

Bo (Come/Go)
Exodus 10:1-13:16

In this week's Parashah we continue on with the final plagues prior to the ultimate deliverance from captivity for the children of Israel. There are some very important mitzvot (instructions) given to the children concerning the Passover, New Moon, and redeeming of the first born.

In the beginning of Exodus 10, we find Pharaoh very angry with Moses after the prediction of the plague of locusts that would soon cover the land. Moses is insistent that all of Israel, including their flocks and herds, must leave to celebrate a feast to יהוה (Yawhey). Pharaoh lashes out to Moses and Aaron with the following statement:

Exodus 10:10 Then he said to them, "יהוה" had better be with you when I let you and your little ones go! Beware, for **evil** is ahead of you.

Now what do you think we might find in the Hebrew? Let me paraphrase a bit for you to give you the gist:

Then he said to them, "You better hope יהוה is with you because when I let you and your little one go.....beware for **RA** is in front of your faces!"

Yes, the word for **evil** in Hebrew is **Ra** (רַע), and **Ra** was a chief god of Egypt. He was the **sun** god, the god of **light**...and Pharaoh considered himself to be the son of this god. So we can see here that Pharaoh is setting forth the challenge of the **Elohim of the Hebrews verses the sun god Ra! The light of Egypt verses the light of יהוה!** Hmmm....wonder who will win?

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of **light**.

Immediately after the locust plague, יהוה brings on the plague of **darkness**. It seems pretty appropriate that יהוה would go after this major god next.

Exodus 10:21 Then יהוה said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be **darkness** over the land of Egypt, **darkness** which may even be felt."²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick **darkness** in all the land of Egypt three days.²³ They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all **the children of Israel had light in their dwellings**.

The word here for dwelling is **moshav**. A moshav is a type of community in Israel today. There was **light** in their moshav... **light in their community**. **Ra**, supposedly the god of **light** for Egypt, was **powerless against the light of the Elohim of the Hebrews**.

John 8:12 Then Yeshua spoke to them again, saying, "**I am the light of the world**. He who follows **Me** shall not walk in **darkness**, but have the **light** of life."

Now **Ra** was believed to be the physical father of **all** Pharaohs and Pharaoh was believed to be the king over all gods. The pyramids were built to insure the Pharaoh's ability to reign in the afterlife. You see the Pharaoh not only controlled the Egyptian's mortal lives, but it was believed that he also helped them in their afterlife. These religious beliefs gave the Pharaoh great power over his subjects. But Pharaoh's credibility was now greatly threatened. With **darkness** over the land for three days, it must have seemed **as if Ra, the sun god had been killed.**

It is important to see **the pattern** of how worship **of the sun has continued throughout history.** It is easy to find much of this history on-line with a simple Google search. I will give you a little of it here. In ancient Babylon, the kings served as high priests of **the sun god, Bel-Marduk.** According to Encyclopedia Britannica, 11 ed., the celebration of the winter solstice around December 25 was regarded as **the birthday of the sun.** It was a major holiday associated with gift-giving and the sacred evergreen tree.

Persia was Babylon's successor and the ancient Persian religion centered on the worship of **Mithras, the god of light.** The Greeks of Asia Minor identified Mithras with their **ancient sun god, Helios.** Then **Alexander the Great** traveled to Egypt to the **Temple of Amon-Ra** to be proclaimed by the priests as the literal **son of the sun god.** In 274 AD Aurelian established the **sun-god** as the supreme **god of the Roman Empire.**

Constantine, considered Rome's first "Christian" emperor, was himself **a devotee of the sun god.** In fact, the famous vision of the cross as he marched on Rome came to him from the **sun.** The **sun** appeared on most of his coins and his own statue at Constantinople bore the **rayed crown of the sun-god.** His coins were inscribed: "Sol Invicto Comiti" (Committed to the invincible **sun**). While claiming to be a "Christian", Constantine maintained the title "Pontifex Maximus" the high priest of paganism.

In 321 AD, Constantine enacted laws that all courts of justice, inhabitants of towns, and workers were to be at **rest on Sun-day, doing away with the Sabbath.** The term used was "**the venerable day of the sun.**" **The observance of Sunday (associated with sun worship),** has thus worked its way right on down through the medieval period to modern times. Contrary to what we've been told, it was not יהוה that authorized the change from a 7th day Sabbath to the 1st day of the week.

The idea to celebrate Christmas on December 25 also originated in the 4th century. The Catholic Church wanted to eclipse the festivities of a rival pagan religion that threatened Christianity's existence. The Romans celebrated the birthday of their **sun god, Mithras** during this time of year. Although it was not popular, or even proper, to celebrate people's birthdays in those times, **church leaders decided that in order to compete with the pagan celebration they would themselves order a festival in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.** December 25 was chosen as the official birthday celebration as **Christ's Mass** so that it would compete head on with the rival celebration. This was the Roman version of Christianity. It was polluted and mixed and filled with pagan rituals. Christmas was slow to catch on in America. The early colonists considered it a **pagan ritual.** The celebration of **Christmas was even banned by law**

in Massachusetts in colonial days. Guess you don't learn about that in most public school history classes. Enough said.

