

## **Remote Youth Groups!!!**

**Parshas Shemos**  
**January 9 2021**  
**25 Teves 5781**

### **Tefillah of the week:**

#### **תורה צוה לנו משה מורשה קהילת יעקב**

“Moses prescribed the Torah to us, an eternal heritage for the congregation of Jacob.”

This means that Moshe taught us the Torah, and it’s a heritage for the people of Yaakov.

This is found in the Parsha of VeZos Habracha, which is the last Parsha in the Torah.

The Ramban points out that it is a heritage for the congregation of Yaakov, which means all the nation, even the converts who have joined in, and weren’t originally part of the nation.

Rabbeinu Bechaya comments that it is a heritage, not an inheritance, so we shouldn’t think that it’s a given that we get to keep the Torah as a gift, it’s more like something we need to earn.

Rav Hirsch tells us that the Torah is our heritage, nothing else, not a land, not our culture or bagels, but the Torah.

### **Parsha Summary and Discussion**

Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, is worried that there are too many Jews and they are becoming too powerful. So he decides to enslave them, forcing all the Jews to do backbreaking labor working in the fields, shlepping bricks, and building cites for him.

Next he calls in the two Jewish midwives, Shifrah and Puah, and tells them that whenever they are helping a woman give birth, if a boy is born, they must kill him. But the midwives know what a horrible thing that is to do, so

they don't listen to him. So Pharaoh makes a new decree that all Jewish newborn boys must be thrown into the Nile River.

Now, Yocheved gives birth to a son, and of course, she is afraid that he will be killed, so, at first, she hides him in her house. But then, when she is afraid that the Egyptians will find him, she makes him a little waterproof cradle and hides it in the long grasses near the edge of the river. As it happens, Pharaoh's daughter comes down to the river to bathe, and she notices this strange little basket floating in the river. She sends her maid to get it, and she sees a crying little baby inside! She names the boy Moses and decides to take him home and raise him as her son. That's how it happens that Moses, a Jewish boy, grows up in the palace.

Discuss – The funny way that Hashem made it that although he tried to destroy the Jewish salvation by throwing the baby boys in the river, the savior of the Jews was raised in his own palace.

When Moses grows up, he goes out and sees the hardships that his people, the Jews, are experiencing, and it really bothers him. One day, he sees an Egyptian beating a Jew. He is so angry that he kills the Egyptian. When he realizes that he might get into trouble, he has to escape Egypt and runs off to a faraway country called Midian. There, he helps the daughter of Yisro and marries one, Tzipporah, and becomes a shepherd to his father-in-law's flock.

Discuss – The way that Moshe cared so much for his fellow Jews that he risked his life to protect him against the Egyptian

One day, while Moses is taking care of the sheep, one of them runs away from the flock. Moses goes after it, and he sees an amazing thing: a burning bush that is on fire, but not actually burning. There, he hears G-d speaking to him and telling him to go to Pharaoh and take the Jews out of Egypt. At first Moses doesn't want to do it, thinking, "How can I be a messenger of G-d? And what if the Jews don't listen to me?" So G-d gives him three signs. In one, he picks up a stick and it turns into a snake, in the second his puts his hand into his jacket and it becomes all scaly, and in the third, G-d tells him that if they still don't listen, he should spill water from the Nile river onto the ground and it will become blood. Moses then explains his worry that he cannot talk clearly, so G-d appoints his brother Aaron as his spokesperson.

Discuss – Some of the commentators say that Moshe didn't do the right thing by asking for a spokesperson. What should he have done differently? (davened to Hashem that he be healed)

When Moses returns to Egypt and tells the Jews that he has come to rescue them, they believe him and are very happy. But then he goes to Pharaoh and passes on G-d's message that he should let the Jews out of Egypt. Pharaoh responds saying, "Who do you think you are? Stop disturbing the Jews from their work!" And on that very day, Pharaoh orders that the Jews' labor should become even harder.

Discuss – Why did Moshe go and ask Pharaoh to free them? Did he think that Pharaoh would free them?

The work is so hard that the Jews cannot do it, and the Egyptian taskmasters beat them. When Moses sees what has happened, he cries to G-d. "What have You done to the Jews? Why did You send me? Since I came to Pharaoh, he has only made things worse, and You didn't come to save them!?"

So G-d promises that He really will save the Jews. But we have to wait until next week to find out how He does it, because with this the Parshah ends.

### **Mitzvah of the Week**

There are 2 positive commandments to help another Jew to load and unload his animal. These Mitzvot teach us that we should look to do acts of charity with our bodies as well as with our money. Helping people out with their groceries, stopping for a car on the side of the road, or assisting the elderly are all examples of how we can do this mitzvah.

