

Parashas Beshalach – Shabbos Shira – Avi Friedwald

י"ז שבט תשפ"א - 30th January 2021 - שבת פר' בשלח

נִשְׁמְעוּ עַמִּים יִרְגְּזוּן חֵיל אֲחֻז יִשְׁבֵי פְלִשְׁתִּים: אֶז נִבְהַלּוּ אֲלוֹפֵי אֲדוֹם אֵילֵי מוֹאָב יִאֲחַזְמוּ רָעַד, נִמְלְגוּ כָּל יִשְׁבֵי כְנָעַן: תִּפֹּל עֲלֵיהֶם אֵיקְתָהּ וּפְחַד, בְּגִדְל זְרוּעֶךָ יִדְמוּ כְּאֶבֶן עַד-יַעֲבֹר עִמָּךָ ה' עַד-יַעֲבֹר עִמָּךָ קְנִיית:

*The peoples hear, **they tremble**; Agony grips the dwellers in Philistia. Now are the clans of Edom **dismayed**; The tribes of Moab—**trembling grips them**; All the dwellers in Canaan **are aghast**. **Terror and dread descend upon them**; Through the might of Your arm **they are still as stone**—Till Your people cross over, O LORD, Till Your people cross whom You have ransomed. (Shemos 15:14-16 – JPS translation)*

The Torah uses a number of very powerful expressions, describing how the surrounding nations were struck with fear over the news of *Krias Yam Suf*.

The *Zera Shimshon* (Beshalach 8) asks – why specifically at this point were the nations afraid of Hashem? Surely the ten plagues should have been sufficient to frighten any nation who thought it would be a good idea to start up with the Bnei Yisroel?

He answers that up until this point – the nations assumed that the reason Hashem took the Bnei Yisroel out of Mitzrayim was solely because Hashem had promised this to Avrohom Ovinu at the Bris Bein Habesorim. They felt that once Hashem had fulfilled His promise – any further miracles would be dependent on Bnei Yisroel's merit.

The Midrash tells us that the Bnei Yisroel still hadn't fully forsaken idolatry – and they carried the *Pesel Michah* (Michah's idol) through the Yam Suf.

That Hashem would split the sea and wipe out the Egyptian nation, when the Jewish people were still not worthy was not something they had anticipated. This made the nations realise that Hashem's love for the Jewish people is one of unconditional love – rather than dependent on anything and that's what made them so afraid.

May Hashem continue to shower us with His unconditional love – and may we merit for Him to remove the current *Mageifo* from amongst us – and bring the ultimate redemption speedily in our time!

Written in honour of our beloved son Yehoshua Simcha, who was born on the third day of Pesach 5780.

*This dvar torah is a summary of an English parsha shiur given in Eretz Yisroel this week, based on the **Sefer Zera Shimshon**. The author of this sefer in his introduction gives an amazing promise of beautiful brochos to those who learn from it.*

*This weekly shiur, as well as many others can be heard on **Kol Zera Shimshon**:
London: 0333-300-2515 / **Israel:** 02-80-80-600 or 0732-951-727 / **USA:** 929-254-0772 or 716-229-4808*