Well we can catch a glimpse of how **יהוה** feels about all of this in Ezekiel 8. Ezekiel is taken through a vision to the temple of **יהוה** and shown many detestable things, and the **MOST detestable** thing was this:

Ezekiel 8:15 Then He said to me, "Have you seen *this*, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these." ¹⁶ So He brought me into the inner court of the **יהוה**'s house; and there, at the door of the temple of **יהוה**, between the porch and the altar, *were* about twenty-five men **with their backs toward the temple of יהוה** and their faces toward the east, and **they were worshiping the sun** toward the east.

Do you catch what's happening here? There are men worshiping in the **temple of יהוה**, but they are participating in some facet of **sun worship**, which causes their **backs** to **face** the **ALMIGHTY יהוה**! Worship of the **sun** in **יהוה**'s own house! **יהוה** hates the **mix** in our worship.

Back to Exodus, the final plague, the plague of the firstborn is about to occur. Before that happens, Israel will hear the very **first commandment** given to **corporate Israel**, and it was "**change your calendar**":

Exodus 12:2 "This month *shall be* your **beginning of months**; it *shall be* the first month of the year to you.

The **calendar of Egypt was based on the sun**, and in dealing with this preoccupation with **sun worship**, **יהוה** **commanded the Israelites to base their calendar on the moon**. They were no longer to have anything to do **with worshiping the sun or with the sun god, Ra**. The beautiful concept of **light** had been so perverted by the evil one. Teaching them the truth about **light** will be a part of Elohim freeing His people from Pharaoh's rule and Egypt's influence. And He will do this by starting with the **celebration** of the **New Moon**.

Based on this calendar, the events of the Passover will be remembered and celebrated each year as an everlasting ordinance!

Exodus 12:14 'So this day shall be to you a **memorial**; and you shall keep it as a **feast** to **יהוה** throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a **feast** by **an everlasting ordinance**.

So what is it that we are required to **remember in this memorial**? **Freedom from bondage to the world's ways**. This is the month of **redemption**, the month of life. Every year this month would point to the great miracle - **יהוה**'s exodus.

Rosh Chodesh is the Hebrew term for "New/renewed moon".

Psalms 81:3 Blow the **shofar** (trumpet) at the time of the **New Moon**....

Rosh Chodesh is a time to come together with other believers and “sound the shofar”! The **moon** is a heavenly body that cannot produce **its own light**. Israel also has no light of its own, but she would learn she was to be **a light to the nations**. On Rosh Chodesh **the moon’s light** breaks forth from the **darkness** and brings **light** to the world as a reminder to us of our calling and purpose. Our purpose is to bring the **light of salvation** to the world. We are to be reflecting the **light of Torah** into a **dark** world.

Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment *is* a lamp, And **the Torah a light**; Reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life,

Light is also a synonym for **Yeshua**. This makes perfect sense because **light** is symbolic of the Torah and **Yeshua is the Living Torah!**

John 8:12 Then Yeshua spoke to them again, saying, "**I am the light of the world**. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

So, again what is the **light** that we are reflecting? It is **the light of Torah, which is Yeshua!** When we love Yeshua by keeping His commandments, we reflect that **light** into a dark world:

John 14:15 " If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Yeshua also said:

Matthew 5:14 "**You are the light of the world**. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives **light** to all *who are* in the house.¹⁶ "**Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works** and glorify your Father in heaven.

Now, back to **Rosh Chodesh** because it is really VERY important. In addition to being the beginning of the entire Passover account, it also was the exact day when יהוה’s presence filled the tabernacle:

Exodus 40:17 And it came to pass **in the first month of the second year, on the first day of the month**, *that* the tabernacle was raised up..... **Exodus 40:34** Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and **the glory of יהוה filled the tabernacle**.³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the **glory of יהוה** filled the tabernacle.

It is written in the Talmud that “anyone who blesses **the New Moon** is like one who receives the **Shekinah (the glory)**”. This is exactly what happened when the Israelites raised up the tabernacle in the desert on Rosh Chodesh! Thus every month on Rosh Chodesh, we are able to watch that little sliver of moon pierce the darkness and we are reminded of our purpose....shine forth His **light!** Be renewed!

The on-going importance of the **New Moon** is seen in this verse in Isaiah:

Isaiah 66:22 "For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me," says יהוה, "So shall your descendants and your name remain.²³ And it shall come to pass *That from one New Moon to another*, And from one Sabbath to another, **All flesh shall come to worship before Me**," says יהוה.

It has only been the last year or so that my husband and I have begun to take notice of the phases of the moon. It's become exciting now to look for it. There is not a lot of instruction given in the Scriptures for how to celebrate. Rosh Chodesh is definitely important, however, in the **Almighty's** eyes and I think this will be one concept that **more light** (pun intended) will be shed on in the near future. For from the beginning the **moon** was given to us as a **sign**:

Genesis 1:14 Then Elohim said, "Let there be **lights** in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be **for signs** and seasons (festivals), and for days and years;

Psalms 104:19 He appointed the moon for seasons; The sun knows its going down.

