

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- **Friday, March 7:** Friday Winter schedule ends
- **Thursday, March 13:** Taanis Esther - 3:15 dismissal
- **Friday, March 14:** Purim - No School
- **Wednesday- Thursday, March 19-20:** Simcha Retreat - details coming soon

## MAZAL TOVS:

- Mazal Tov to Chaim and Danielle (Gershon, '16) Gross on the birth of a baby girl!
- Mazal Tov to Rabbi and Mrs. Chaim Freeman, 11th and 12th grade Halacha Teacher, on the birth of a baby girl!
- Mazal Tov to Tehila Miriam and the entire Schwarzmer family on the Bar Mitzvah of Naftali Yehuda!

## ALL THE HOSTAGES

# 487

ARE IN OUR HEARTS &  
TEFILOS.

PLEASE CONSIDER SAYING PEREK  
140 OF TEHILLIM AS A ZECHUS  
FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS.

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MARCH 5 & 6, 2025

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## From the Desk of Rabbi Avraham Shapiro



One of the highlights of this week's Parsha BeShalach is Shiras HaYam, the song that Am Yisrael sings after Krias Yam Suf, the crossing of the Red Sea. This song of praise begins,

"אז ישיר משה ובני ישראל את השירה הזאת לד"

Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan in the 'Living Torah' translates this Pasuk as follows: "Moses and the Children of Israel then sang this song to G-d..."

It may seem obvious, but why are the Children of Israel singing this song then? The Beis HaLevi teaches us that there are several reasons why they were singing. First, they were extolling HaShem because they had just just been saved from the pain and suffering of slavery, and from the fear of being murdered or recaptured by the Egyptians. Furthermore, they are praising HaShem because they now have a new lease on life - a potentially bright future to live as free men and women.

On a deeper level, the Beis HaLevi explains that Bnei Yisrael were praising HaShem because they were grateful for having been chosen to be the vehicle through which HaShem revealed to the Egyptians and to the entire world His great and mighty Name. Through our slavery and salvation HaShem showed the world that He is the Master of the Universe. What an honor!

Rashi, HaKadosh, brings a profound Midrashic interpretation to this Pasuk. He quotes our Sages who teach that the word "ישיר" is in the future tense and this verse can be translated to mean, "Then (in the future) they will sing..." hinting at the time of Mashiach when Am Yisrael will sing praises ushering in the Messianic era.

The days of the coming of the Mashiach were destined to be thousands of years after the time when Am Yisrael crossed the Red Sea. What is the connection between Yitzias Mitzrayim and the future days of redemption? Why was the hint about Yemos HaMashiach mentioned here?

Chazal are teaching us that the goal of arriving at the time of the ultimate salvation is a work in progress that goes back to the very first time we were redeemed as a people. While we should certainly appreciate each new level we attain, we must always see our progress and achievements in light of the ultimate goal.

On the one hand, leaving Egypt and attaining personal and national freedom was indeed a monumental moment in Jewish history. At the same time, it was just the first step in a long journey. The mission of Am Yisrael to be the chariot that brings HaShem into the world had just begun.

At that joyous moment following Krias Yam Suf, Am Yisrael rose up in song to praise HaShem in real time thanking Him for what He had done for them. Quite appropriately, at that same moment in time, we are given a hint and reminded that our redemption and our purpose in this world is just beginning to take form. We must always be ready to march on and do our part to bring Yimos HaMashiach speedily and in our time.

Good Shabbos to All!

Rabbi Shapiro

## This Week at a Glance:

### ROSH CHODESH SHEVAT ACTIVITY



We celebrated a birthday party in honor of Tu B'Shevat coming up next week. The girls decorated flower pots and planted their own seeds. Thank you to our Rosh Chodesh heads, Aliza Rachael Castriota and Yakira Silverman for planning this fun and exciting party! Thank you Mechanchos and ActiviTEAM for joining.

### MAKING CHALLAH

Mrs. Meth's 9th Grade Biology students learned about the fermentation process by making Challah! What an enjoyable way to learn about what's behind rising yeast!



**GOOD SHABBOS!**