



MATTHEW 6

The Lilies of The Valley

Mount Horeb - Sinai

In our previous Shabbat reading we found the nation of Israel meeting Yitro the Father in-law in the wilderness. We learned that the bones of Joseph left with Moses from Egypt. The extraordinary story contains that YHVH gave Moses a Calendar marking the first day of the first month.

The Journey had histories lying behind and yet YHVH was about to meet the Israelites making a written Covenant with them. The journey took longer but there were some lessons to be learned on the way before they reach the promised land.

In life we do not know what lies ahead, but we cling to the hope that we reach our final destination. There will be ups and downs, times that we feel our faith is tested, but also time that YHVH will bring us back inline.

The Calendar was important because it will mark and pertain very important information that YHVH want the generations to remember and keep as a Holy convocation before Him.

Exodus 12:1-10-1-10

YHVH said to Moses and Aaron while still in Egypt, “This month is to be the first month of the year for you. Address the whole community of Israel; tell them that on the tenth of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one lamb to a house. If the family is too small for a lamb, then share it with a close neighbor, depending on the number of persons involved. Be mindful of how much each person will eat. Your lamb must be a healthy male, one year old; you can select it from either the sheep or the goats. Keep it penned until the fourteenth day of this month and then slaughter it—the entire community of Israel will do this—at dusk. Then take some of the blood and smear it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which you will eat it. You are to eat the meat, roasted in the fire, that night, along with bread, made without yeast, and bitter herbs. Don’t eat any of it raw or boiled in water; make sure it’s roasted—the whole animal, head, legs, and innards. Don’t leave any of it until morning; if there are leftovers, burn them in the fire.

Genesis 8:13

In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry .

With the Israelites leaving Egypt, the very first Passover occurred with the blood of the lambs as the Israelites protection. They left Egypt in a hurry and the bread they took upon the Journey were Unleavened

The following verse is so appreciate to remind the Israelites, not to conform to that what they have learned and experienced in Egypt but to see how YHVH made a new way, a new beginning.

Isaiah 43:18-19

“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.



The shortest distance between two points is a straight line, but it took 40 years for the Israelites to arrive at the Promised Land.

In life the initial directions for our journey may seem straightforward, we find that often it is rerouted, or “recalculated.”

The pillar of cloud mentioned in Scripture represented YHVH's presence being with the Israelites.

Exodus 13:20–22

And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness. And YHVH went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

In the original Hebrew, "amud ha'anán" literally means “pillar of cloud,” many referred to it as “Pillar of Defense.”

To get a better understanding to the “pillar of cloud” being known as “Pillar of Defense,” we need to return to biblical times when the children of Israel were leaving Egypt.

The Israelites came to the Red Sea being before them and the Egyptians behind them, they had nowhere to turn. Just before the miraculous parting of the Red Sea, we discover this miracle

Exodus 14:19

The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel . . .”

The pillar of cloud that had been guiding the Israelites by day moved to be behind them in order to protect them. All night long, the Egyptians came against the Israelites, but YHVH been their by His pillar of cloud.

Once we comprehend the Godly Holiness of YHVH we can understand the Supremacy and power of YHVH.

Moses, Aaron, and Samuel would call out to YHVH, and He would answer them through the pillar of cloud that resided within the Tabernacle, the temporary Dwelling of YHVH.

The pillar of cloud was a conduit through which these holy men that YHVH appointed for His purpose could access divine guidance and then they would follow it.

YHVH was able to harden Pharaoh's heart to enable the Israelites go. Nothing is impossible for Him.

Increasing of faith takes time. We have options to follow and live a blessed life. YHVH seen and heard the prayers of the Israelites and the lesson they have learned was obedience lead them to greater miracles and blessings that they could even think of.

As YHVH moved with the Israelites, still many fallen short of their faith and murmured at all times. YHVH had a purpose but it required full cooperation of the entire nation to bring them to their destination.

We find their Journey a lesson in our life.

