

## Tell a story

### **Parsha Bo 2022-01-28**

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#### Comments

The name of this parsha in English translates to Come. G-d is letting the Jewish people know He wishes for them to leave Egypt. He knows that it will be a very slow progress. In the previous parsha's a few other plagues have already been mentioned. Moses and Aaron approach Pharaoh asking him, "how long will he continue to refuse seeing G-d for who He is? And giving the Jewish people permission to go so they could worship G-d. In this parsha, G-d lets the Egyptians know that He will bring another round of plagues being locusts into their borders. And it would not be a pretty sight for them. Again G-d hardens Pharaoh's heart and the Egyptians follow in his favor of continuing with their cruel treatment towards the Jewish people.

G-d warns Pharaoh and the Egyptian people that the locust would take over the earth. None of the Egyptians nor their animals would have vision. The locust would eat whatever living thing remained on the earth. The locust would eat all the trees and anything growing out in the field. There would be an abundance of locusts not just outside, but within all of the Egyptians' households. The servants of Pharaoh's listened to these words and were terrified. They believed what Moses and Aaron expressed G-d planned to do. His servants came to him begging that Pharaoh stop in his tracks and let the Jewish people go.

Perhaps Pharaoh was listening to these words, but they did not really penetrate him in any way. He tried to overrule what G-d had planned and therefore, the locusts came and destroyed everything belonging to the Egyptians. Somewhere in this parsha it is mentioned that G-d's reasoning behind the last plague. G-d wanted Pharaoh to know if he wouldn't allow the Jewish people to leave and worship Him, He would kill the firstborn of the Egyptians. G-d did not just kill the firstborn of every Egyptian family, He punished measure for measure. There is a deeper meaning behind what G-d planned to do. He wanted to get rid of any and all the Egyptian gods. G-d's message for the Jewish people is to find that divine spark we have.

With every mitzva, Jews attend to they are wrestling another divine spark out of its exile. Once it is able to come out of exile, it can find its true place in the universe we have been placed in. There are two other plagues that G-d places on the Egyptians in this parsha. They are darkness, which comes right after the plague of locusts. And after the darkness plague, comes the last plague totaling ten altogether, the death of the firstborn of Egyptians. That was the final straw for Pharaoh to let the Jewish people go. G-d gave His word and fulfilled it. At the end of this parsha, we see the Jewish people in a hurry packing everything they have to leave that horrible place. Leaving in such a hurry left the Jewish people with no time to wait for the dough they were baking to rise.

Over the time that the Jewish people were enslaved in Egypt, the Egyptians gathered all of their jewelry pieces, their silver, and gold, etc. Now that they were FINALLY leaving Egypt behind, G-d made it possible for them to get these pieces back. Now it was the Jewish people's turn to ask

or just take what rightfully belonged to them. This way, when they would start over in a totally new place to live, we would not be destitute. Leaving Egypt the way we did many thousands of years later we are commanded to consecrate the firstborn. This is where the idea of a pigeon haven comes in It's the redemption of the firstborn son. There is a ceremony where the father of the firstborn redeems his son by giving a kohen (priest) five silver coins.