

## **A Closer Look-B'shalach**

*The Exodus culminates in the Splitting of the Sea and the drowning of the Egyptian army.*

Text:

And Israel saw the Mighty Hand that God had wrought against Egypt, and the People feared God, and they believed in God...Then Moses and the Children of Israel sang this song...

[Exodus 15:31]

Question:

Doesn't belief in God come *before* fear of God? You can't fear God until you believe in Him!

Answer:

The Jews already *knew* God existed; the miracles they saw helped them *internalize* this knowledge, making God's presence a reality in their lives. How did this happen? The Splitting of the Sea generated *fear* of God – a sobering awareness of His greatness – which helped the Jews rise above pettiness and selfishness to a higher level of refinement and spirituality. From this inspired vantage point, the Jews were able to see more clearly, and truly *believe* in God more profoundly than ever before.

Message:

Faith in God is not acquired through logical analysis. Our belief is rooted in the bedrock of the soul; we experience confusion and doubt only because passions, emotions and biases cloud our vision and color our judgment. The more we refine our character, elevate our perception and inspire ourselves with Torah's vision, the more authentically we can live our lives – not only *knowing*, but truly *believing*, what we know is fundamentally true.