

Parshat Beshalach & Scout Shabbat
February 8, 2025 | 10th of Sh'vat, 5785
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B'nai Israel Congregation

Trust and Commitment

1. Scout Oath (<https://www.scouting.org/about/>)

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

2. Scout Law (<https://www.scouting.org/about/>)

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

3. Exodus 14:8-14

⁸God stiffened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he gave chase to the Israelites. As the Israelites were departing defiantly, ⁹the Egyptians gave chase to them, and all the chariot horses of Pharaoh, his riders, and his warriors overtook them encamped by the sea, near Pi-hahiroth, before Baal-zephon. ¹⁰As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites caught sight of the Egyptians advancing upon them. Greatly frightened, the Israelites cried out to God. ¹¹And they said to Moses, "Was it for want of graves in Egypt that you brought us to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, taking us out of Egypt? ¹²Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us be, and we will serve the Egyptians, for it is better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness'?" ¹³But Moses said to the people, "Have no fear! Stand by, and witness the deliverance that God will work for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴God will battle for you; you hold your peace!"

וַיִּחַזֶּק ה' אֶת־לֵב פַּרְעֹה מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם וַיִּרְדֹּף אַחֲרֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל יָצְאוּ בְיָד רָמָה: וַיִּרְדֹּפוּ מִצְרַיִם אַחֲרֵיהֶם וַיִּשְׁיֹגּוּ אוֹתָם חֲנִים עַל־הֵם כָּל־סוּס רֶכֶב פַּרְעֹה וּפָרָשָׁיו וַחֲיָלוֹ עַל־פִּי הַחִירָת לִפְנֵי בָעַל צֶפֶן: וּפַרְעֹה הִקְרִיב וַיִּשְׂאֹף בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־עֵינֵיהֶם וְהִנֵּה מִצְרַיִם | נֹסֵעַ אַחֲרֵיהֶם וַיִּירָאוּ מְאֹד וַיִּצְעֲקוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־ה': וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה הַמִּבְלִי אִין־קְבָרִים בְּמִצְרַיִם לְקַחְתָּנוּ לָמוֹת בַּמִּדְבָּר מִה־זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ לָּנוּ לְהוֹצִיאָנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם: הֲלֹא־זֶה הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְנוּ אֵלֶיךָ בְּמִצְרַיִם לֵאמֹר חֲדַל מִמֶּנּוּ וְנַעֲבֹדָה אֶת־מִצְרַיִם כִּי טוֹב לָנוּ עַבְדָּ אֶת־מִצְרַיִם מִמָּוֶתנוּ בַּמִּדְבָּר: וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־הָעָם אֶל־תִּירָאוּ הַתִּיצְבוּ וַיִּרְאוּ אֶת־יְשׁוּעַת ה' אֲשֶׁר־יַעֲשֶׂה לָכֶם הַיּוֹם כִּי אֲשֶׁר רָאִיתֶם אֶת־מִצְרַיִם הַיּוֹם לֹא תִסְפּוּ לִרְאֹתָם עוֹד עַד־עוֹלָם: ה' יִלָּחֶם לָכֶם וְאַתֶּם תִּחַרְשׁוּ:

4. Psalm 106:7-13

<p>⁷Our ancestors in Egypt did not become wise through the contemplation of Your wonders; they did not recall Your great mercies and they rebelled at the very banks of the Sea of Reeds. ⁸Yet God nonetheless saved them for the sake of the divine name, so that they would come to know the might of the Almighty. ⁹God rebuked the Sea of Reeds and it dried up, then allowed Israel to pass through the depths on foot as though through a desert, ¹⁰thus saving them from the hand of the adversary and redeeming them from the hand of the enemy. ¹¹And as the waters covered their foes, sparing not even a single one of them, ¹²they came finally to trust in God's promises and to sing hymns of divine praise. ¹³However they quickly forgot all God's saving acts and they soon stopped waiting for divine advice...</p>	<p>אֲבוֹתֵינוּ בְּמִצְרַיִם לֹא־הִשְׁכִּילוּ נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ לֹא זָכְרוּ אֶת־רַב חֲסָדֶיךָ וַיִּמְרוּ עַל־יְיָ בְּיַם־סוּף: וַיּוֹשִׁיעֵם לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ לְהוֹדִיעַ אֶת־ גְּבוּרָתוֹ: וַיַּגְעַר בְּיַם־סוּף וַיַּחַרֵּב וַיּוֹלִיכֵם בְּתֵהוֹמוֹת כַּמָּדְבָר: וַיּוֹשִׁיעֵם מִיַּד שׂוֹנֵא וַיַּגְאֵלֵם מִיַּד אֹיֵב: וַיַּכְסוּ־מִים צָרִיהֶם אֶחָד מֵהֶם לֹא נֹתֵר: וַיֹּאמִינוּ בְּדַבְּרֵי יְשִׁירֵי תְהִלָּתוֹ: מִהֲרוּ שְׂכָחוּ מַעֲשָׂיו לֹא־חָבוּ לַעֲצָתוֹ:</p>
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5. Commentary on Psalm 106 in *Our Haven and Our Strength: The Book of Psalms*, Rabbi Martin S. Cohen, p. 314

<p>“And, indeed, he makes his real point entirely clear when he suggest that the Jews have been on a spiritual seesaw for as long as anyone can recall, first careening upward toward heaven as they are overwhelmed with gratitude for God’s saving acts and then plummeting down away from God as they become stubborn and arrogant and forget the good deeds the Almighty has wrong on their behalf.”</p>
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6. Exodus 14:28-31

<p>²⁸The waters turned back and covered the chariots and the riders—Pharaoh’s entire army that followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites had marched through the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ³⁰Thus God delivered Israel that day from the Egyptians. Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the shore of the sea. ³¹And when Israel saw the wondrous power that God had wielded against the Egyptians, the people feared God; they had faith in God and in Moses—God’s servant.</p>	<p>וַיִּשְׁעֻבוּ הַמַּיִם וַיַּכְסּוּ אֶת־הָרֶכֶב וְאֶת־ הַפָּרָשִׁים לְכָל חֵיל פְּרָעֹה הַבָּאִים אַחֲרֵיהֶם בַּיּוֹם לֹא־נִשְׁאָר בָּהֶם עַד־אֶחָד: וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הָלְכוּ בִּיבֹשֶׁה בְּתוֹךְ הַיָּם וְהַמַּיִם לְהֶם חֹמָה מִיְמִינֵם וּמִשְׁמָאלָם: וַיִּוָּשַׁע ה' בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם וַיֵּרָא יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־ מִצְרַיִם מֵת עַל־שַׁפַּת הַיָּם: וַיֵּרָא יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־הַיָּד הַגְּדֹלָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה ה' בְּמִצְרַיִם וַיִּירָאוּ הָעָם ה' וַיֹּאמְנוּ בִּה' וּבַמּוֹשֶׁה עַבְדּוֹ:</p>
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7. *The JPS Torah Commentary: Exodus, Commentary on Exodus 14:31 by Nahum M. Sarna*

<p>They had faith “Faith” in the Hebrew Bible is not belief in a doctrine or subscription to a creed. Rather, it refers to trust and loyalty that find expression in obedience and commitment.</p>
