

KOLLEL AGUDATH ACHIM

Rosh Kollel

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PARASHAT BESHALACH-2022

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“FOOD CAN BE A TEST OF RELIGIOSITY”

Our parasha tells us that the heavenly food, the *mahn*, was G-d's way of testing our people. “Vayomer HaShem El Moshe, behold, I will rain down on you bread from heaven and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, so that I may test them [16:4]. What kind of test did the *mahn* involve. Rashi states that it would be to see if we will follow G-d's instructions of not gathering more than our daily needs and if we would refrain from gathering food on Shabbat.

Ramban writes that it was a trial for them not to have food they were used to. Although the *mahn* provided daily food to satisfy the needs of the Jewish people, it involved an element of emotional trauma. Despite the fact that the Jews had never seen this kind of food before, they were expected to depend only upon the *mahn* for sustenance.

The Rav saw this differently; it had nothing to do with psychological trauma. Since the Jews would effortlessly obtain their food, they were left with little challenge to sustain their families. The test that the Torah speaks of is how would they choose to use their leisure time--would it be wasted or used wisely?

Often we believe that life's tests involve suffering- and to overcome difficult challenges. But we learn from here about another type of life's tests. At times we are tested precisely when things do go well. When we are healthy and succeed, will we properly acknowledge it as a gift from G-d? When we have time on our hands, will we try to intensify our commitments to G-d by studying more Torah and doing more chesed? When we have money, will it be for noble purposes?

Thus, the *mahn* was a test. Not necessarily a test of suffering, but because it made life-easier. In our times, when we are living in “relative” prosperity, will we remember that it's precisely now, with *mahn* falling from heaven, that we face a most challenging test? How many of us are learning more Torah than before? How much more chesed are we doing now than before? Enjoying longevity, relatively good health, and parnasah is not only a blessing, but also a demand to do more. I do hope we pass our spiritual tests with high grades.

Shabbat Shalom From Yerushalayim,

Rosh Kollel,

Rabbi Aharon Ziegler

PARASHAT BESHALACH-QUESTIONS- 2022 , 5722

- 1- THE TORAH ,IN OUR PARASHA , DESCRIBES 3 WAYS THE WAY THE EGYPTIANS WILL DROWN. LIKE STONE IS ONE. WHAT ARE THE OTHER TWO???
- 2- Which of the three is considered the harshest, the most severe punishment, and , which is regarded as the most lenient punishment??
- 3- What did Miriam add to Moshe's praises to Ha Shem?
- 4-Cha"zal learned from pesukim in our Parasha,. That it is not good to have three days go by without any torah learning or reading. From which pesukim did they learn this concept?
- 5-From where in our Parasha do we learn the concept of preparing on Fridays "Lechem Mishneh" , a double portion of bread for Shabbat Kodesh?
- 6=From which Pasuk in our parasha do we derive the concept of eating three meals on Shabbat?
- 7- How do we know that the "Mon" did not fall on Shabbat?
- 8-From where in our Parasha do we learn that walking more than 2,000 Amot out of city limits is prohibited on Shabbat?