

Understanding YAH's Likes and dislikes

#15 Bo (בֹּא) — in Hebrew, the command form "come in," or "Go in"

Torah: Exodus 10:1-13:16

Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28

THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT

The last three of the Ten Plagues are visited on Egypt: a swarm of locusts devours all the crops and greenery; a thick, palpable darkness envelops the land; and all the firstborn of Egypt are killed at the stroke of midnight of the 15th of the month of Nissan.

THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT

Elohim commands the first mitzvah to be given to the people of Israel: to establish a calendar based on the monthly rebirth of the moon. The Israelites are also instructed to bring a "Passover offering" to Elohim: a lamb or kid goat is to be slaughtered, and its blood sprinkled on the doorposts and lintel of every Israelite home, so that Elohim should pass over these homes when He comes to kill the Egyptian firstborn. The roasted meat of the offering is to be eaten that night together -with-matzah (unleavened-bread) and bitter herbs.

THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT

The death of the firstborn finally breaks Pharaoh's resistance, and he literally drives the children of Israel from his land. So hastily do they depart that there is no time for their dough to rise, and the only provisions they take along are unleavened. Before they go, they ask their Egyptian neighbors for gold, silver and garments—fulfilling the promise made to

Abraham that his descendants would leave Egypt with great wealth.

THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT

The children of Israel are commanded to consecrate all firstborn, and to observe the anniversary of the Exodus each year by removing all leaven from their possession for seven days, eating matzah, and telling the story of their redemption to their children. They are also commanded to wear tefillin on the arm and head as a reminder of the Exodus and their resultant commitment to God.

Exo 10:1 And יהוה said to Mosheh, "Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his servants, so that I show these signs of Mine before him,

Exo 10:2 and that you relate in the hearing of your son and your son's son what I have done in Mitsrayim, and My signs which I have done among them. And you shall know that I am יהוה."

Exo 10:3 And Mosheh and Aharon came in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus said יהוה Elohim of the Hebrews, 'Till when shall you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, so that they serve Me.

Exo 10:4 'Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, see, tomorrow I am bringing locusts within your borders.

Exo 10:5 'And they shall cover the surface of the land, so that no one is able to see the land. And they shall eat the rest of what has escaped, which remains to you from the hail, and they shall eat every tree which grows up for you out of the field. Exo 10:6 'And they shall fill your houses, and the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all the Mitsrites, which neither your fathers nor your fathers' fathers have seen, since the day that they were on the earth to this day.' "Then he turned and went out from Pharaoh.

Exo 10:7 And Pharaoh's servants said to him, "Till when would this one be a snare to us? Let the men go, so that they serve יהוה their Elohim. Do you not yet know that Mitsrayim is destroyed?" Exo 10:8 And Mosheh and Aharon were brought back to Pharaoh, and he said to them, "Go, serve your Elohim. Who are the ones that are going?"

Exo 10:9 And Mosheh said, "We are going with our young and our old, with our sons and our daughters, with our flocks and our herds we are going, for we have a festival to יהוה."

Exo 10:10 And he said to them, "Let יהוה be with you as I let you and your little ones go! Watch, for evil is before your face!

Exo 10:11 "Not so! You men go now, and serve יהוה, for that is what you desired." And they were driven out from the presence of Pharaoh. Exo 10:12 And יהוה said to Mosheh, "Stretch out your hand over the land of Mitsrayim for the locusts to come upon the land of Mitsrayim, and eat every plant of the land - all that the hail has

Exo 10:13 And Mosheh stretched out his rod over the land of Mitsrayim, and יהוה brought an east wind on the land all that day and all that night. Morning came, and the east wind brought the locusts.

Exo 10:14 And the locusts went up over all the land of Mitsrayim and settled within all the borders of Mitsrayim, very grievous. There had never been locusts like them before, nor would there again be like them.

Exo 10:15 And they covered the surface of all the land, so that the land was darkened. And they ate every plant of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left, and no greenness was left on the trees or on the plants of the field, in all the land of Mitsrayim.

Exo 10:16 Pharaoh then called for Mosheh and Aharon in haste, and said, "I have sinned against your Elohim and against you.

Exo 10:17 "And now, please forgive my sin only this once, and pray to יהוה your Elohim, that He would only turn away this death from me."

Exo 10:18 And he went out from Pharaoh and prayed to יהוה.

Exo 10:19 And יהוה turned a very strong west wind, which took the locusts away and blew them into the Sea of Reeds. Not one locust was left within all the border of Mitsrayim.