The **moon** determines the timing of the **feasts** of יהוה, which are central in understanding יהוה's plan of salvation. Do not let anyone give you any grief over your celebration of the **new moon**!

Colossians 2:16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a **new moon** or sabbaths,

In the future, when the plan of salvation has been completed, there will be no more need for the **moon's** functions:

Revelation 21:22 But I saw no temple in it, for Adonai Elohim Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the **moon** to shine in it, for **the glory of Elohim illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.**²⁴ And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its **light**, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.

Now, just one more subject and we'll finish. The concept is **servicing**. In Hebrew, slave, servant, work, and serve are all translations of the same word, eved (עבד). It is translated as "till" and "tend" the first times it appears in Scripture:

Genesis 2:5 before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For Elohim had not caused it to rain on the earth, and *there was* no man to **till** (עבד) the ground;

Genesis 2:15 Then יהוה Elohim took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to **tend** (עבד) and keep it.

יהוה had put Adam on the earth to **work** (עבד) the ground. You see when **service** (עבד) is offered to Elohim, it is **not** bondage or slavery, but rather a joy and a liberating experience:

Exodus 3:12 So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this *shall be* a **sign** to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall **serve** (עבד) Elohim on this mountain."

For many years the children of Israel have been **servicing the Pharaoh** of Egypt. Now יהוה has been pushing the Pharaoh through the plagues, to let His people go that they might **serve Him**:

Exodus 10:3 So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says יהוה Elohim of the Hebrews: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may **serve Me**.'

We are all a **servant** to something or someone. Who do you serve? **Do you serve this world's system known as Egypt with its sun worship, or do you serve the Creator Elohim of the Universe?** He **delivered** us, but we choose who we **serve**:

Joshua 24:15 But if **servicing יהוה** seems undesirable to you, then **choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my household, we will serve יהוה.**"

A wrong choice can have severe consequences:

Deuteronomy 30:17 "But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and **worship other gods and serve them**,¹⁸ "I announce to you today that **you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess.**

It is obedience that allows you to be in the position of being a **servant** to יהוה. The above verse tells us that **when we disobey it is akin to worshipping and serving other gods**, with the consequence being we will not be able to cross over into the Promised Land. When יהוה delivered the children of Israel from Egypt, His intent was to take them to the Promised Land. It was disobedience that kept most of them from reaching that goal. Today as He is in the process of regathering Israel, His destination for us is the same. Obedience or disobedience again becomes the key. Don't let **servicing other gods** keep you from making it to the Promised Land.

Paul, who also refers to himself as a **servant**, lays out the choices....

Romans 1:1 Paul, a **servant** of Messiah Yeshua, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of Adonai—..... **6:6** knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that **we should no longer be slaves of sin.**⁷ For he who has died has been **freed from sin**.....¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts....¹⁶ Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves **slaves** to obey, **you are that one's slaves whom you obey**, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?¹⁷ But Elohim be thanked that *though* you were **slaves of sin**, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.¹⁸ And **having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.**¹⁹ I speak in human *terms*

because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as slaves of uncleanness*, and of lawlessness *leading to more lawlessness*, so now present your members *as slaves of righteousness* for holiness..... now having been set free from sin, and having become **slaves of Elohim**, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.²³ For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of Elohim *is* eternal life in Messiah Yeshua our Adonai.

The Israelites were **slaves in Egypt...this is the same picture as being enslaved to sin**. Because Yeshua has already paid the price for our redemption by becoming our **Passover Lamb**, we too can walk away from **our Egypt**. We can choose to become **Messiah's slave** by choosing **righteousness**...

1 Corinthians 7:22 For he who is called in Adonai *while* a **slave** is Adonai's freedman. Likewise he **who is called while free is Messiah's slave**.

There are many advantages to being **Messiah's slave** by choosing **Him** as our King, verses a god of this world as our king. When the children of Israel submitted themselves to Elohim, He took care of them, fed them, kept them safe and would have taken them straight to the Promised Land. However we know this was not the story. We too have a chance to submit to the same Elohim of the Universe. In an even greater prophesied Exodus where He'll take us away from the paganism of this world, we too will have the opportunity to follow Him to the Promised Land. The key is to stay in the position of "**his servant**" so that we will continue to have revelation from Him and not miss out on **the Greater Exodus to the Promised Land**:

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Messiah Yeshua, which Adonai gave Him **to show His servants -- things which must shortly take place**. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His **servant** John,

Jeremiah 23:7 "So then, the days are coming," declares **יהוה**, "when people will no longer say, 'As surely as **יהוה** lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,'⁸ but they will say, 'As surely as **יהוה** lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.' **Then they will live in their own land.**"

Amen!

Shabbat Shalom,
Ardelle