

LISTEN TO YOUR MESSAGES

Background

Yisro heard about all that HASHEM had done for Moshe and Yisrael, and he decided to join the ranks of the Jews. Rashi explains that he heard many things. He heard about the *makkos* and splitting of the *Yam Suf*. He heard about the miracles of the *be'er*, a rock that followed the Jewish people in the desert and provided millions of gallons of water a day. He heard about the *man*, food that miraculously fell each night in the exact place appropriate for each family's needs.

Of all of these miracles, the ones that actually moved Yisro were the splitting of the sea and the war with Amalek. While everything else may have made an impression on him, these were the things that actually got him to move forward.

Questions

If we were to rate the miracles, the splitting of the sea and the war with Amalek would not seem to be anywhere near each other.

The single greatest manifestation of HASHEM's control over nature was the splitting of the sea. It was the one time in history that HASHEM demonstrated to all of humanity that He alone created, maintains, and orchestrates all of physicality. It would take many books to detail the extent of the miracles shown at that moment in time, and up till this very day, it is one of the pillars of our belief system.

How can that singular event be compared to the war with Amalek? At the time of the war, the Jewish Nation numbered 600,000 men between twenty and sixty, and we left Mitzrayim armed. So while there was clearly a miracle in the war with Amalek, as the Jews were not trained soldiers and had been slaves for 210 years, it is very difficult to compare the miracle of winning that war to the splitting of the sea.

Why were these the two events that caused Yisro to convert?

ספר שמות פרק יח

(א) וישמע יתרו כהן מדין חתן משה את כל אשר עשה אלהים למשה ולישראל עמו כי הוציא ידוד את ישראל ממצרים:

And Yisro, priest of Midian, heard about all that HASHEM had done for Moshe and His people Israel when He brought Israel out of Egypt.

רש"י על שמות פרק יח פסוק א

(א) וישמע יתרו - מה שמועה שמע ובא קריעת ים סוף ומלחמת עמלק (זבחים קטז):

What did Yisro hear about that made him come? The splitting of the sea and the war with Amalek.