

Notes of Parshah Bo Exodus 10:1-13:16

Parshah Bo is the continued story of the plagues and the people leaving Egypt. God fulfills the prediction that Pharaoh will send the people out.

THE FINAL PLAGUES

It begins with the Pharaoh still not being impressed by the plagues, even as his advisors tell him to send the people away.

Next God sent a plague of locusts that ate all the hail did not destroy and then darkness. A darkness that paralyzed the people but did not affect the Israelites. In both cases Pharaoh begged for the plague to be lifted and when they were would not let the people go.

Now in each case Pharaoh tried to negotiate with Moses but Moses followed the word of God. In the last, Pharaoh threatened Moses if he returned.

God then tells Moses to tell the Israelites to ask their neighbors for silver and gold, saying that the people respect Adonai.

DEATH OF THE FIRST BORN AND PASSOVER

God instructs Moses that on the 14th day of the month of Nisan every family should slaughter a lamb and smear the blood on the doorposts of their homes. They should roast and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. All should be eaten and not left for the next day.

On that night God will kill the first born of people and animals in homes without the mark on the door. God then says that the people should remember for all ages and sets the festival of Passover here. Including the rule of eating only unleavened bread and removing leavening from one's home for 7 days.

God killed the first born on the night of the 14th of Nisan all over Egypt. Pharaoh called for Moses and said to have all the Israelites leave. The Israelites packed up taking with them dough that had not yet risen.

The Israelites enter Egypt with 70 people and were now leaving after 430 years with a mixed multitude of over 600,000.

God calls for all the first boy of Israel to be dedicated to God for they were spared on the night of Passover.

God repeats the rules of Passover for Moses to tell the people. God calls for the people to remember the miracles of the Exodus.

Please note: this text may not be shared or reproduced without the written permission of the Darshan Yeshiva.



T'FILLIN AND TEACHING YOUR CHILDREN

God tells the people to remember the miracles of God and teach your children. God also said the words of God should be written on the hand and forehead of the people to be remembered, which is the basis for the Jewish ritual of T'fillin.

The Torah tells us that if a child asks later about why we observe the festival of Passover that we should answer "because of the miracle God did for me when I left Egypt". Making the story personal and creating the basis for the modern Passover Seder.