

Text Study **Text Study ט Aleph**
Crossing the Red Sea

After saying the blessing before study, please read this text and discuss the questions below.

צפ-ה עזΠ ση επΠ ,υνα

ο/ωη↓βη□γ ,/τ κoot♦ρ♣Γ°η η↓β□χ Yτ♣Γ°H≥υ χηfr♣εfω ω↔γ♣ρ□πY
 Yε□γ□μ°H≥υ σ↔τ♣ν Yτ♣ρη°H≥υ ο/ωη∞ρ≤φ♥τ □γ∞ξ↔β ο°η♥ρ□μfv ω↓Bfω±υ
 ιη∞τ η□κ□Xfv♥ω ω/θ↔ν κ/τ Yρ♣ντ↔H≥υ :ω"υω±η κ/τ κoot♦ρ♣Γ°η η↓β□χ
 ,τ↔Z ω♥ν ρ□X♣σfN□X ,Yν□κ Yβ♦T♣φ♥ε□κ ο°η♥ρ□μfv□X οηfr□χ♣ε
 ρ/θ≤τ ρ□χ♦Σ♥ω ω→ζ τO≤ω :ο°η♦ρ□μfNfv Yβ♦τη□μlω□κ Yβ□K ♦,ηfΓ□γ
 ω♦σ□χ□γ≥β±υ YB/Nfv κ♥σ≤φ ρ↔ντ□κ ο°η♥ρ□μfv□χ Ωη□κoot Yβ♣ρ□XfΣ
 Yβ∞,♠Nfv ο°η♥ρ□μfv ,/τ σ↔χ□γ Yβ□κ χlψ η□Φ ο°η♦ρ□μfv ,/τ
 Yχ□M≥η♣,fω Yτ♦ρηfT κ♥τ ο□γ♦ω κ/τ ω/θ↔ν ρ/ντ↔H≥υ :ρ□X♣σfN□X
 η□Φ οIH♥ω ο□φ□κ ωΓ□γ≥η ρ/θ≤τ ω"υω±η ,□γYθ±η ,/τ Yτ♣ρY
 ο♦,↔τ♣ρ□κ Yπηfξ↔, τO οIH♥ω ο°η♥ρ□μfv ,/τ ο,ηft♣ρ ρ/θ≤τ
 :ιYθηfr≤φ♥T ο/T♥τ±υ ο□φ□κ ο∞φ□K°η ω"υω±η :ο□κlγ σ□γ σlγ
 η↓β□X κ/τ ρ□X♥Σ η□κoot ε□γ□μfT ω♥ν ω/θ↔ν κ/τ ω"υω±η ρ/ντ↔H≥υ
 Ω♣σ"η ,/τ ω∞ψ±βY Ω♣Ψ♥ν ,/τ ο∞ρ♦ω ω♦T♥τ±υ :Yγ♦Ξ°η±υ κoot♦ρ♣Γ°η
 ο"H♥ω Θl,□X κoot♦ρ♣Γ°η η↓β□χ Yτ↔χ"η±υ Yω□γ♦ε□χY ο"H♥ω κ□γ
 :ω♦θ□X≥H□X

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites caught sight of the Egyptians advancing upon them. Greatly frightened, the Israelites cried out to the Lord...But Moses said to the people, "Have no fear! Stand by, and witness the deliverance which the Lord will work for you today..." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to Me? Tell the Israelites to go forward! Lift up your rod and hold out your arm over the sea and split it, so that the Israelites may march into the sea on dry ground."
Exodus 14:10-16

τ σνγ ζκ ;σ πψξ ,φξν ηκχχ σνκ,

πζυ οηκ πκηφ, σρση ηβτ ιητ ρνυτ πζ τκτ
 ιαφβ .πε εοηκ πκηφ, σρση ηβτ ιητ ρνυτ
 χη γαυπ :ρντβα επκηφ, οηκ σρηυ χσβηνγ ιχ
 κτραη ,ηχ πνρνχσ οηρπτ αφφχ ηβυχχξ
 κτ ογ σρ σγ πσσυτηυ

...one said: "I will not be the first to go down into the sea." The other said: "I will not be the first to go down into the sea." Whilst they were debating with each other Nachshon ben Aminadav (of the tribe of Judah) plunged with his tribe after him into the waves of the sea. For this reason Judah was granted dominion in Israel...

Talmud Sotah 37a

1. What did the Israelites need to know and believe in order to consider crossing the Red Sea?
2. Who might be apprehensive about what you are planning and the decisions you are making? What messages and information do you need to share with them in order to facilitate their ability to move ahead? Who are the people who will be excited? How can you take advantage of their enthusiasm?
3. As your Task Force "takes the plunge," to whom might you be tempted to defer, as Moses did to God, when you meet resistance?
4. What parallels can you see between Nachshon taking the first steps into the sea and the work in which your Task Force is currently engaged? As Judah was given prominence in Israel, what might be the ultimate rewards of your efforts?

Background

Sotah – A tractate of the *Talmud* that deals primarily with how a suspected adulteress should be treated. It also explains how the various tribes were chosen for their roles in Israel.

Please note that God's Hebrew name appears in this text study. As a sign of respect, instead of discarding it after use you may prefer to store it in a geniza—a place where printed materials containing God's name and old ritual objects are collected in preparation for ritual burial.