



THIS WEEK AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

February 6 to February 12

12 Shevat to 18 Shevat

Parsha of the Week: Beshalach (Ex. 13:17-17:16)

Parsha Highlights: The dramatic Exodus from Egypt is described, including Pharaoh's change of heart. The Sea of Reeds splits, allowing the Israelites to cross, but drowning Pharaoh and his cavalry in the tide. Does he drown, or not? We will never know. The complaining Israelites, despairing of their enslavement where they "enjoyed" three meals a day, proceed into the desert, where they find a well of bitter water, which Moses sweetens by throwing in a certain type of tree—sugar cane? Where did he find sugar cane in the middle of the Sinai Desert? Complaining about a lack of meat, G-d sends the Israelites flocks of quail to trap and roast. And, finally, to satisfy their need for bread, G-d causes manna (literally, "what is it?") to rain fresh from heaven every day, with a double portion for Shabbat. At Parsha's end, the Amalekites attack the Israelites in a most cowardly fashion in Refidim, but Joshua and the young men defeat them—for the time being.

A Brick Wall in the Torah Text

By Rabbi David Mark

As many congregants know, this Shabbat is the anniversary of my bar mitzvah. I can easily locate my parsha, even without my glasses, because it is unique among Torah portions—the Song of Moses at the Reed Sea (Az Yashir, or the Shirat HaYam)—is laid out in the form of "bricks in a wall," to remind us that when the Reed Sea split to allow our ancestors to cross, the waters stood up on either side like the bricks in a wall. Later, when the Egyptian chariots attempted to pursue the Israelites, the miraculous, watery walls collapsed, and crashed down on the cavalymen's heads, drowning them.

It is no accident that, when the writers of psalms and prayers chose metaphors to describe G-d, they chose to describe G-d as a "Rock" rather than a "wall." Walls are built by human beings, for the most part; walls rise, and they can fall. Rocks, on the other hand—I speak here of the sort of enormous boulders which we Granite Staters have seen on our mountain hikes—are not likely to budge; they are reliable, dependable. That is the sort of strength we choose to attribute, albeit metaphorically, to the Alm-ghty, the Rock of Israel.

Friday, February 6

- 9:00 am Preschool
- 7:30 pm Service
- 4:43 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, February 7

- 9:30 am Shabbat Service
- 5:04 pm Sundown
- 5:47 pm Shabbat Ends

Sunday, February 8

- 9:00 am Hebrew School Music w/Fran
- 9:30 am Discussion Group
- 9:30 am Breakfast & Stem Cell Research Discussion

Monday, February 9

- 9:00 am Preschool
- 6:30 pm Adult Ed Class

Tuesday, February 10

Wednesday, February 11

- 9:00 am Preschool
- 3:45 pm Hebrew School
- Tu B'Shevat Program w/ Ayelet
- 4:00 pm Geshet

Thursday, February 12

- 7:00 pm Brotherhood Game Night

Weekly Services

Wednesdays at 5:15pm when Hebrew School is in session.

Yahrzeits

We recall with affection those who no longer walk this earth, grateful to G-d for the gift of their lives.

- February 6** Shura Levenson
- February 7**
- February 8** David Bauer, Nathan Roffman
- February 9** Jacob Simon, Anne Singer, Harry Riback
- February 10** Louis White
- February 11** Frieda Beubis, Joseph Posternack
- February 12** Joseph Steinberg, Daniel Berman, Mary Blum

Information

BUDGET NOTICES: Budget notices were sent out this week for the purpose of verifying your balance with the Temple balance and to let you know if your account is in arrears.

TAX LETTERS: Were mailed by the 30th. Please let the office know if you did not receive yours.