

Torah Reading for Bo

Parshat Bo

Shabbat, 6 Shevat, 5780

1 February, 2020

SELECT A PORTION:

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1st Portion: (Exodus 10:1-11)

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Both English Hebrew

HIDE RASHI'S COMMENTARY

Exodus Chapter 10

1. The Lord said to Moses: "Come to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, in order that I may place these signs of Mine in his midst,

The Lord said to Moses: Come to Pharaoh: and warn him.

that I may place: Heb. שְׂתִי, lit., My placing, that I may place. — [after the targumim]

2. and in order that you tell into the ears of your son and your son's son how I made a mockery of the Egyptians, and [that you tell of] My signs that I placed in them, and you will know that I am the Lord."

I made a mockery: Heb. הִתְעַלְלֵתִי, I mocked, like "Because you mocked (הִתְעַלְלֵתִי) me" (Num. 22:29); "Will it not be just as He mocked (הִתְעַלְלֵתִי) them" (I Sam. 6:6), stated in regard to Egypt. It is not an expression meaning a "deed and acts (מַעֲלָלִים)," however, for were that so, He would have written עוֹלָלֵתִי, like "and deal (עוֹלָלִי) with them as You have dealt (עוֹלָלָתִי) with me" (Lam. 1:22); "which has been dealt (עוֹלָלִי) to me" (Lam. 1:12).

א וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה בֹּא אֶל-פַּרְעֹה כִּי-אֲנִי הִכְבַּדְתִּי אֶת-לִבּוֹ
וְאֶת-לֵב עֲבָדָיו לְמַעַן שְׂתִי אֶתְתִּי אֵלָה בְּקִרְבּוֹ:

ויאמר ה' אל משה בא אל פרעה: והתרה בו:

שתי: שימי שאשית אני:

ב וּלְמַעַן תִּסְפָּר בְּאָזְנִי בְּנִךְ וּבֶן-בְּנִךְ אֵת אֲשֶׁר הִתְעַלְלֵתִי בְּמִצְרַיִם
וְאֶת-אֶתְתִּי אֲשֶׁר-שַׂמְתִּי בָם וַיִּדְעֻם כִּי-אֲנִי יְהוָה:

התעללתי: שחקתי, כמו (במדבר כב כט) כי התעללתי בי, (שמואל א' ו' 1)
הלא כאשר התעולל בהם, האמור במצרים. ואינו לשון פועל ומעללים, שאם
כן היה לו לכתוב עוללתי, כמו (איכה א כב) ועולל למו כאשר עוללת לי, (שם
כב) אשר עולל לי:

3. So Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh and said to him, "So said the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, and they will worship Me.

to humble yourself: Heb. לָעֲנֹת, as the Targum [Onkelos] renders, לְאַתְקַנָּעָא, and it is derived from עָנָי. You have refused to be humble and meek before Me.

4. For if you refuse to let [them] go, behold, tomorrow I am going to bring locusts into your borders.

5. And they will obscure the view of the earth, and no one will be able to see the earth, and they will eat the surviving remnant, which remains for you from the hail, and they will eat all your trees that grow out of the field.

the view of the earth: Heb. עֵין הָאָרֶץ, the view of the earth.

and no one will be able: Heb. וְלֹא יוּכַל lit., and will not be able. The seer [will not be able] to see the earth, but [the text] speaks briefly.

6. And your houses and the houses of all your servants and the houses of all the Egyptians will be filled, which your fathers and your fathers' fathers did not see since the day they were on the earth until this day.' " [Therewith,] he turned and left Pharaoh.

7. Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long will this one be a stumbling block to us? Let the people go and they will worship their God. Don't you yet know that Egypt is lost?"

Don't you yet know: Heb. הֲטָרַם תִּדַּע, do you not know yet that Egypt is lost?-[Rashi and Rashbam from targumim]

8. [Thereupon,] Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh, and he said to them, "Go, worship the Lord your God. Who and who are going?"

were brought back: They were brought back by a messenger, whom they [the Egyptians] sent after them, and they returned them to Pharaoh.

ג וַיָּבֹא מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן אֶל־פַּרְעֹה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו כֹּה־אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הָעִבְרִים עַד־מָתִי מֵאַנְתָּ לְעֹנֹת מִפְּנֵי שְׁלַח עָמִי וַיַּעֲבֹדֵנִי:

לענות: כתרגומו לאתכנעא, והוא מגזרת עני, מאנת להיות עני ושפל מפני:

ד כִּי אִם־מָאֵן אַתָּה לְשַׁלַּח אֶת־עָמִי הַנִּנִּי מִבֵּית מִחֵר אֲרֹבָה בְּגִבְלֶיךָ:

ה וְכִסָּה אֶת־עֵין הָאָרֶץ וְלֹא יוּכַל לִרְאֹת אֶת־הָאָרֶץ וְאָכַל | אֶת־יִתְרֵהּ הַפְּלִטָה הַנּוֹשָׁאֶרֶת לָכֶם מִן־הַבָּרָד וְאָכַל אֶת־כָּל־הָעֵץ הַצֹּמַח לָכֶם מִן־הַשָּׂדֶה:

את עין הארץ: את מראה הארץ:

ולא יוכל וגו': הרואה לראות את הארץ, ולשון קצרה דבר:

