



"If you search for it like silver, and seek it like buried treasures, then will you comprehend knowledge of God, and the fear of God will you find."

King Solomon, Proverbs 2:4-5

ESTD 1997

Dedicated to Scriptural and Rabbinic Verification of Jewish Beliefs and Practices

JewishTimes

Volume I, No. 18...June 7, 2002

WWW.MESORA.ORG/JEWISHTIMES.PDF

Download and Print Free

IN THIS ISSUE:

YISRO	1, 2
THE QUAIL	1, 3
THE WORLD IS VERY GOOD	1, 2
PUNISHMENT	2
THE SPIES' PLAGUE	2
STYLE OF TORAH	4
WHY ADAM'S FATE IS OURS	4
HUMAN INTELLIGENCE - QUOTES	4

The Quail

RABBI MOSHE BEN-CHAIM

In Numbers, 11:4, we read that the mixed multitude who attached themselves to the Jewish Exodus, committed a sin when they lusted. They cried out, "who will feed us meat?" Even the Jews joined them. They cried, "we remember the fish we ate in Egypt for free", and they recalled other delicacies. In passage 6 they state, "And now our souls are dried, all we see is the manna." (Interesting is the following, detailed, positive qualities of the manna. Rashi states this description is God's, contrasting the previous complaint of the people.) The account continues with a description of Moshe hearing the people "crying by the household". Rashi states they were crying for the matters of "households", referring to the newly received (Torah) sexual prohibitions of family members. There are many facets to this story. I will focus herein on how God addresses their cry for meat.

In passage 11:13, Moshe says: "Where shall I get meat to give to this entire people that cry upon me, saying, give us meat that we may eat?"

God says: (18) "Ready yourselves tomorrow, and you will eat meat, because you cry in the ears of God saying, 'who will feed us meat, because it was better for us in Egypt', God will give you meat and you will eat. (19) Not one day will you eat, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days. (20) Until thirty days, until it comes out of your noses, and it be a vile thing, on account that you despised God Who was in your midst and you cried before Him saying 'why have we come out of Egypt.'" (21) Moshe responds: "600,000 by foot that I am amidst, and You say 'I will give meat to them and they will eat 30 days?' (22) If the sheep and cattle be slaughtered, would there be found sufficient? If all the fish of the sea be gathered, would

(continued on page 3)



ASK YOUR CHILDREN:

"Is it good or bad to ask lots of questions? And why?"
Have your children email us with their answers: questions@mesora.org

SUGGESTED READINGS:

SEE THESE AND OTHER ARTICLES AT OUR SITE

Maimonides' 13 PRINCIPLES

THE BASIC FOUNDATIONS WHICH ALL JEWS MUST KNOW AS TRUE. WE URGE YOU TO READ THEM:
www.mesora.org/13principles.html

God's Existence Belief or Proof?

www.mesora.org/belieforproof.html

God's Land Without God?

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:
www.mesora.org/openletter/openletter2.html

Yisro

RABBI MOSHE BEN-CHAIM

Upon the Jews' initial entrance into Israel, Moshe addresses his father in law as follows: (Numbers, 10:29)

(29) "Moshe said to Chovav, son of Reuale the Midianite, father in law of Moshe, 'we are traveling to the place, upon which God said I will give it to you....Go with us and there will be done good to you, as God has spoken good for Israel. (30) Chovav said to Moshe, 'I will not go, unto my land and my birthplace I will go'. (31) Moshe said, 'please do not forsake us in as much as you know our travels in the desert, and you will be to us as eyes. (32) And when you go with us, that good which God will do unto us, He will do unto you.'"

(continued on page 2)

The World is Very Good

RIVKA OLENICK

"The Almighty saw all that He had made and behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:31

God created the world and nothing was lacking. Not only was the world good, it was "very good." Vhenay tov mod. Mankind still has everything that is "very good" in order to be satisfied. One who truly understands the goodness that exists in the world is always satisfied, because God made it "easy" for everyone to thrive in the world. The phenomena of the created world, is incredible and infinitely good. The air, and the water are plentiful. The sun, the wind, and the rain that are needed to make crops grow so that we have food are also plentiful. There are great resources in the earth such as wood, coal, and petroleum that allow industry to grow, which people utilize. The mountains, the oceans, the moon and stars were created for our enjoyment, a gift! The ability that our body can move, and our eyes can see. Shouldn't we view all this as "very good?" What about the ability to hear, speak, and think? Isn't this also "very good?" Do we appreciate what we have only when we see someone else who doesn't have - the ability to walk or hear or see? Don't we take all of this for granted? We do. If we didn't take all this for granted, we would appreciate the continued kindness of the Creator and the awesomeness of the created world. It was all given to us for our enjoyment and benefit and we should continue to see this as "very good." If we lack the appreciation for what is "very good," then we can never be grateful to God. Why shouldn't we be grateful to the One Who created us, Who is perfect and Who's ways are perfect.

Man looks for new ways to claim that what ever he makes he is the creator of, and that he must leave his "mark." We spend endless energy, an entire lifetime figuring out how we can be the "creator" of something exclusively ours. And we think that the world is "not good" until we have

(continued on page 2)