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SHABBAT SHALOM

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5/6 June 2020

14 Sivan 5780

SHABBAT B'HA'ALOT'CHA

Parashat B'ha'alot'cha contains instructions for installing the *menorah* in the sanctuary and for consecrating the priests and Levites. It also describes the procedure to be followed by any Israelite who misses bringing the Pesach sacrifice, and it includes a description of the Israelites' journey through the desert. When the people complain about their diet of manna, Moses asks God, "Why have You laid the burden of all this people upon me?" He is counselled to appoint seventy experienced elders and officers to share leadership and the spirit of prophecy with him. Among the appointed are Eldad and Medad, who are filled with enthusiasm. Despite Joshua's complaint about them, Moses defends their right to act as prophets. Miriam and Aaron criticise Moses for his marriage to a Cushite woman. Miriam is punished with leprosy. Both Aaron and Moses plead on her behalf. After being excluded from the camp for seven days, she is cured.

NUMBERS 11:1-23

א וַיְהִי הָעַם כְּמִתְאַנְנִים רַע בְּאַזְנֵי יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמַע יְהוָה וַיַּחַר אַפּוֹ וַתִּבְעַר-בָּם
 אֵשׁ יְהוָה וַתֹּאכַל בִּקְצָה הַמַּחֲנֶה: ב וַיִּצְעַק הָעַם אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל מֹשֶׁה
 אֶל-יְהוָה וַתִּשְׁקַע הָאֵשׁ: ג וַיִּקְרָא שֵׁם-הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא תִּבְעָרָה כִּי-בִעַרָה בָּם
 אֵשׁ יְהוָה: ד וְהֶאֱסֹפְסֹף אֲשֶׁר בְּקִרְבּוֹ הִתְאַוּוּ תִּתְאַוֶּה וַיֵּשְׁבוּ וַיִּבְכוּ גַם בְּנֵי
 יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֹּאמְרוּ מִי יֵאָכְלֵנוּ בָּשָׂר: ה זָכַרְנוּ אֶת-הַדָּגָה אֲשֶׁר-נֹאכַל בְּמִצְרַיִם חֲנָם
 אֶת הַקִּשְׁאִים וְאֶת הָאֲבִטָּחִים וְאֶת-הַחֲצִיר וְאֶת-הַבָּצְלִים וְאֶת-הַשּׁוּמִים:
 ו וְעַתָּה נַפְשֵׁנוּ יִבְשֶׁה אֵין כָּל בְּלִתִּי אֶל-הַמֶּן עֵינֵינוּ: ז וְהַמֶּן כְּזֶרַע-גֶּדֶד הוּא וְעֵינוּ
 כְּעֵין הַבְּדֹלַח: ח שְׂטוֹ הָעַם וְלִקְטוּ וּסְחַנוּ בְּרִחִים אֹדְכוּ בַּמִּדְבָּה וּבִשְׁלוּ
 בַּפְּרוֹר וְעֲשׂוּ אֹתוֹ עֲגוֹת וְהִיָּה טַעְמוֹ כְּטַעַם לֶשֶׁד הַשָּׁמוֹ: ט וּבִרְדַּת הַטַּל
 עַל-הַמַּחֲנֶה לֵימָּה יֵרֵד הַמֶּן עֲלֵינוּ: י וַיִּשְׁמַע מֹשֶׁה אֶת-הָעַם בִּכְהָ לְמִשְׁפַּחְתּוֹ
