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Parshah Beshalach
by Julie Zhuk on 2023-02-04

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This week's parsha may open up a Jew's mind and give them the ability to actually believe. Believe in something that is out there, something so big and we can't understand it's depth. What is being talked about here is the belief in G-d. In Judaism it's not so easy to always believe because there is nothing visible to see and there is nothing to touch. G-d has a lot of names, seventy-two names in fact, but most people refer to Him as G-d or simply the Creator. This parsha focuses on the Jews leaving Egypt and crossing over to another piece of land. They did this yes, but they had to get across the Red Sea. G-d made a miracle, He allowed for this Red Sea to split and the Jews were able to get away from the Egyptians and Pharaoh all together. They were safe on the other side, the Egyptians and Pharaoh tried as they might to get to the Jews, before they crossed over. G-d saved the day and for G-d, the Jews came first.

The parsha this week says it was the biggest miracle for the Jewish people. One of the verses is in the siddur and is said a lot by Jews. The words are, "And the people of Israel saw the great mighty hand which G-d had inflicted upon the Egyptians." Back then, just seeing this open miracle happen helped so many Jews believe in G-d. Not only did the people start to believe in G-d, but also His servant, Moses. It's a wonder why it took so long for them to really believe, and only now when they witnessed such a miracle. We learn from this week's parsha, faith is about believing in G-d at the exact moment when He is not so openly present in our lives. Having true faith in G-d, is to believe when we are going through hard times. When we feel ourselves struggle, to still hold on and believe that there is a G-d out there and He didn't forget us. When we are going through hard periods of time, we can't give up and decide that is it He has abandoned us.

For some people when they see a miracle happen, they instantly decide they are going to believe in G-d, or there you have it they do right then and there. A rabbi from a Chabad website wrote that he has met many people who had experiences of being untouched and not affected at all after experiencing events that resolve in seeing a miracle. The rabbi is saying that there are Jews out there who don't even believe once they see a miracle happen in front of them. People attribute their good fortune to having the best of luck in their lives. Or for these people it is just a matter of coincidence, being in the right place and being there at the right time. Then there are those types of people who are the opposite, they see the hand of G-d in every day appearances. They will go to a wedding and the father of the groom will get up and sing a song. The song is filled with the words, blessed be G-d.

Slowly the crowd around joins in and is singing the same song, so this father has managed to get a large group of people to acknowledge and thank G-d as well.

Someone went to a wedding and witnessed this, for that Jewish person it was a very moving event. Having that kind of attitude will help more Jews realize the deliverance in our daily lives of miracles coming from G-d every day. That same Rabbi wrote about himself having a father who was the only survivor in his family after the holocaust. His family was from Poland and the survivor had been asked many times, how he managed to not lose his faith after the atrocities that happened in the war. Especially after losing every member of his family. He said he witnessed a miraculous hand of G-d plucking him from one dangerous event to the next. G-d helped this sole survivor get out of Poland, go to Austria, and Moscow.

G-d put this Jewish man on a boat to Japan and he went to Shanghai and then finally arrived in the USA. It was in America he started a new life and rebuilt his family. After sharing this story, the father told his son, if I went through all of this and stayed alive and fast forward many years later, here you are how can I not believe? Back to the story of the parsha Beshalach, the Jews watched in awe as the Red Sea split. They watched their mortal enemies be washed ashore. The Jews saw that their freedom from Egypt had finally been granted. There are people out there who will deny even the most blatantly obvious wonders. There are those who won't ever say thanks to G-d for keeping them safe or saving them from the smallest salvation.

This was when they saw the awesome hand of G-d and it gave them a reason to believe. It's not easy to believe in something you can't see. Sometimes this is all you need. May we all soon see the unsinkable hand of G-d bringing Redemption to our people! May G-d bring peace and tranquility to our broken world. A friend told me this parsha brought light to them, because a few years ago they woke up feeling fine, but before they knew it they had woken up in a room alone in a hospital. They didn't know what happened, but after it had been explained they realized they were alive because G-d wanted them to be alive. They had fallen so hard and hit their head on the hard floor. They had lost so much blood that if it had not been for G-d, they would not have made it. What this person took away from all of this is, if G-d didn't want them to be alive they wouldn't have made it.