
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

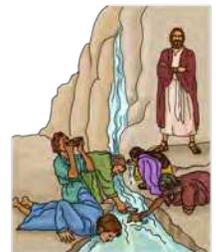
Monday:	Ex. 13:17-22	Leaving Mitsrayim; Days of Unleavened Bread instruction; Column of cloud and fire leads the children of Yisra'el
Tuesday:	Ex. 14	Pharaoh pursues Yisra'el; Yahweh parts the sea and the children of Yisra'el are saved
Wednesday:	Ex. 15	The Song of Mosheh and Miryam
Thursday:	Ex. 16	Yisra'el complains; Yahweh provides manna in the wilderness; Yahweh's instruction on the Sabbath Day
Friday:	Ex. 17	Yisra'el complains again; Yahweh provides water from the rock; The Yisra'elites fight Amaleq

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will be covering 3 stories about grumbling, which give us valuable lessons about trusting in Yahweh. First, we will look at the story of bitter waters made sweet. Then we have the story of manna from heaven, and finally we'll study the first incident of water from the rock. Now, let's read Ex. 15:22-27; 16:1-35 & 17:1-7.

PARSHA POINTS

Bitterness into Sweet

- After Pharaoh's men died in the midst of the sea, Mosheh brought the children of Yisra'el from the Sea of Reeds to the Wilderness (desert) of Shur (meaning, 'wall') - 15:22
- The children of Yisra'el had no water (**mayim**) to drink for 3 (**shalosh**) days - 15:22
- Upon arriving at Marah (meaning, 'bitter waters'), they were unable to drink the water because it was bitter (**marah**) - 15:23
- The people *grumbled* to Mosheh, "What are we to drink?" - 15:24
- Mosheh cried out to Yahweh, and he was shown a tree to throw into the water - 15:25
- After throwing the tree into the water, it became sweet (**mathoq**), so that the people could drink it - 15:25
- There Yahweh made a law and a right-ruling for the people, in order to try them (test them, prove them) - 15:25



- Yahweh spoke to the children of Yisra'el in this way: IF they would diligently obey His voice and do what is right in His eyes, listening to His commands and guarding all His laws, THEN He would not bring on them any of the diseases that He brought upon the Mitsrites - 15:26
- He went on to declare that He was the One who healed them - 15:26
- When they arrived at the oasis of Elim, they found 12 (**shtem esre**) springs of water and 70 (**shiv'im**) palm trees (**tamar**) - 15:27



Manna from Heaven

- On the 15th day of the second month, the children of Yisra'el set out from Elim (meaning, 'gods') and camped in the Wilderness of Sin (pronounced seen, meaning, 'thorn') - 16:1
- There in the wilderness, all the children of Yisra'el *grumbled* against Mosheh and Aharon - 16:2
- They said: (16:3)
 - If only we had died by the hand of Yahweh in the land of Mitsrayim
 - Back there we had pots of meat in our homes, and bread to satisfaction
 - You have brought us out into this wilderness to put all this assembly to death with hunger
- Yahweh said: (16:4-5)
 - I will rain down bread from the heavens for you
 - The people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day
 - I will do this in order to try them (test them, prove them), whether they will walk in My Torah or not
 - On the 6th day they shall gather in twice as much as on the first 5 (**chamesh**) days
- Mosheh and Aharon said to the children of Yisra'el: (16:6-7)
 - This evening you shall know that Yahweh your Elohim has brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim
 - In the morning you will see the esteem of Yahweh; for He hears your *grumbings* against Him, and against us—Mosheh and Aharon, your leaders
- Mosheh promised that they will receive: (16:8)
 - meat to eat in the evening
 - bread to satisfaction in the morning
- Mosheh then told them that their grumbings toward him were really grumbings against Yahweh - 16:8
- For further emphasis, Mosheh instructed Aharon to gather the children of Yisra'el, because Yahweh had heard their *grumbings* - 16:9
- As Aharon was speaking to the children of Yisra'el, the esteem of Yahweh appeared before them in a cloud - 16:10



- Yahweh repeated to Mosheh: (16:11-12)

- I have heard the grumbings of the children of Yisra'el
- Between the evenings you are to eat meat
- In the morning you are to be satisfied with bread
- You shall know that I am Yahweh your Elohim



- At evening, quails came up and covered the camp - 16:13
- The next morning, dew lay on the ground. As the dew lifted, they discovered the surface of the camp was covered with a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground - 16:13-14



- The children of Yisra'el asked each other, "What is it?" - 16:15
- Mosheh told them that it was bread which Yahweh had provided for them to eat - 16:15