ו וּמָלְאוּ בֵתֶיךָ וּבֵתִי כָל־עַבְדֶּיךָ וּבֵתִי כָל־מִצְרִים אֲשֶׁר לֹא־רָאוּ אֲבֹתֶיךָ וְאֲבֹת אֲבֹתֶיךָ מִיּוֹם הָיוּתָם עַל־הָאֲדָמָה עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וַיִּפֶּן וַיֵּצֵא מֵעַם פָּרְעֹה:

ז וַיֹּאמְרוּ עַבְדֵי פַרְעֹה אֵלָיו עַד־מָתִי יִהְיֶה זֶה לָנוּ לְמוֹקֵשׁ שְׁלַח אֶת־הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיַּעֲבֹדוּ אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם הַטָּרַם תִּדַּע כִּי אֲבָדָה מִצְרַיִם:

הטרם תדע: העוד לא ידעת כי אבדה מצרים:

ח וַיּוֹשִׁיב אֶת־מֹשֶׁה וְאֶת־אַהֲרֹן אֶל־פַּרְעֹה וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם לְכוּ עֲבֹדוּ אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם מִי וּמִי הֵלֵכִים:

ויושב: הושבו על ידי שליח ששלחו אחריהם והשיבום אל פרעה:

9. Moses said, "With our youth and with our elders we will go, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our cattle we will go, for it is a festival of the Lord to us."

10. So he [Pharaoh] said to them, "So may the Lord be with you, just as I will let you and your young children out. See that evil is before your faces."

just as I will let you... out: and surely I will not let the flocks and the cattle out as you said.

See that evil is before your faces: [Understand this] as the Targum [Onkelos] renders it. I have [also] heard an Aggadic midrash, however [which explains the passage as follows]: There is a star named Ra'ah [i.e., רעה meaning evil]. Pharaoh said to them [Moses and Aaron], "With my astrology I see that star ascending toward you in the desert [where you would like to go], and that is a sign of blood and slaughter." When the Israelites sinned with the calf, and the Holy One, blessed be He, sought to kill them, Moses said in his prayer, "Why should the Egyptians say, 'With Ra'ah He took them out...?' " (Exod. 32:12) This is what he [Pharaoh] said to them, "See that Ra'ah [evil] is opposite your faces," [implying that their blood would be shed in the desert]. Immediately, "The Lord repented of the Ra'ah [the sign of the star]" (Exod. 32:14), and He turned the bloodshed [symbolized by this star] into the blood of the circumcision, for Joshua [in fact] circumcised them. This is the meaning of what is said: "This day I have rolled away the reproach of the Egyptians from you" (Josh. 5:9), for they were saying to you, "We see blood over you in the desert." -[from Midrash Shir Hashirim, Wertheimer 1:2]

11. Not so; let the men go now and worship the Lord, for that is what you request." And he chased them out from before Pharaoh.

Not so: as you have said [that you want] to take the young children with you, but let the men go and worship the Lord. — [from Jonathan]

for that is what you request: ([meaning] that worship) you have requested until now, [telling me,] "Let us offer and sacrifice to our God" (Exod. 5:8), and young children do not usually offer up sacrifices. — [from Exod. Rabbah 13:5]

And he chased them out: This is elliptical, for it does not specify who the chaser was.

ט וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה בְּנֵעָרֵינוּ וּבְזִקְנֵינוּ וּבְבָנֵינוּ וּבְבָנוֹתֵינוּ בְּצֹאנֵנוּ וּבְבָקָרֵנוּ
וּבְכָל חַיֵּינוּ וְכָל חֲדָתֵנוּ לַיהוָה לְנוֹ:

י וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי כֵן יְהוָה עִמָּכֶם כְּאֲשֶׁר אֲשַׁלַּח אֶתְכֶם וְאֶת־טַפְכֶּם
רְאוּ כִּי רָעָה נִגַּד פְּנֵיכֶם:

כאשר אשלח אתכם ואת טפכם: אף כי אשלח גם את הצאן ואת הבקר
כאשר אמרתם:

ראו כי רעה נגד פניכם: כתרגומו. ומדרש אגדה שמעתי כוכב אחד יש ששמו
רעה. אמר להם פרעה רואה אני באיצטגנינות שלי אותו כוכב עולה
לקראתכם במדבר, והוא סימן דם והריגה וכשחטאו ישראל בעגל ובקש
הקב"ה להרגם אמר משה בתפלתו (שמות לב יב) למה יאמרו מצרים לאמר
ברעה הוציאם, זו היא שאמר להם ראו כי רעה נגד פניכם, מיד (שם יד)
וינחם ה' על הרעה והפך את הדם לדם מילה, שמל יהושע אותם, וזהו
שנאמר (יהושע ה ט) היום גלותי את חרפת מצרים מעליכם, שהיו אומרים
לכם דם אנו רואין עליכם במדבר:

יא לֹא כֵן לָכוּ נָא הַגְּבֵרִים וְעַבְדוּ אֶת־יְהוָה כִּי אַתֶּם מְבַקְשִׁים
וַיִּגְרַשׁ אֶתְכֶם מֵאֶת פְּנֵי פְרָעֹה:

לא כן: כאשר אמרתם להוליך הטף עמכם אלא לכו נא הגברים ועבדו את ה':

כי אתה אתם מבקשים: כי אותה בקשתם עד הנה (שמות ה ח) נזבחה
לאלהינו, ואין דרך הטף לזבוח:

ויגרש אתם: הרי זה לשון קצר ולא פירש מי המגרש: