

DAF TSAFON

8 February 2025
10 Shvat 5785

Shabbat Shira
Parashat Beshallach
ArtScroll 366 Hertz 265



In this week's parasha we read of the manna that fell in the desert. Every day and a double portion on Friday.

One of our most beautiful rituals is the **Lechem Mishne**- the two loaves of Challah bread which we have at our Shabbat meal. The bread is covered by a cloth, and we engender the whole event with symbolism.

The reasons for the ritual are as follows:

During the wandering in the desert the Manna fell daily except on Friday, when a double portion fell. This is also the clearest proof that Shabbat is on Saturday and not on any other day. For forty years the manna fell six days and not on the seventh. Every Jew from then on, would know when Shabbat was!

The manna fell on a layer of dew and was covered by a layer of dew. We recreate this on Shabbat by placing two challot (plural of challah) on a board, covered by a Challah cover.

What lessons are we taught by this recreation of the manna experience?

- 1) The Halacha says that bread is the primary food. When one sits down to a meal one washes one's hands, recites the blessing for bread and has bread. On Shabbat and festivals, we first recite Kiddush and drink from the cup. Then we wash and have the bread. In order not to embarrass the bread we cover it.

There is a lovely story told of the young married man who invited his Rabbi for a meal on Shabbat. Lo and behold the wife forgot to cover the Challah. The young man rebuked his wife in most serious tones. Impressing upon her the fact the Challah will be embarrassed!

The Rabbi watched the scene and stopped his young student. Why are you so concerned about the Challah's honour? But when it comes to your wife's honour you do not care?

The lesson is clear. **The Halacha teaches us, if you can be sensitive to the feelings of a Challah, how much more so does one need to be sensitive to the feelings of one's loved ones?**

- 2) The second lesson we derive from the Manna is that when it fell the Jews had to collect it and prepare it for Shabbat. That which was baked was baked, that which was cooked was cooked. In order to eat on Shabbat, preparation needs to be done before Shabbat.
- 3) One final lesson. Our rabbis teach us that the taste of the manna depends on the person. If a person wanted chicken, it tasted like chicken, if they wanted ice cream it tasted like ice cream.

I believe that we can apply the lesson of the taste of the manna to our own lives. The Manna reflected life. In life we are given many experiences and opportunities it is how we approach these moments that will determine the sweetness or bitterness of the experience.

Shabbat Shalom

Haftarah

DEBORAH'S SONG

ArtScroll 1152 Hertz 281
Judges IV, 4-V, 31

Towards the end of the 13th century B.C.E. the Israelites are oppressed by Jabin, king of the Canaanites. Deborah, the divinely inspired judge of Israel, calls on Barak to lead an attack against Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army. Barak agrees provided she accompanies him to infuse him with courage and hope. At the river Kishon the enemy suffers a decisive defeat and Sisera escapes to the tent of Heber, the Kenite, whose family have taken no part in the battle. Jael, Heber's wife, kills Sisera whilst he is asleep and delivers his body to Barak.

Deborah and Barak sing a song of thanksgiving (as Moses did after the crossing of the Red Sea).

מזל טוב

Wedding anniversaries

Ron and Suzie Klinger
Lindsay and Linda Phillips
Stephen and Laura Velik

מזל טוב

Bar Mitzvah anniversary

Ze'ev Krischer

Our congregation acknowledges the following
yahrzeit anniversaries and wishes long life to those
who are commemorating a yahrzeit
during the coming week.

חיים ארוכים

Sonia Beder	mother of Jefferson Beder
Meyer Dorfan	father of Sharon Friedman
Margit Feher	mother-in-law of Marianne Feher
Louis Ferber	father of Eda Millner
Joyce Goldstein	friend of Robyn Lenn OAM
Harry Gottlieb	grandfather of Leah Somlai and Anne Sheinbar
Harry Kossard	son of Steven and Silvia Kossard
Philip Lenn	husband of Robyn Lenn OAM
Otto Liffman	grandfather of Jonathan Herrman
Edith Lowbeer	mother of John Lowbeer
David Moses	father of Michael Moses
Minnie Leah Segal	mother of Norman Olbourne
Zina Shteinman	mother-in-law of Diane Shteinman AM
Viktor Somlai	father of Gabor Somlai
Joe Toister	father of Sharon Milch
Kurt Walter	husband of Ellen Walter, father of Garry Walter AM