



TORAH 4 TEENS

BY TEENS

NCSY ISRAEL



Gavriel Novick Director of Regional Development

Thinking BIG

Rashi points out that the Egyptian spoils Bnei Yisrael collected at the Yam Suf were larger than anything they took out of Egypt. Why did Hashem feel the need to give them such grand and precious materialistic jewels and metals? It is true that this fulfilled the promise Hashem gave to Avraham that his people would leave captivity with “rechush gadol” great possessions but why the need for the excessive treasures?

Rav Kook explains that the Jewish people leaving Egypt was not just a redemption from captivity, it was the creation of a great nation. The rechush gadol was needed to enable Bnei Yisrael to think bigger. They were not simply redeemed slaves. They were now members of an elite group, the Jewish people.

This has been the mission of NCSY Israel for the past 6 years. Not simply to adjust to life in Israel and redeem our participants from feeling alone, but to enable them to thrive here. We are devoted to instilling a pride and love of Israel in teen olim,

guiding them as they become true leaders of this elite nation.

This year, NCSY Israel as an organization has also gone big with expanded programming in all locations. But we have not only increased our events or staffing, a model of linear growth. We have thought bigger and introduced new initiatives and projects to create strategic exponential growth and impact. We have started meeting teen olim in schools and begun monthly local Shabbat programming. We are partnering with community rabbis and Aliyah representatives to ease the transition for new teens arriving in Israel. We are launching a NCSY Israel summer program, a needed and missing resource for olim families. And this is only the beginning. Because this nation and this land was born by thinking big, and that is exactly what we will continue to do.



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“Eretz Israel”. They are redirected on a different pathway to the land by Hashem, but why? The quickest and easiest path to Eretz Israel would be going through Philistia!

Just as it was the easiest way out of Egypt it would also have been the easiest way to return. The Philistines would have wanted war, and with such an easy and quick path back to Egypt, Bnei Israel would have probably headed back. To avoid this Hashem led them on a more intricate path through The Sinai desert. Even so, we find many complaints from Bnei Israel saying they would rather be back in Egypt.

This takes us back to our question, why did Hashem take them on a different route?

Again, Bne Israel might have headed back

**Refuah Shleima:
Martha Bat Masha**

to Egypt on their own if it was so close. The lesson we take from this is that Hashem had taken them on this path not only to strengthen Bnei Israel but to strengthen their faith in Hashem as well.

When we are going through hard or troubled times we should try our best to strengthen our trust in Hashem. Whether through our tefilla or everyday deeds, as we’ve seen in the time of שמות/Exodus when He took us out of Egypt with an outstretched arm, or if we see it in our time as we grow as a nation free from the shackles of Egypt living a life filled with Torah learning and Mitzvot. ■

NCSY Israel is the premier organization in Israel, dedicated to connect, inspire, empower teen olim to the Land of Israel by encouraging passionate Judaism through Torah and Tradition. Find out more at israel.ncsy.org

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