

February 4 2023

Aleph Tav In The Wilderness

In this week's Parshah Beshalach we read of the Exodus from Egypt actually happening. The 10 plagues of judgment have been inflicted upon Egypt, the world power of this time. A type of judgment upon the world so to speak. A foreshadowing of what is revealed to us in Revelation.

Leading up to the Exodus and the Passover it is revealed to us what the 10th and final plague will be. It starts with the selection of the lamb that will be used.

Exo 12:3 Speak to all the assembly of Isra'el and say, 'On the tenth day of this month, each man is to take a lamb or kid for his family, one per household—

Exo 12:4 except that if the household is too small for a whole lamb or kid, then he and his next-door neighbor should share one, dividing it in proportion to the number of people eating it.

Exo 12:5 Your animal must be without defect, a male in its first year, and you may choose it from either the sheep or the goats.

Exo 12:6 " 'You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of the month, and then the entire assembly of the community of Isra'el will slaughter it at dusk.

Dusk is just before the sunset when the light of the sun is fading and we are entering into evening hence the next day.

The 10th plague was sent on the 15th day of the first month...

Exo 12:29 At midnight Adonai killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh sitting on his throne to the firstborn of the prisoner in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock.

Exo 12:30 Pharaoh got up in the night, he, all his servants and all the Egyptians; and there was horrendous wailing in Egypt; for there wasn't a single house without someone dead in it.

Exo 12:31 He summoned Moshe and Aharon by night and said, "Up and leave my people, both you and the people of Isra'el; and go, serve Adonai as you said.

Exo 12:32 Take both your flocks and your herds, as you said; and get out of here! But bless me, too."

which led to the Children of Israel leaving Egypt on that day..

Exo 12:33 The Egyptians pressed to send the people out of the land quickly,

because they said, "Otherwise we'll all be dead!"

Exo 12:34 The people took their dough before it had become leavened and wrapped their kneading bowls in their clothes on their shoulders.

Exo 12:35 The people of Isra'el had done what Moshe had said—they had asked the Egyptians to give them silver and gold jewelry and clothing;

Exo 12:36 and Adonai had made the Egyptians so favorably disposed toward the people that they had let them have whatever they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

Exo 12:37 The people of Isra'el traveled from Ra`amses to Sukkot, some six hundred thousand men on foot, not counting children.

Exo 12:38 A mixed crowd also went up with them, as well as livestock in large numbers, both flocks and herds.

All of this happened in the span of two biblical days and less than 24 hours. Upon the infliction of the 10th plague at midnight Pharaoh and the people pressured them to leave quickly for fear they might die also. It was prophesied that night...

Exo 12:11 " 'Here is how you are to eat it: with your belt fastened, your shoes on your feet and your staff in your hand; and you are to eat it hurriedly. It is Adonai's Pesach [*Passover*].

Exo 12:12 For that night, I will pass through the land of Egypt and kill all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both men and animals; and I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt; I am Adonai.

That night is now the 15th day.

The Exodus is occurring as the children of Israel leave the land of their slavery.

The Passover Lamb was slaughtered at dusk on the 14th day of the first month. We begin this Parshah with the memorializing of the day of the Exodus.

Exo 13:3 Moshe said to the people, "Remember this day, on which you left Egypt, the abode of slavery; because Adonai, by the strength of his hand, has brought you out of this place. Do not eat hametz.

Exo 13:4 You are leaving today, in the month of Aviv.

Exo 13:5 When Adonai brings you into the land of the Kena`ani, Hitti, Emori, Hivi and Y'vusi, which he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you are to observe this ceremony in this month.

Exo 13:6 For seven days you are to eat matzah, and the seventh day is to be a festival for Adonai.

Exo 13:7 Matzah is to be eaten throughout the seven days; neither hametz nor

leavening agents are to be seen with you throughout your territory.

A memorialization is occurring in the midst of the day the Exodus is occurring.

This Parshah will introduce us to many aspects of Adonai the first of which are the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire.

Exo 13:21 Adonai went ahead of them in a column of cloud during the daytime to lead them on their way, and at night in a column of fire to give them light; thus they could travel both by day and by night.

Exo 13:22 Neither the column of cloud by day nor the column of fire at night went away from in front of the people.

Adonai resided in the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire. His presence was with the people as He would lead them away from Egypt.

The Exodus from Egypt is an end to one aspect of Israel's life but it is also a beginning as well. Yet this end has not come to its full conclusion yet. Egypt has been figuratively brought to its knees but it has not been broken as we witness Adonai causing Pharaoh's heart to harden. Did Adonai actually cause it to harden or did He allow Pharaoh to be himself and thus his true nature came forth?

Exo 14:4 I will make Pharaoh so hardhearted that he will pursue them; thus I will win glory for myself at the expense of Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will realize at last that I am Adonai." The people did as ordered.