- **Rameses** Israel was forced out of Egypt (Exodus. 12; Number 33:5).
- **Succoth** After the Hebrews left this first campsite, YHVH attended them in a cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night (Exodus. 13:20–22).
- **Pi-hahiroth** Israel passed through the Red Sea (Exodus. 14; Numbers. 33:8).
- **Marah** YHVH healed the waters of Marah (Exodus. 15:23–26).
- **Elim** Israel camped by 12 springs (Exodus. 15:27).
- **Wilderness of Sin** YHVH sent manna and quail to feed Israel (Exodus. 16).
- **Rephidim** Israel fought with Amalek (Exodus. 17:8–16).
- **Mount Sinai (Mount Horeb or Jebel Musa)** YHVH revealed the Ten Commandments (Exodus. 19–20).
- **Sinai Wilderness** Israel constructed the tabernacle (Exodus. 25–30).

Because as YHVH communicated the Torah with Moses throughout the 40 years in the desert.

Moses was instructed to repeat and relay those teachings to the nation, since no one else was privy to those conversations.

However, the one exception to this was at Mount Sinai, as the entire nation of Israel was present and heard the Ten Commandments directly from God.

Just three full moons after witnessing the 10th plague leaving Egypt, the Israelites travel into the desert Sinai where they encamped at Mount Horeb. YHVH tells Moses to say to the house of Israel, “If you will obey Me faithfully and keep My covenant, you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples ... you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

After all, what we usually hear is *Vayedabeir Hashem el Moshe leimor* (and YHVH spoke to Moses, to say ...).

One of the unique aspects in the description of the revelation of the Ten Commandments was that there was no echo (Deuteronomy. 5:19).

Usually an echo signifies the power of a sound. However, an echo also tells us that there is a barrier the sound is bouncing off. A room with soft materials has less echo because the sound is being absorbed. The miracle of Sinai is that the voice was most powerful, it was a great voice, yet because we were there to hear its message, it penetrated every soul to its core, there was no rejection of its content and thus no echo.

YHVH commanded Moses to come up on the mountain to be near the presence of YHVH where He proclaims the Ten Commandments.

On the third day, there is booming thunder and flashes of lightning, there, they see a thick cloud over the mountain and hear a long, powerful blast of a shofar.

While it is hard to imagine how powerful this experience must have been for the Children of Israel, we get a glimpse of their fear. "You speak to us," they say to Moses, "and we will obey; but let not YHVH speak to us, lest we die."

When the ancient Israelites affirmed the covenant with YHVH, they chose to accept the challenge to become a “treasured people” and a “holy nation.”

We, their generations thereafter continue to foster that covenantal relationship, increase our own faith, and accept the miraculous in the world.

When YHVH began to speak the commandments, it was too powerful and overwhelming for the Israelites in their hearing. So they begged Moses to receive the commandments from YHVH and then tell it to them.

We can turn our hearing to the voice of YHVH every single day as it is written in "Crystal Clear" wording to us. The extraordinary fact is that at Mount Horeb in Sinai the commandments were written on Sapphire Stone. Today our challenge is to hear that voice above that suppresses our ability to listen. It is up to us to develop a softness in our *neshama* (soul), so that when we hear the Torah, it doesn't bounce off of it like an echo. Rather, it absorbs it the way it happened at Sinai .

Exodus 20:1): “And YHVH spoke all these statements, saying ...”

These Ten Commandments set the standard for goodness in the world; here they are:

- Belief in YHVH
- Not to worship idols or other gods
- Not to swear falsely in the name of G-d
- Keep the Sabbath
- Honor your parents
- Do not kill
- Be faithful to your spouse—do not engage in immoral behavior
- Do not steal
- Do not testify falsely against somebody else
- Do not be jealous of what your friend or neighbor has

YHVH always wants our future to be bright, and His intention is to surround us with abundance and blessing. Have faith in that intention cycling new beginnings. Hear the voice of our Messiah, listen he is coming soon.

When we are moved to study and better understand those holy words, when perhaps out of "the blue", we are suddenly inspired to do a mitzvah, or to add observance we know isn't in character for us, it's our soul hearing that voice of "leimor" – that powerful, small, still voice, which has never ceased to continue saying "Anochi": I am here, waiting for you to come hear me again.

Lesson continue

Be blessed and stay blessed 

