



## **Parashat Yitro**

### **24 Shevat 5784 – February 3, 2024**

Are the children of Israel worthy of receiving the Torah? Our sages tell us that B'nei Yisrael were not fit to receive the Torah, in G-d's eyes, immediately after exiting Egypt. G-d felt that they still suffered the after-effects of slave labor. They could stay in the wilderness and acclimate themselves to freedom, manna, and trust in HaShem. They could mature into a nation of priests and grow in their holiness.

HaShem made himself known before B'nei Yisrael. Only through understanding HaShem's kindness, and protection would they merit being given the Torah. HaShem provided them with food and water and saved them from Amalek.

When B'nei Yisrael left Egypt there was strife. The strife and discord had to diminish. HaShem could not bestow the Torah on such a contentious people. There had to be a sense of brother/sisterhood, unity, and peace with one another.

B'nei Yisrael could find what they needed from HaShem's Torah of peace in order to live harmoniously. HaShem calls upon Moshe to prepare B'nai Yisrael to receive the Torah saying, "Relate these words to B'nai Yisrael exactly as I told them to you!"

Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Nathan W. Langer