 אִישׁ לִפְתַּח אָהֳלוֹ וַיַּחֲרֹ-אַף יְהוָה מְאֹד וּבַעֲיַנֵּי מֹשֶׁה רָע: יא וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה
 אֶל-יְהוָה לָמָּה הִרְעִיתָ לְעַבְדְּךָ וְלָמָּה לֹא-מָצִיתִי חוֹן בְּעֵינֶיךָ לְשׁוּם אֶת-מִשְׁאַ
 כְּ-כָל-הָעַם הַזֶּה עָלַי: יב הֲאֵנֹכִי הָרִיתִי אֶת כָּל-הָעַם הַזֶּה אִם-אֵנֹכִי יִלְדִיתִּיהוּ
 כִּי-תֹאמַר אֵלֵי שְׂאֵהוּ בַחֲיִקֶךָ כְּאֲשֶׁר יֵשֵׂא הָאָמֹן אֶת-הַיִּלֶּק עַל הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר
 נִשְׁבַּעְתָּ לְאַבְתָּיו: יג מֵאֵין לִי בָּשָׂר לָתֵת לְכָל-הָעַם הַזֶּה כִּי-יִבְכוּ עָלַי לֵאמֹר
 תִּנְהַלְנוּ בָּשָׂר וְנֹאכְלָהּ: יד לֹא-אוּכַל אֲנֹכִי לְבַדִּי לְשֹׂאת אֶת-כָּל-הָעַם הַזֶּה כִּי
 כִּבֵּד מִמֶּנִּי: טו וְאִם-כָּכָה אֶת-עֲשֵׂה לִי הֲרֹגִנִי נָא הֲרֹג אִם-מִצְאָתִי חוֹן בְּעֵינֶיךָ
 וְאֶל-אַרְצָה בְּרַעַתִּי: טז וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה אֲסֹפְהָ-לִי שִׁבְעִים אִישׁ מִזִּקְנֵי
 יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר יָדְעֶתָ כִּי-הֵם זִקְנֵי הָעַם וְשִׁטְרֵיו וְלִקְחֹתָ אֹתָם אֶל-אַהֲל מוֹעֵד
 וְהִתִּיצְבוּ שָׁם עִמָּךְ: יז וַיִּרְדֹּתִי וּדְבַרְתִּי עִמָּךְ שָׁם וְאַצְלִיתִי מִן-הָרוּחַ אֲשֶׁר עָלֶיךָ
 וְשִׁמְתִי עֲלֵיהֶם וְנִשְׂאוּ אֹתְךָ בְּמִשְׁאַ הָעַם וְלֹא-תִשָּׂא אֹתָהּ לְבַדְּךָ: יח וְאֶל-הָעַם
 תֹּאמַר הִתְקַדְּשׁוּ לְמַחֲרָ וְאֹכְלֹתֶם בָּשָׂר כִּי בְכִיתֶם בְּאַזְנֵי יְהוָה לֵאמֹר מִי
 יֵאָכְלֵנוּ בָּשָׂר כִּי-טוֹב לָנוּ בְּמִצְרַיִם וְנָתַן יְהוָה לָכֶם בָּשָׂר וְאֹכְלֹתֶם: יט לֹא יוֹם
 אֶחָד תֹּאכְלוּן וְלֹא יוֹמִים וְלֹא חֲמִשָּׁה יָמִים וְלֹא עֶשְׂרֵה יָמִים וְלֹא עֶשְׂרִים יוֹם:
 כ עַד חֲדָשׁ יָמִים עַד אֲשֶׁר-יֵצֵא מֵאִפְכֶם וְהִיָּה לָכֶם לְזָרָא לְעַן כִּי-מֵאִסְתֶּם
 אֶת-יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר בְּקִרְבְּכֶם וַתִּבְכוּ לִפְנֵי לֵאמֹר לָמָּה זֶה יֵצְאֵנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם:
 כא וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה שְׁשִׁמְאוֹת אֶלְפֵי רִגְלֵי הָעַם אֲשֶׁר אֲנֹכִי בְּקִרְבּוֹ וְאַתָּה אֲמַרְתָּ
 בָּשָׂר אֲתָן לָהֶם וְאֹכְלוּ חֲדָשׁ יָמִים: כב הֲצִאן וּבִקֶּר יִשְׁתַּט לָהֶם וּמָצָא לָהֶם
 אִם אֶת-כָּל-דִּגְי הַיָּם יֵאָסֹף לָהֶם וּמָצָא לָהֶם: כג וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה הִנֵּן
 יְהוָה תִּקְצָר עֲתָה תִרְאֶה הַיִּקְרָךְ דְּבָרִי אִם-לֹא:

