

Notes of Parshah Va'era Exodus 6:2-9:35

GOD CLARIFIES A NEW IDENTITY

As the parshah opens God speaks to Moses saying “I was known as El Shaddai” referring to how God was revealed to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob but now will be known as “Adonai”. God sends Moses and Aaron back to Pharaoh to call for the Pharaoh to let the people leave. The Torah then speaks of the ancestors of the people and connects them to the current Israelites.

GOING BACK TO SEE PHARAOH

Moses and Aaron goes back to Pharaoh and God says that Pharaoh will not listen saying God will show the power that will defeat Egypt.

God told Aaron that to show God’s power Aaron should throw down his staff and it will become a snake. But the magicians of Egypt could do the same.

Pharaoh refused to even let the people go worship in the wilderness and so God revealed the plan.

THE PLAGUES

God told Moses to go to the Nile when the Pharaoh is there and strike the water. The water of the Nile turned to blood. Though the magicians could mimic the change the blood killed fish and brought a stench to Egypt. Pharaoh would not let the people go.

God next sent a plague of frogs. This time Pharaoh said if the frogs were removed he would let the people go, but in the end when the frogs were gone he changed his mind.

Next God told Moses to tell Aaron to strike the dust and the dust would become lice. The lice would get into all the Egyptian homes, on them and their animals. This was the first miracle the Egyptian magicians could not do as well. Even though Pharaoh relented on letting the people go.

The plagues continued with wild swarms, cattle disease and boils on the Egyptians and their animals. When each plague ended Pharaoh would again not let the people leave.

Then came a plague of hail, hail that had fire inside that both destroyed anything outside and burned. While the Israelites were spared the Egyptians were devastated. Some believed in the power of Adonai and took precautions. Pharaoh once again said he would let the people go if Moses stopped the hail, but again after the hail stopped Pharaoh would not let the people go.