Exo 10:20 However, יהוה strengthened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not let the children of Yisra'ěl go.

Exo 10:21 And יהוה said to Mosheh, "Stretch out your hand toward the heavens, and let there be darkness over the land of Mitsrayim, even a darkness which is felt."

Exo 10:22 And Mosheh stretched out his hand toward the heavens, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Mitsrayim for three days.

Exo 10:23 They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, while all the children of Yisra'ěl had light in their dwellings. Exo 10:24 And Pharaoh called to Mosheh and said, "Go, serve יהוה, only leave your flocks and your herds behind. Let your little ones go with you too."

Exo 10:25 But Mosheh said, "You yourself are to provide us with slaughterings and ascending offerings, to prepare for יהוה our Elohim.

Exo 10:26 "And our livestock are to go with us too, not a hoof is to be left behind, for we have to take some of them to serve יהוה our Elohim, and we ourselves do not know with what we are to serve יהוה serve יהוה until we come there."

Exo 10:27 However, יהוה strengthened the heart of Pharaoh, and he would not let them go.

Exo 10:28 And Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me! Watch yourself and see my face no more, for in the day you see my face you die!" Exo 10:29 And Mosheh said, "You have spoken rightly - never again do I see your face!"

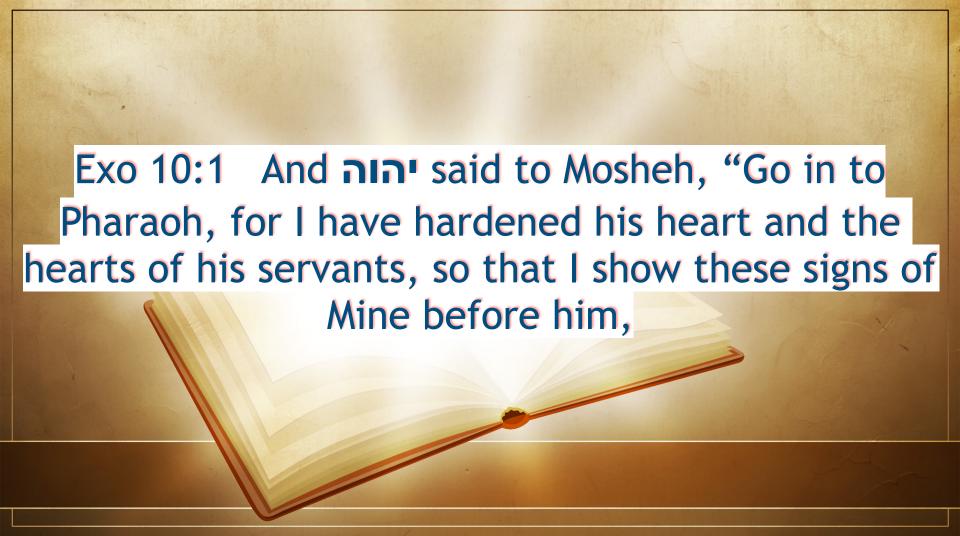
The name of this Torah week's portion is called 'Bo' which means, 'come in', as it comes from the root word בוא bo (bo)- Strong's H935 which means, 'to come in, go in, bring in, enter, to cause to come in, to bring near'.

Mosheh was once again told to 'go in' to Pharaoh and demand that he let Yisra'el go! As we continue to look at the account of the exodus of Yisra'ěl from Mitsrayim, we are able to learn, and are clearly reminded, that these events are not only historical, but are, at the same time, also very prophetic in nature, as it brings us clearer pictures of the soon return of our Messiah and how we too are to be an obedient and diligent people who are set-apart and walk in the Master's

When we learn the Torah and understand 'Mosheh', then we will be better equipped to know the True Living Torah, יהושע Messiah, and not be found clueless as to the times and be strengthened to find their refuge in Him, not being afraid of the events that will precede His coming, but rather be equipped in true obedience and the much-needed endurance of guarding His Torah!

As one studies Hazon/Revelation, then one gets a reflection of that which took place in Shemoth/ Exodus, in the events that led up to Yisra'el being ransomed, delivered and set free from bondage; and so, we are able to see how these events foreshadow, once again, the wrath of Elohim that will be poured out upon those who receive the mark of the beast and worship his image!

In this section, we will see that The Pesah/ Passover and the Feast of Matzot/Unleavened Bread will be the sign upon our hands and between the frontlets of our eyes. Let us first continue to look at the last 3 plagues, following on from the last Torah portion.



