The Torah Times Weekly

Num 25:10 - 30:1

July 11, 2014

Join Mrs. Noah, Hannah, and many of their friends as they use their imaginations to explore the Torah and the awesome stories and lessons waiting to be found.



41- B'midbar

Part 1 At The Camp Ground

Continued from last week: Zak watched as Hannah slipped out of the tent into the darkness. He had the jitters. Cecil scared Zak when he climbed under his shirt – again! Zak thought it was a spider or a snake or – something bad! "You've got to STOP doing that!"he cried.

As Hannah began walking toward the light she saw in the woods, she was startled when she heard a noise behind her.

"It's just me," Zak whispered. "I'm coming, too."

So, Hannah and Zak carefully walked along the dark path. Scattered lightning lit up the way. A light sprinkle of rain began sifting through the leaves as they got closer to the camp they spotted from their tent.

"What if Max is laying in a puddle of mud ... or buried under a pile of leaves ... or ..." Hannah said softly and gulped back a sob.

"Or, bugs crawling all over him and bears sniffing at his feet!" Zak added.

"Uhhhh!" Hannah groaned. "We're almost there." Then, she stopped. "Look! That's not a tent! It's a bunch of branches – piled up!" she told Zak.

Zak peeked over her shoulder. "It looks like a teepee – only made with branches!"

Hannah saw a fish on a stick, cooking over a roaring campfire. There was a

shelter near by, made of branches from the many trees around. They noticed a light inside the shelter, too.

"Hellooooo!" Hannah called out – her voice a little shaky.

A head showed itself from an opening in the branch shelter. The head looked familiar!

"MAX?" they both shouted.

"Max, is that YOU?" Hannah repeated.

"It's about time!" *Max called back.* "I thought no one was EVER going to find me!"

Hannah was speechless! "How ... what ...?"

"We thought you'd be lying under some leaves – with bears licking your toes!"Zak cried – still in shock.

"Bears don't care about puppets! They eat fish and stuff," Max snickered. Hannah and Zak followed as he went back into his little shelter. Max sat on a pile of leaves and tried to brush off some of the dirt he noticed on his shirt.



Hannah looked around. She was astonished at what she saw. The small teepee was made of branches! Each one was carefully laying on top of another, and tied with string to hold it strong, making a tight woven pattern. It was almost like walls. Then she saw a little table, made out of sticks. A fishing pole and an old plastic bottle filled with water. She remembered the fish, still cooking over the fire. "Did YOU make all of this?"

Max kinda crinkled up his face. "Well – I, yeah, a ... a ... I helped!" he finally admitted. "There was this bunch of boy scouts – they were learning to survive in the woods. They did all kinds of things!" he exclaimed. "They learned to make fires, build shelters, and even find food and water! I helped a boy named Tommy, and he showed me how to do a lot of things. He gave me his pocket knife, so I could make a fishing pole and catch fish! I even carved a cup out of a fat tree branch."

"Food? What kind of food could you find out here in the woods?" *Zak asked.*

"Oh, no!" Hannah shouted. "We forgot! Mrs. Noah, Cecil, Moogy, and Miss B, are all back there – with NO fire! How can we get this fire back to our camp?" she asked, pointing to the fire.

"Sure," *Max replied.* "I learned all about camp safety. Take that one branch there, and I'll put out the rest of the fire. Tommy gave me a fire starter stone – and some matches."

"What's a fire starter stone?" Zak wondered.

"See?" *Max showed him.* "It's called flint. You can make sparks with it – to start a fire – when you need one."

Taking one burning branch, he handed it to Zak. Then he put out the fire. He took the branch he was cooking the fish on, too, and gathered an old shirt he was using for a blanket – and the cup he had made. **"Oh! I almost forgot my**

fishing pole!" *He grabbed the pole, too, and they hurried off to Mrs. Noah – through the rain.*

Zak carried the burning branch like a torch – high in the air – leading the way.