This Mitzvah is so easy to do, and can be found almost anywhere, as long as we keep an eye out for it.

We find that Moshe did this Mitzvah and cared for the Jews tremendously. He risked his life to help other Jews. We can learn from him how far this mitzvah can be taken.

### **Parsha Questions**

Q: What problem did Pharaoh have with the Jews?

A: They were becoming too numerous and powerful

Q: What did he do?

A: Enslaved the Jews, made them do very hard work, and killed the male babies

Q: What was Moshe's mother's name?

A: Yocheved

Q: What did she do with her son?

A: put him in a basket by the river

Q: Who found Moshe?

A: Pharaoh's daughter, Batya

Q: What did she do with Moshe?

A: brought him home and raised him in Pharaoh's house

Q: Why did Moshe have to flee Egypt?

A: He killed an Egyptian

Q: Where did he go?

A: Midian

Q: Who did he meet there?

A: Yisro, his daughters, and his wife

Q: What was Moshe's wife's name?

A: Tzipporah

Q: What did Moshe see when Hashem spoke to him?

A: A burning bush that wasn't consumed by the fire

Q: What was Moshe's concern about speaking to the Jews and Pharaoh?

A: That he couldn't speak clearly

Q: What did Hashem respond?

A: That Aharon would be the spokesman

Q: How did Pharaoh react to Moshe's request to free the Jews

A: He increased their workload

### Harder Questions:

1. Why does the verse say "And Yosef was in Egypt"?  
**1:5 - This verse adds that, despite being in Egypt as a ruler, Yosef maintained his righteousness.**
2. "...And they will go up out of the land." Who said this and what did he mean?  
**1:10 - Pharaoh said it, meaning that the Egyptians would be forced to leave Egypt.**
3. Why did Pharaoh specifically choose water as the means of killing the Jewish boys? (Two reasons.)  
**1:10,22 - He hoped to escape divine retribution, as G-d promised never to flood the entire world. Also, his astrologers saw that the Jewish redeemer's downfall would be through water.**
4. "She saw that he was good." What did she see "good" about Moshe that was unique?  
**2:2 - When he was born, the house was filled with light.**
5. Which Hebrew men were fighting each other?  
**2:13 - Datan and Aviram.**
6. Moshe was afraid that the Jewish People were not fit to be redeemed because some among them committed a certain sin. What sin?  
**2:14 - *Lashon hara* (evil speech).**
7. Why did the Midianites drive Yitro's daughters away from the well?  
**2:17 - Because a ban had been placed on Yitro for abandoning idol worship.**
8. How did Yitro know that Moshe was Yaakov's descendant?  
**2:20 - The well water rose towards Moshe.**
9. What lesson was Moshe to learn from the fact that the burning bush was not consumed?  
**3:12 - Just as the bush was not consumed, so too Moshe would be protected by G-d.**
10. What merit did the Jewish People have that warranted G-d's promise to redeem them?  
**3:12 - That they were destined to receive the Torah.**
11. Which expression of redemption would assure the people that Moshe was the true redeemer?  
**3:16,18 - "I surely remembered (*pakod pakadeti* )."**

12. What did the staff turning into a snake symbolize?  
**4:3 - It symbolized that Moshe spoke ill of the Jews by saying that they wouldn't listen to him, just as the original snake sinned through speech.**
13. Why didn't Moshe want to be the leader?  
**4:10 - He didn't want to take a position above that of his older brother Aharon.**
14. "And Hashem was angry with Moshe..." What did Moshe lose as a result of this anger?  
**4:14 - Moshe lost the privilege of being a *kohen* .**
15. What was special about Moshe's donkey?  
**4:20 - It was used by Avraham for *akeidat Yitzchak* and will be used in the future by *mashiach* .**
16. About which plague was Pharaoh warned first?  
**4:23 - Death of the firstborn.**
17. Why didn't the elders accompany Moshe and Aharon to Pharaoh? How were they punished?  
**5:1 - The elders were accompanying Moshe and Aharon, but they were afraid and one by one they slipped away. Hence, at the giving of the Torah, the elders weren't allowed to ascend with Moshe.**
18. Which tribe did not work as slaves?  
**5:5 - The tribe of Levi.**
19. Who were the: a) *nogsim* b) *shotrim* ?  
**5:6 - a) Egyptian taskmasters; b) Jewish officers.**
20. How were the *shotrim* rewarded for accepting the beatings on behalf of their fellow Jews?  
**5:14 - They were chosen to be on the Sanhedrin.**

**Good Shabbos!!!**