Did Adonai feed Pharaoh thoughts with anger and animosity thus fueling his rage and response?

Ultimately we don't know how Adonai actually hardens one's heart, needless to say the purpose was establish Himself as Israel's God.

We see the result of what Adonai would do as it is revealed by Pharaoh's action and response.

Exo 14:8 Adonai made Pharaoh hardhearted, and he pursued the people of Isra'el, as they left boldly.

Exo 14:9 The Egyptians went after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, with his cavalry and army, and overtook them as they were encamped by the sea, by Pi-Hachiroth, in front of Ba`al-Tz'fon

The chase is on. An all out pursuit of "their property" has been commissioned and lead by Pharaoh. The pride of a man and ultimately a nation is now on display here.

Pro 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and arrogance before failure.

Pro 18:12 Before being ruined, a person's heart is proud; before being honored, a person must be humble.

Then there is the response of the people Adonai through Moshe is leading. Upon seeing the Egyptians pursuit of them, they turn to Moshe and respond...

Exo 14:12 Didn't we tell you in Egypt to let us alone, we'll just go on being slaves for the Egyptians? It would be better for us to be the Egyptians' slaves than to die in the desert!"

Equally as destructive as pride is fear. Both are absent what is truly required of one who follows Adonai...FAITH. The people are babies in their relationship with Adonai and have not fully experienced His power and presence. They witnessed the infliction of the 10 plagues upon Egypt and "His outstretched arm" leading to being released from Egyptian slavery. Yet Adonai continues to reveal more and more of Himself, thus establishing a path that will ultimately lead to faith.

Exo 14:13 Moshe answered the people, "Stop being so fearful! Remain steady, and you will see how Adonai is going to save you. He will do it today—today you have seen the Egyptians, but you will never see them again!"

Exo 14:14 Adonai will do battle for you. Just calm yourselves down!"

Consider Sha'ul's first letter to believers in Corinth...

1Co 3:1 As for me, brothers, I couldn't talk to you as spiritual people but as worldly people, as babies, so far as experience with the Messiah is concerned.

1Co 3:2 I gave you milk, not solid food, because you were not yet ready for it. But you aren't ready for it now either!

1Co 3:3 For you are still worldly! Isn't it obvious from all the jealousy and quarrelling among you that you are worldly and living by merely human standards?

The people are infants in their understanding of Adonai and as such revert back to what they do understand. Even the harshness of slavery appeared to be better than freedom in the wilderness. They were in the midst of the journey and didn't know what was in store for them. For some this can be frightening and debilitating. For some it is an exciting adventure. For those in the midst it is the former.

Relate your journey as a believer when you first came to faith. Now look at

where you are today.

What has changed?

You know more about Adonai and Yeshua then you did when you first started. An end leading to a beginning.

Thus Adonai continues to reveal Himself to us in many ways that we are able to relate and understand, thus truly build our faith. What is occurring here in the wilderness is case in point. The people would experience the next wonder of Adonai.

Stuck, on one side by a sea and the other by the pursuit of their enemy, one would conclude there was no way out and thus Israel would be heading back to Egypt. This where one's faith is tested, in the midst of challenge, hopelessness and pending defeat, One might call this seeking a miracle, while what it really is, is Adonai moving a mountain...

Mat 17:19 Then the talmidim went to him privately and said, "Why couldn't we drive it (the demon) out?"

Mat 17:20 He said to them, "Because you have such little trust! Yes! I tell you that if you have trust as tiny as a mustard seed, you will be able to say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there!' and it will move; indeed, nothing will be impossible for you!"

The children of Israel have not yet come to trust Adonai. Many will struggle with this in the wilderness while many believers today still struggle with this trust. Here you have the people actually experiencing first hand the power and might of Adonai. The cliché...Seeing is believing" does not ring true for all. Yet, this is the very foundation of faith...

Heb 11:1 Trusting is being confident of what we hope for, convinced about things we do not see.

Heb 11:2 It was for this that Scripture attested the merit of the people of old.

Heb 11:3 By trusting, we understand that the universe was created through a spoken word of God, so that what is seen did not come into being out of existing phenomena.

When Adonai speaks, do you listen?

Exo 14:15 Adonai asked Moshe, "Why are you crying to me? Tell the people of Isra'el to go forward!"

Exo 14:16 Lift your staff, reach out with your hand over the sea, and divide it in

two. The people of Isra'el will advance into the sea on dry ground.

Exo 14:17 As for me, I will make the Egyptians hardhearted; and they will march in after them; thus I will win glory for myself at the expense of Pharaoh and all his army, chariots and cavalry.

Exo 14:18 Then the Egyptians will realize that I am Adonai, when I have won myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, his chariots and his cavalry."

Adonai is not lax in action for what He says, He does.

