

RaYBaSH's Torah Thoughts for Kids
Parashah # 16: Beshalach "When he sent"
Shemot/Exodus 13:1-17:12
By: Yehudah ben Shomeyr

Exodus 14:13-31 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night. And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians. And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.

What is a miracle?

Some say a miracle is when the impossible happens. Some will give the example of the parting of the Red Sea. Some say everyday common things such as a flower blooming, or a baby being born is a miracle.

So which is it? Why does it have to be one or the other? I think it is both.

I also believe miracles have to do with timing. Like a basketball player shooting from half court as the buzzer sounds to end the game and he makes the 3 point shot.

For me, when traveling, and let's say a big fat juicy bug splats on my windshield and using the wiper blades only make it worse. So I have to pull off to the side of the road to properly clean it off so I can see. I get irritated, but it only takes about 5 minutes. Well, I get back on the road and 5 minutes later I see a fatal car crash. I think, "That could have been me!" I believe if God didn't send that fat, juicy bug to splatter all over my windshield, I am the one who could have been killed in that car wreck I was passing.

Sometimes miracles aren't spectacular like we imagine the parting of the Red Sea was. If we see stuff like that every day, it wouldn't be a miracle anymore, it'd become normal. But I am glad stuff like the Red Sea parting doesn't happen every day, because I look for miracles that are disguised in the everyday, like a bug splatting on my windshield that kept me from a fatal car crash. To me, it's even more of a miracle. What miracles can you find in your life?

Shabbat Shalom and Shavuah Tov!

--Rabbi Yehudah