־הערים האלה וישב ישראל בכל־ערי
 26 האמרי בחשבון ובכל־בנתיה: כי חשבון עיר סיחון
 מלך האמרי הוא והוא נלחם במלך מואב הראשון
 27 ויקח את־כל־ארצו מידו עד־ארנן: על־כן ואמרו
 28 המשלים באו חשבון תבנה ותבונן עיר סיחון: כי־אש
 יצאה מחשבון להבה מקרית סיחון אכלה ער מואב
 29 בעלי במות ארנן: או־ילך מואב אבדת עס־כמוש
 נתן בניו פליטם ובנתיו בשבית למלך אמרי סיחון:
 30 ונירם אבד חשבון עדי־דיבן ונשים עד־נפח אשר עד
 31 מידבא: וישב ישראל בארץ האמרי: וישלח משה
 32 לרגל את־יעזר וילכדו ויבנתיה ויירש את־האמרי אשר
 33 שם: ויפנו ויעלו הדרך הבשן ויצא עוג מלך־הבשן

Bamidbar / Numbers 21:21-30

21:21 Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon, king of the Amorites, saying, 21:22 'Let me pass through your land. We will not turn off into field or vineyard; we will not drink water from wells. We will go by the king's highway until we have passed through your border.' 21:23 But Sihon would not permit Israel to pass through his border. So Sihon gathered all his people and went out against Israel in the wilderness, and came to Jahaz and fought against Israel. 21:24 Then Israel struck him with the edge of the sword, and took possession of his land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, as far as the sons of Ammon; for the border of the sons of Ammon was Jazer. 21:25 Israel took all these cities and Israel lived in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all her villages. 21:26 For Heshbon was the city of Sihon, king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab and had taken all his land out of his hand, as far as the Arnon. 21:27 Therefore those who use proverbs say, 'Come to Heshbon! Let it be built! So let the city of Sihon be established. 21:28 'For a fire went forth from Heshbon, A flame from the town of Sihon; It devoured Ar of Moab, The dominant heights of the Arnon. 21:29 'Woe to you, O Moab! You are ruined, O people of Chemosh! He has given his sons as fugitives, And his daughters into captivity, To an Amorite king, Sihon. 21:30 'But we have cast them down, Heshbon is ruined as far as Dibon, Then we have laid waste even to Nophah, Which reaches to Medeba.' (NASB)

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The defeat of Heshbon was a miracle, and reading further in the Torah we find that it becomes a source of great encouragement for Yisrael. This is one example of G-d working behind the scenes. There are many instances in the scriptures where G-d has been involved in working behind the scenes (i.e. the book of Esther). The story of how the Hebrew people were delivered from slavery and entering into the promise land is an awesome account but does it have any connection to our world today? Our lives can be touched with purpose and meaning by reading about our role in G-d's design and kingdom. Here in the text for this week we find G-d is working behind the scenes to deliver the Promised Land into the hands of the Hebrew people. What we need to realize from the scriptures is that G-d is also working in our lives behind the scenes to help us through our trials and troubles. Another thing we need to consider is having the right attitude.

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65 Our attitude is most important aspect of our life and having a successful
relationship with the Lord, regardless whether we feel blessings are flowing
around us or not. If we do not have the right attitude we lose something very
important in our relationship with G-d. We lose the intimate discourse we have
between our spirit and the Lord. Attitude was very important in these last few
parshiot in the Torah. The attitude was what had caused Yisrael to remain 40
70 years in the desert, caused death, and plagues to come upon the children of
Yisrael. Having the right attitude and heart towards what HaShem is working out
in our lives can result in either success or failure. Think on this: *Mishley /
Proverbs 15:15 All the days of the afflicted are bad, But a cheerful heart has a
continual feast. (NASB)* A cheerful heart has a continual feast. A feast suggests a
75 large meal, a plentiful supply for the heart. The attitude we have generates
contentment in what we have been given and assurance that G-d is working on
our behalf. G-d loves us and desires to help us (i.e. sending Yeshua the Messiah)
therefore it is very important to behave as if the Lord will help you and not as if
He doesn't exist. The right heart attitude follows through with faith and faith
80 always looks for the positive results in what the Lord desires to teach us. Each
morning when we get up we should pray in order to ask the Lord to help us to see
the blessings he has for us today so that we can have a successful day serving
Him.

85 Heavenly Father,

Please help me to see the blessings you have given me. I struggle with
many things in life but I know you are there with me. Thank you for providing
for me such a wonderful salvation in Yeshua the Messiah.

90 In Yeshua's Name I Pray. Amen.

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100 **Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!**

105 הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:
Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
"Yeshua" King Messiah forever and ever