PLAGUE 8 - LOCUSTS (10:1-20)

Verse 1 - יהוה once again instructs Mosheh to 'come in' and present himself to Pharaoh, while reminding him that He had once again hardened Pharaoh's heart! Despite the heart of Pharaoh being hardened, Mosheh needed to be steadfast in his courage to do as יהוה had instructed, for יהוה was with him!

Repentance was no longer available to Pharaoh, as had strengthened Pharaoh's heart to not listen,

after the plague of boils and was now hardening Pharaoh's heart.

The Hebrew root word that is used here for 'hardened' is Tag kabad (kaw-bad')- Strong's H3513 which means, 'heavy, weighty, burdensome, honour' and is a word that is often used to translate the esteemed praise that is given to יהוה, however here it is written in the 'hifil' verb tense, which represents the 'causative action', as we see that it was יהוה who was causing Pharaoh's heart to be hardened and therefore, in the hifil verb tense, it can render the meaning of, 'to make heavy, to make dull, to make unresponsive'!

was making the heart of Pharaoh dull and unresponsive to hearing the Truth, as he had continually hardened his own heart and יהוה was causing his heart, as well as the heart of all Pharaoh's servants, to be hardened, in order to reveal His great power through the signs that would continue to follow the previous ones that had already been done and had brought much destruction

There comes a time when repentance is no longer available - a very sobering realisation that should cause us to be faithful in proclaiming righteousness to a lost and hardened people - who knows they may just turn and repent!

Romiyim/Romans 9:17-21 "For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this same purpose I have raised you up, to show My power in you, and that My Name be declared in all the earth." 18 So, then, He favours whom He wishes, and He hardens whom He wishes. 19 Then you shall say to me, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His counsel?" 20 But who are you, O man, to talk back to Elohim? Shall that which is formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" 21 Does not the potter have authority over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for value and another not for value?"

Many people often misunderstand this text and claim that if יהוה hardens whoever He wishes then He is not being fair and who then can stand any chance.

What we must take note of, is that יהוה is a just and righteous Elohim and He looks at the heart while man looks at the eyes, as we are reminded of this, in:

Shemu'ěl Aleph/1 Samuel 16:7 "But יהוה said to Shemu'ěl, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him, for not as man sees, for man looks at the eyes, but looks at the heart."

These were the words that יהוה spoke to Shemu'ěl when he was told to go and anoint the sovereign that יהוה had chosen (Dawid).

Many, who have typically hardened their hearts to hearing the Word of Truth, erroneously deem יהוה to be unfair, yet fail to recognise that He is a righteous Judge, who judges the hearts of man! As we consider this, we can be reminded of the clear words that were spoken to a disobedient and hard hearted Yisra'el, in:

Yeḥezqěl/Ezekiel 33:17-20 "And the children of your people have said, 'The way of יהוה is not fair.' But it is their way which is not fair! 18 "When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does unrighteousness, he shall die because of it. 19 "But when the wrong turns from his wrongness and does right and righteousness, he shall live because of it. 20 "And you have said, 'The way of יהוה is not fair.' O house of Yisra'ĕl, I shall judge every one of you according to his own

We would do well to learn from this - as we are not to harden our hearts when we 'hear' the voice of יהוה, but rather have our ears opened to HEAR (יְהוּה shama), GUARD (עָשָׂה shamar) and DO (עָשָׂה shamar) His Good Word!

No matter where you have come from, if you draw near to יהוה, He will draw near to you and as you cleanse yourself from all unrighteousness, by walking in His instructions, then He can use you for great things unto the esteem of His Name:

Timotiyos Bět/ 2 Timothy 2:19-21 "However, the solid foundation of Elohim stands firm, having this seal, "יהוה knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the Name of Messiah turn away from unrighteous-ness." 20 But in a large house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some unto value and some unto no value. 21 If, then, anyone cleanses himself from these matters, he shall be a vessel unto value, having been set apart, of good use to the Master, having been prepared for every good

Tehillah/Psalm 95:7-8 "For He is our Elohim, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you would hear His voice: 8 "Do not harden your hearts as in Meribah, and as in the day of Massah in the wilderness"

Tas'lonigim Bět/2Thessalonians 2:9-12 "The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power and signs and wonders of falsehood, 10 and with all deceit of unrighteousness in those perishing, because they did not receive the love of the truth, in order for them to be saved. 11 And for this reason Elohim sends them a working of delusion, for them to believe the falsehood, 12 in order that all should be judged who did not believe the truth, but have delighted in the unrighteousness."