

**February 5, 2009**

*Many people had great expectations that the last election would end “gridlock” in the United States Senate and House of Representatives. As Congress continues its work on economic bailout legislation, there is hope that differences will become secondary to the need to arrive at an immediate remedy to the current financial situation of our country so that corporations, businesses and individuals can feel that some help is on the way.*

*The Israelites, after leaving Egypt, saw the Sea of Reeds in front of them, and the approaching Egyptian army behind them. The people called out to Moses in despair, “What have you done, taking us out of Egypt?” Moses reassured the people that the Egyptians pursuing them would never reach them, and said that God would protect them. God then said to Moses, “Why do you cry out? Tell the Israelites to move forward!” It was moment for action, not words. God told Moses, “Don't just stand there telling the people not to be afraid - do something!” Then God told Moses what to do.*

*The challenges we face in our lives may cause us to complain or immobilize us. We need to be sure that neither the kvetching nor the feeling that we can't move in one direction or another won't last too long. It doesn't take a miracle to find a way to move forward. We simply need to take a step and act. Let us hope that our leaders will do just that as we continue to turn our apprehension into action in our own lives.*

**-- L'shalom, Rabbi Larry K.**