

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT VA'ETCHANAN

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The proof is in the writing



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In this week's parasha, Moshe discusses the commandment for the Jewish people to teach their children about God and His precious commandments. Moshe tells them that if their children ask about the laws that God commanded us, they should tell them about the miracles God performed when He took us out of Egypt. The verse says, "if your child asks you tomorrow..." (Devarim 6:20). What does the verse mean by the word "tomorrow"?

Rabbi Shimshon Raphael Hirsch (Germany, 1808-1888) explains that the child is asking why God does not perform miracles as He did for the generation leaving Egypt. The word

"tomorrow" implies a time when open miracles no longer take place. The Torah urges the generation of the desert to tell their children of the great miracles they experienced, attesting to God's sovereignty. Yet, they are not to expect the open miracles to continue.

A young girl once asked Rabbi Yisrael Salanter (Lithuania, 1810-1883) why God doesn't perform open miracles for us nowadays. He replied that he would give her an answer later that night. The girl returned home that night jubilant after graduation from a school of music where she received her diploma as a professional violinist. Rabbi Salanter asked her to prove that she knows how to play the violin by playing the violin for him. She replied that she was tired and didn't want to play for him at that time. He said, "I don't believe that you can play." The girl

pulled out her diploma and said, "I don't need to play my violin to prove that I can play, this diploma is proof that I can play and that I have earned this recognition!" "Ahh," replied Rabbi Salanter. "This answers your question. God does not need to continue to make open miracles to prove His existence. He has shown us great miracles when He saved us from Egypt and protected us in the desert. The Torah is His 'diploma'".

As parents, educators and even as a friend or family member, we are charged with telling others of the great miracles that God performed for our nation and of any personal miracles we have experienced. This is to reassure us of God's love and His constant presence in our lives. The Torah is teaching us that we must relive past miracles and draw faith from them again and again.

SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE CAMELS IN THE DESERT

