

Notes of Parshah Shemot Exodus 1:1-6:10

Parshah Shemot is the first parshah in the second book of the Torah.

## **CHANGING FATES OF THE PEOPLE**

Shemot means names and refers to the listing of names of the children of Jacob who traveled into Egypt, a collection of people who number 70 individuals.

The Torah shifts the narrative from the creation of a family to a creation of a people.

The Torah says a Pharaoh came to power that who did not remember the work of Joseph to save the people. He saw the Israelites as a potential enemy and makes them slaves.

Even in slavery the Israelites thrive so the Pharaoh orders the death of all new baby boys. First asking the midwives of Israel to kill them as they are born, but they disobey. Then all of Egypt is charged to kill them.

## **MOSES IS BORN**

A couple defies the order and hides their baby boy and then floats him in a basket down the Nile where he is discovered by the Pharaoh's daughter. She names him Moses, meaning, she drew him from the water. He is nursed by his own mother and grew up in the palace.

## **MOSES FLEES FROM EGYPT**

When Moses grew up he went to see the oppression of the Israelites and sees a taskmaster beating a Hebrew slave, he kills the Egyptian. Fearing he will be held to account he flees to Midian. There he joins with the family of a priest of Midian and marries.

One day while tending a flock of sheep Moses encounters a burning bush that was not consumed by the fire. A voice came out of the bush that identifies as the God of Abraham. God charges Moses with the task of going to Pharaoh to force him to let the Israelites go.

On his way back to Egypt God becomes angry with Moses for not circumcising his son and Moses' wife Tziporah does it and saves Moses from God's wrath.

Moses also feared he did not speak well and that the people would not listen. God told him he would send his brother Aaron to speak for him and give him a staff to do miracles.

In Egypt Aaron and Moses convinced the people of Israel that God would save them.

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## **BRINGING THE PEOPLE OUT OF EGYPT**

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh to ask to let the people leave but he would not. In fact he made the life of the people harder. The Israelites were mad at Moses who made their lives more difficult.

Moses spoke with God again asking why God would allow the life of the Israelites to get harder. God responded that “Soon I will show you how I will punish the Pharaoh. He will gladly let the people go. In fact he will drive them out of Egypt.”

This portion of the Torah set the scene with Moses becoming the leader of the people and shows God predicting how he will use Pharaoh to reveal God’s power to the world.