Exo 14:19 Next, the angel of God, who was going ahead of the camp of Isra'el, moved away and went behind them; and the column of cloud moved away from in front of them and stood behind them.

Exo 14:20 It stationed itself between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Isra'el —there was cloud and darkness here, but light by night there; so that the one did not come near the other all night long.

Exo 14:21 Moshe reached his hand out over the sea, and Adonai caused the sea to go back before a strong east wind all night. He made the sea become dry land, and its water was divided in two.

Exo 14:22 Then the people of Isra'el went into the sea on the dry ground, with the water walled up for them on their right and on their left.

Exo 14:23 The Egyptians continued their pursuit, going after them into the sea—all Pharaoh's horses, chariots and cavalry.

Exo 14:24 Just before dawn, Adonai looked out on the Egyptian army through the column of fire and cloud and threw them into a panic.

In this passage we see all aspects of Adonai.

We directly see Adonai in the presence of Moshe, yet hidden by the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire.

It is my believe that the Angel of Adonai is a representation of the Ruach Ha Kodesh.

Hidden within the Hebrew text is the Aleph Tav in verses 23 and 24

Exo 14:24 Just before dawn, Adonai looked out on the Egyptian army through the column of fire and cloud and threw them into a (Aleph Tav) panic.

וַיְהִי בְּאַשְׁמֹרֶת הַבֹּקֶר וַיִּשְׁקֹף יְהוָה
אֶל־מַחְנֵה מִצְרַיִם בְּעֲמוּד אֵשׁ וְעָנָן
וַיִּקְהַם אֶת־מַחְנֵה מִצְרַיִם׃

Exo 14:25 He caused (Aleph Tav) the wheels of their chariots to break off, so that they could move only with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Adonai is fighting for Isra'el against the Egyptians! Let's get away from them!"

וַיִּסַּר אֶת־אֶפְסוֹן מִרֶכְבֹּתָיו וַיִּנְהַגְהוּ
בְּכִבְדָּת וַיֹּאמְרוּ מִצְרַיִם אָנוֹסָה מִפְּנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי יְהוָה נִלְחָם לָהֶם בְּמִצְרַיִם׃

Consider what the world will experience upon the return of Yeshua...

Rev 19:11 Next I saw heaven opened, and there before me was a white horse. Sitting on it was the one called Faithful and True, and it is in righteousness that he passes judgment and goes to battle.

Rev 19:12 His eyes were like a fiery flame, and on his head were many royal crowns. And he had a name written which no one knew but himself.

Rev 19:13 He was wearing a robe that had been soaked in blood, and the name by which he is called is, "THE WORD OF GOD."

Rev 19:14 The armies of heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

Rev 19:15 And out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down nations—"He will rule them with a staff of iron." It is he who treads the winepress from which flows the wine of the furious rage of Adonai, God of heaven's armies.

Rev 19:16 And on his robe and on his thigh he has a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

A direct response to the battle I had alluded to last week..

The King of the World (Pharaoh) vs. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords -

He goes to battle for us in many ways as is seen in this passage.

Let me conclude with the result of this encounter and a fourth way we see Adonai revealed to us...

Exo 14:26 Adonai said to Moshe, "Reach your hand out over the sea, and the water will return and cover the Egyptians with their chariots and cavalry."

Exo 14:27 Moshe reached his hand out over the sea, and by dawn the sea had returned to its former depth. The Egyptians tried to flee, but Adonai swept them into the sea.

Exo 14:28 The water came back and covered all the chariots and cavalry of Pharaoh's army who had followed them into the sea—not even one of them was left.

Exo 14:29 But the people of Isra'el walked on dry ground in the sea, with the water walled up for them on their right and on their left.

Exo 14:30 On that day, Adonai saved Isra'el from the Egyptians; Isra'el saw the Egyptians dead on the shore.

Exo 14:31 When Isra'el saw the mighty deed that Adonai had performed against the Egyptians, the people feared Adonai, and they believed in Adonai and in his servant Moshe.

A king and nation defeated, witnessed by the children of Israel. What appeared to be a hopeless situation turned into the final nail in the coffin of a fledgling nations task master.

For in this victory Adonai reveals to us...

Exo 15:1 Then Moshe and the people of Isra'el sang this song to Adonai: "I will sing to Adonai, for he is highly exalted: the horse and its rider he threw in the sea.

Exo 15:2 Yah is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. This is my God: I will glorify him; my father's God: I will exalt him.

The Hebrew word for Salvation is Yeshua. Is found in 115 verses of the Tanakh.

If you take anything away from today's message, take this with you...

- Faith not only comes by hearing the Word of Adonai, but by living according to the Word of Adonai. Hearing and Doing
- This Parshah contains the Promise of Adonai, the Presence of Adonai in His fullness and the Power of Adonai.