When they got to camp, Hannah yelled, "Mrs. Noah! Look what we found!"

From inside the tent, Mrs. Noah cried, "You got some fire! We ... " she stopped as she stepped out of the tent – and saw Max in the light of the torch. "Max!" She began laughing. "How ...?"

"I prayed, Mrs. Noah. Just like in the stories you tell – I remembered to pray and ask Abba Yah to help me!" *Max said, proudly.*



Mrs. Noah had put branches into the fire pit, ready for the light she hoped Hannah and Zak would return with. The rain had stopped, so the fire started quickly with the branch Max had already burning.

Mrs. Noah - needs o hear from you!

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"Is that a fish?" *Mrs. Noah exclaimed when she saw the branch Max was cooking over his fire.*

Max beamed with excitement. "Yep! And, I caught it myself!"

"Oh, my!" Mrs. Noah cried. "You remembered a lot, Max."

Max told them about his adventures as they got more food out of the cooler and set up the picnic table for dinner. As they dished up the food, they sat around the camp fire.

"Mrs. Noah tode us ah stow'we of ah fam-wee dat dot out ob E-gup," *Cecil told Max.* "Dat was dood. I wike Charwie."

Mrs. Noah pulled some blankets up around them to keep warm.

"Mrs. Noah, from what we've read, Abba Yah wants to bless everyone. When people listen, He has all kinds of blessings to give them. Wasn't there a time when the Hebrews were doing so good, that YHWH protected them?" Hannah smiled as she looked at Max.

"It appears there were many times," *Moogy answered,* "while they were in the wilderness, where YHWH DID protect them. He does say how much He wants to bless them – but He can't when they are being disobedient."

"Max, we have been reading about Ba'laam and Ba'lak. Why don't you go take a quick look at them, while I pick up the dishes. Be blessed

and safe," Mrs. Noah prayed as Hannah and the gang began imagining the wilderness of Moab. Part 2

With Ba'laam – In the Plains of Moab

"**There's Ba'laam, now,**" Hannah whispered as they watched him looking down over the valley where the Isra'elites were camped – the land of Shittim.

"Hmmm," *Ba'laam said out loud.* "How can I denounce those whom the LORD has not denounced? From the rocky peaks I see them, from the heights I view them. I see a people who live apart and do not consider themselves one of the nations." [Num 23:8]

"Pssst," Hannah said, softly to Max and Zak. "They must be hearing and doing Yah's commandments. I can almost see the shield of faith covering all of Isra'el! It's like a big bubble that won't let Ba'laam curse them at all. I sure hope WE have that bubble of protection around us!"

"Yeah! YHWH had told Ba'laam he could only bless Isra'el – he could NOT curse them. Ba'laam wanted to help Ba'lak and destroy this people. [Num 22:12]

"As long as the tribes follow YHWH's Commandments," *Hannah said softly,* "and keep themselves apart from the nations, Ba'laam can't hurt them!"

"Look over there," *Max pointed out.* "There's a bunch of women coming close to one of the camps. Let's sneak down and see what they're up to." [Num 25:11-3]

So, they climbed down the hill and hurried to catch up with the women. The women were carrying several baskets and had wine skins thrown over their shoulders. Hannah could smell the perfume and noticed their clothing was ... well, not something Mrs. Noah would ever wear!

They were panting when they got to the camp. The women laughed and danced around as they laid out baskets of food: fruits, nuts and freshly made breads. Then wine was given to all who would share in their goodies. [Num 25:1-2]

"What are they doing?" Max wondered.

"Hmmm. I think I remember – and it isn't good!" Zak recalled.

"The only way the Isra'elites can be defeated is if they lose YHWH's blessings!" Hannah exclaimed. "Ahhh!" she gasped. "I know what happened – We need to go see Mrs. Noah!"

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Pinchas - Numbers 25:10-30:1

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