

Parshah Insights 2022

Parshah: Shelach

(Numbers 13-15)

1 Corinthians 10:6, 11-12

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did...Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

Deuteronomy 1:22-23

“Then all of you approached me and said, ‘Let us send men before us, that they may search out the land for us, and bring back to us word of the way by which we should go up and the cities which we shall enter.’ The thing pleased me, and I took twelve of your men, one man for each tribe.”

Numbers 14:9

“Only do not rebel against Adonai! And do not fear the people of the land, **for they are our bread**. Their **shadow** (צלם, *tzelem*) has been removed from over them, and Adonai is with us. Do not fear them!”

A new source of spiritual nourishment:

- **God's Word** (Deuteronomy 8:3)
- **Doing God's will** (John 4:31-34)
- **Defeating spiritual enemies**

Where have we seen this before?

- Israelites desire to return to Egypt
- God threatens to destroy the Israelites...
- ...and make a new nation from Moses
- Moses intercedes
- God relents
- The instigators are killed

GOLDEN CALF

(Exodus 32)

- 40 Days – Moses on Sinai
- Torah delayed 40 days
- “*Make us a god*” (32:1)
- Moses receives the *Attributes of Mercy* (34:5-7)
- Levites established

EVIL REPORT

(Numbers 13-14)

- 40 Days – Spies in Canaan
- Canaan delayed 40 years
- “*Let’s appoint a leader*” (14:4)
- Moses quotes the *Attributes of Mercy* (14:17-18)
- Joshua & Caleb established

***When we fail to engage our spiritual enemies,
we will attack our spiritual friends.***

Numbers 15:39

“It shall be *tzitzit* for you to look at and remember all the commandments of Adonai, so as to do them and not explore after your own heart and your own eyes, after which you play the harlot.

Discussion Questions:

- **13:2-3** In all three of the preceding portions there are lists of the leaders of the tribes with the same people mentioned each time. Why in this portion is an entirely new list of leaders mentioned?
 - Are the spies ever referred to as “spies”? If so, where? If not, what is the Hebrew word used, and what does it mean?
 - **13:17-20** Identify the questions that the men were instructed to answer as they spied out the land. Organize them into two categories that would help define their mission.
 - **13:32** When Moshe sent the spies to Canaan, he told them to bring back a report about the land, the people, and the fruit. This is exactly what they did. So what crime did they commit?
 - **14:9** What is the significance of the comparison to bread?
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NOTES:

Faith is not certainty. It is the courage to live with uncertainty. It is not knowing all the answers. It is often the strength to live with the questions. - *R' Jonathan Sacks*

Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage. - *Lao Tzu*

The voice of Fear:

- Insecurity is painful
- Pain *feels* like death
- Fear of death makes us slaves

The voice of Faith:

- All pain *is* birth pain
- Birth *is* new life
- Life *is* strength and freedom. - *Anon.*

“Fear is Satan’s calling card,” a beloved counselor used to say to me. Whenever you accept his calling card, you will receive a visit from him. Fear him and he comes; fear not and he is held at a distance. - *Watchman Nee*

If one fears Hashem without loving Him, that person is not perfect in his fear. If a person loves Hashem without fearing Him, such love is worthless. - *R' Aharon of Karlin*