- Each man was to gather it according to the need of his tent—an omer (about half a gallon) for each being - 16:16-18
- Mosheh also told them to eat all that they gathered, and not leave any of it until morning - 16:19
- And they did NOT listen to Mosheh, because some of them left it until morning, and it bred worms and stank - 16:20
- Mosheh became very angry with them - 16:20
- They continued to gather it every morning; and when the sun came out it melted - 16:21



- On the 6th day, everyone gathered 2 (shtayim) omers per person, which was reported to Mosheh by the rulers - 16:22
- Yahweh then instructed them regarding the Sabbath meal preparation - 16:23



- They were told that on the 6th day (Friday), they were to cook and bake what they needed for Sabbath, laying it up till morning of the 7th day (Saturday) - 16:23
- The children of Yisra'el followed Mosheh's directions, and on the morning of the Sabbath the portion that was left overnight did not stink or breed worms - 16:24
- On the Sabbath, Mosheh reminded them to eat what they had prepared on the 6th day, and to not gather or look for it in the fields, for it would not be provided. But some people went out to gather and found nothing - 16:25-27
- Yahweh said, "How long will the people refuse to guard My commands and My Torot?" - 16:28
- Yahweh reminded them that He was the one who gave them the Sabbath; that was why, on the 6th day, He was providing them bread for 2 days. On the 7th day, they were to stay in their homes and not go out to find it - 16:29
- So, the people 'rested' on the 7th day - 16:30
- The children of Yisra'el called it manna (meaning, 'what is it'). It looked like white coriander seed, and tasted like thin cakes made with honey - 16:31

- Yahweh told Mosheh to fill an omer (1/10th of an ephah) with the manna, to be preserved throughout their generations as a reminder that Yahweh fed and sustained the children of Yisra'el in the wilderness when He had brought them out of Mitsrayim. Mosheh told Aharon to carry out this task, and Mosheh placed the pot of manna in the Tent, to be kept there before the Witness - 16:32-34, 36
- The children of Yisra'el ate manna for 40 (**arba'im**) years, until they came to the land of Kena'an - 16:35



Water from the Rock (1st incident)

- The congregation of Yisra'el then set out from the Wilderness of Sin and camped in Rephidim, according to Yahweh's command - 17:1
- There was no water for the people to drink, so the people *grumbled* against Mosheh and strove with him to give them water to drink - 17:2, 4
- Mosheh wanted to know why they were striving with him, and why were they trying Yahweh - 17:2
- The people asked why he had brought them out of Mitsrayim, to cause them, their children and their livestock to die from thirst - 17:3
- Mosheh turned to Yahweh, for he feared that the people would stone him - 17:4
- Yahweh told Mosheh to take his rod, gather some of the elders, and stand before the people - 17:5
- Then he was to hit the rock, and water would come from it - 17:6
- Mosheh did as Yahweh instructed him before the eyes of the elders - 17:6
- Mosheh called the name of that place Massah and Meribah because of the 'strife' of the children of Yisra'el, and because they had tried Yahweh, saying, "Is Yahweh in our midst or not?" - 17:7



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- Our first story talks about 'bitter water'. What lessons can we learn about having bitterness in our lives, and what we can do to make it sweet? Who gives us 'living water'?
- In this study we see much grumbling, whining and complaining as Yisra'el learns to follow and trust Yahweh, who was establishing the leadership and the government that would rule them. How can we learn from these lessons, and keep from repeating them? When we grumble against Yahweh's leadership, who are we actually speaking against?
- Shortly after the Yisra'elites left Mitsrayim, Exodus 15:25 says that Yahweh tried them at the waters of Marah. Over and over, He continues to try them. Turn to Deuteronomy 8:2-5 to discuss why Yahweh did this. Give examples of other stories where Yahweh 'tried', 'tested' and 'proved' them.
- Research how many volumes of water was needed to provide for the children of Yisra'el.
- In Exodus 15:25-26, some legal terms are introduced. We see words such as laws, commands and right-rulings. The book of Deuteronomy and Psalm 119 focus on these words again and again. Look up their Hebrew meanings to differentiate between them.
- On the 6th day, also known as Preparation Day (Friday), Yahweh provided a double portion of manna, so that His children would not work to gather it on the 7th day, or Shabbat/Sabbath (Saturday). Research the institution of Shabbat, and how it eventually became falsely changed from Saturday to Sunday.
- In 16:32 Yahweh asks that a pot or jar of manna be set aside, to give visible proof to all future generations of the miracle of His provision during Yisra'el's time in the wilderness. It was to be put inside the ark of the Witness. What else was placed inside the ark? See Hebrews 9:3-4.

