

QUESTIONS FOR PARSHAT SHEMOT 5781  
by Rabbi Edward Davis, Rabbi Emeritus & Sephardic Minyan Rabbi

**I. From the Text**

1. How many Jewish souls were living in Egypt at the beginning of the Egyptian Exile? (1:5)
2. What was Pharaoh's fear that would possibly happen as a result of the Jewish population explosion? (1:10)
3. When Pharaoh heard that Moshe had killed an Egyptian, he wanted to kill Moshe. Moshe fled. Where did Moshe go? (2:15)
4. Why did Moshe name his oldest son Gershom? (2:22)
5. What were the three signs that Hashem showed Moshe to help prove Moshe's mission? (4:1-9)

**II. From Rashi**

6. Who were Shifra and Puah in our tradition? (1:15)
7. How did Hashem reward the two midwives? (1:21)
8. Moshe saw an Egyptian hitting a Jew. Moshe killed the Egyptian after he looked "here and there." (2:12). What was Moshe looking for?
9. How did Hashem punish Moshe for Moshe's initial refusal to accept the mission to lead Bnei Yisrael out of Egypt? (4:14)
10. According to Rashi, why did Moshe delay circumcising his son Eliezer? (4:24)

**III. From the Rabbis**

11. What kind of miraculous population growth did Bnei Yisrael experience in Egypt? (Chizkuni)
12. How did Hashem reward the daughter of Pharaoh for saving Moshe and raising him? (Midrash)
13. Which two leaders of Bnei Yisrael were chosen by Hashem because of the kindness they showed when they were shepherds?

**IV. Midrash**

14. On the verse that says that Bnei Yisrael were fruitful and increased... (1:7), Rashi writes that the women each bore 6 children in one birth. The Midrash offers another opinion: they bore 12 in each birth. Why did Rashi offer only the opinion of six?

**V. Haftarah**

15. When does Isaiah refer to the nation as Yisrael and not Yaakov?

**VI. Relationships**

- a) Moshe - Itamar
- b) Aharon - Chur
- c) Elisheva - Tzipporah
- d) Chovav - Yitro
- e) Yitro - Gershom

## ANSWERS FOR PARSHAT SHEMOT 5781

1. 70
2. In the event of an invasion, the Jews might join the invading army (and become a fifth column).
3. To Midian.
4. Because "I have been a stranger in a foreign land."
5. Turning a staff into a snake and back. Moshe's hand became leprous. And He turned water into blood.
6. Shifra was Yocheved, and Puah was Miriam.
7. Yocheved received the House of Kohanim and Leviyim. Miriam received the House of Kings.
8. Moshe was looking into the future to make sure none of the descendants of the Egyptians would convert to Judaism.
9. Hashem took the Priesthood from Moshe and gave it to Aharon.
10. Moshe knew he had to circumcise his son, but Hashem had commanded him to return to Egypt. Traveling with a newly circumcised newborn was dangerous.
11. They came to Egypt numbering 70. After 210 years, they exited numbering over 600,000 adult males, excluding children, elderly, and women.
12. She experienced the Exodus with Bnei Yisrael. She converted, married a Jew, and had children (late in life).
13. Moshe and King David
14. There are six words in the verse to indicate the abundance of the population. Hence six children in each birth.
15. Yisrael when Bnei Yisrael is fulfilling its religious goals and destiny.

### Relationships

- a) Uncle Moshe
- b) Uncle Aharon
- c) Sisters-in-Law
- d) The same person
- e) Grandfather Yitro