NUMBERS 11:1-23

1 The people took to complaining bitterly before Adonai. Adonai heard and was incensed: a fire of Adonai broke out against them, ravaging the outskirts of the camp. 2 The people cried out to Moses. Moses prayed to Adonai, and the fire died down. 3 That place was named Taberah, because a fire of Adonai had broken out against them. 4 The riffraff in their midst felt a gluttonous craving; and then the Israelites wept and said, "If only we had meat to eat! 5 We remember the fish that we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. 6 Now our gullets are shriveled. There is nothing at all! Nothing but this manna to look to!" 7 Now the manna was like coriander seed, and in colour it was like bdellium. 8 The people would go about and gather it, grind it between millstones or pound it in a mortar, boil it in a pot, and make it into cakes. It tasted like rich cream. 9 When the dew fell on the camp at night, the manna would fall upon it. 10 Moses heard the people weeping, every clan apart, at the entrance of each tent. Adonai was very angry, and Moses was distressed. 11 And Moses said to Adonai, "Why have You dealt ill with Your servant, and why have I not enjoyed Your favour, that You have laid the burden of all this people upon me? 12 Did I conceive all this people, did I bear them, that You should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom as a nurse carries an infant,' to the land that You have promised on oath to their ancestors? 13 Where am I to get meat to give to all this people, when they whine before me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' 14 I cannot carry all this people by myself, for it is too much for me. 15 If You would deal thus with me, kill me rather, I beg You, and let me see no more of my wretchedness!" 16 Then Adonai said to Moses, "Gather for Me seventy of Israel's elders of whom you have experience as elders and officers of the people, and bring them to the Tent of Meeting and let them take their place there with you. 17 I will come down and speak with you there, and I will draw upon the spirit that is on you and put it upon them; they shall share the burden of the people with you, and you shall not bear it alone. 18 And say to the people: Purify yourselves for tomorrow and you shall eat meat, for you have kept whining before Adonai and saying, 'If only we had meat to eat! Indeed, we were better off in Egypt!' Adonai will give you meat and you shall eat. 19 You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days, 20 but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it—because you have rejected the Eternal One, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?" 21 But Moses said, "Here I am among six hundred thousand men on foot, and you say, 'I will give them meat to eat for a whole month!' 22 Would they have enough if flocks and herds were slaughtered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?" 23 The Eternal One answered Moses, "Is the Eternal One's arm too short? Now you will see whether or not what I say will come true for you."

II KINGS 2:1-15

When Adonai was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha had set out from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for Adonai has sent me on to Bethel." "As Adonai lives and as you live," said Elisha, "I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. Disciples of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that Adonai will take your master away from you today?" He replied, "I know it, too; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, for Adonai has sent me on to Jericho." "As Adonai lives and as you live," said Elisha, "I will not leave you." So they went on to Jericho. The disciples of the prophets who were at Jericho came over to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that Adonai will take your master away from you today?" He replied, "I know it, too; be silent." Elijah said to him, "Stay here, for Adonai has sent me on to the Jordan." "As Adonai lives and as you live, I will not leave you," he said, and the two of them went on. Fifty people of the disciples of the prophets followed and stood by at a distance from them as the two of them stopped at the Jordan. Thereupon Elijah took his mantle and, rolling it up, he struck the water; it divided to the right and left, so that the two of them crossed over on dry land. As they were crossing, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" Elisha answered, "Let a double portion of your spirit pass on to me." "You have asked a difficult thing," he said. "If you see me as I am being taken from you, this will be granted to you; if not, it will not." As they kept on walking and talking, a fiery chariot with fiery horses suddenly appeared and separated one from the other; and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "Oh, father, father! Israel's chariots and horse-men!" When he could no longer see him, he grasped his garments and rent them in two. He picked up Elijah's mantle, which had dropped from him; and he went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. Taking the mantle which had dropped from Elijah, he struck the water and said, "Where is Adonai, the God of Elijah?" As he too struck the water, it parted to the right and to the left, and Elisha crossed over. When the disciples of the prophets at Jericho saw him from a distance, they exclaimed, "The spirit of Elijah has settled on Elisha!" And they went to meet him and bowed low before him to the ground.