

Shemot, Torah

Exodus 4:18-6:1

Moses went back to his father-in-law Jether and said to him,

“Let me go back to my kinsmen in Egypt and see how

they are faring.” And Jethro said to Moses, “Go in peace.”

The LORD said to Moses in Midian, “Go back to Egypt, for all the men who sought to kill you are dead.”

So Moses took his wife and sons, mounted them on an ass, and went back to the land of Egypt; and Moses took the rod of God with him.

And the LORD said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt,

שמות ד'י"ח-ו'א'

וַיֵּלֶךְ מֹשֶׁה וַיָּשָׁב אֶל־יֶתֶר

חַתָּנוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אֵלְכָה נָא

וְאֶשׁוּבָה אֶל־אַחֵי

אֲשֶׁר־בְּמִצְרַיִם וְאֶרְאֶה הַעוֹדִים

חַיִּים וַיֹּאמֶר יָתֵרוֹ לְמֹשֶׁה לֵךְ

לְשָׁלוֹם:

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְיָן

לֵךְ שָׁב מִצְרַיִם כִּי־מֵתוּ

כָּל־הָאֲנָשִׁים הַמְּבַקְשִׁים

אֶת־נַפְשְׁךָ:

וַיִּקַּח מֹשֶׁה אֶת־אַשְׁתּוֹ

וְאֶת־בָּנָיו וַיִּרְכַּבֶם עַל־הַחֲמֹר

וַיָּשָׁב אֶרְצָה מִצְרַיִם וַיִּקַּח

see that you perform before Pharaoh all the marvels that I have put within your power. I, however, will stiffen his heart so that he will not let the people go.

Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD: Israel is My first-born son.

I have said to you, “Let My son go, that he may worship Me,” yet you refuse to let him go. Now I will slay your first-born son.”

At a night encampment on the way, the LORD encountered him and sought to kill him.

So Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son’s foreskin, and touched his legs with it, saying, “You are truly a bridegroom of blood to me!”

מִשֶׁה אֶת-מִטָּה הָאֱלֹהִים
בִּידּוֹ:

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה
בְּלִכְתּוֹךָ לָשׁוּב מִצְרַיִם רְאֵה
כָּל-הַמִּפְתִּימִם אֲשֶׁר-שַׁמְתִּי
בְּיָדְךָ וַעֲשִׂיתָם לִפְנֵי פַרְעֹה
וְאֲנִי אֶחַזֵּק אֶת-לְבָבוֹ וְלֹא
יִשְׁלַח אֶת-הָעָם:

וְאָמַרְתָּ אֶל-פַּרְעֹה כֹּה אָמַר
יְהוָה בְּנִי בְכֹרִי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

וְאָמַר אֵלֶיךָ שְׁלַח אֶת-בְּנִי
וַיַּעֲבֹדֵנִי וְתִמָּאֵן לְשַׁלְּחוֹ הַיְהִי
אֲנֹכִי הַרְג אֶת-בְּנִי בְכֹרִי:
וַיְהִי בַדְרֹךְ בַּמָּלֹךְ וַיִּפְגַּשְׁהוּ
יְהוָה וַיִּבְקֶשׂ הַמִּיתוֹ:

וְתִקַּח צִפּוֹרָה צֹר וְתִכְרַת
אֶת-עֶרְלַת בְּנֹה וְתַגַּע לְרַגְלָיו

And when He let him alone, she added, “A bridegroom of blood because of the circumcision.”

The LORD said to Aaron, “Go to meet Moses in the wilderness.” He went and met him at the mountain of God, and he kissed him.

Moses told Aaron about all the things that the LORD had committed to him and all the signs about which He had instructed him.

Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the Israelites.

Aaron repeated all the words that the LORD had spoken to Moses, and he performed the signs in the sight of the people,

וַתֹּאמֶר כִּי חַתּוּן דָּמִים אֶהְיֶה
לִי:
וַיֵּרָף מִמֶּנּוּ אַז אָמְרָה חַתּוּן
דָּמִים לְמוֹלֶת: {פ}
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אַהֲרֹן לֵךְ
לִקְרֹאת מֹשֶׁה הַמַּדְבָּרָה וַיֵּלֶךְ
וַיִּפְגְּשׂוּהוּ בְּהַר הָאֱלֹהִים
וַיִּשְׁקֹלּוּ:
וַיִּגַד מֹשֶׁה לְאַהֲרֹן אֵת
כָּל־דִּבְרֵי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר שְׁלַחוּ
וְאֵת כָּל־הָאֹתוֹת אֲשֶׁר צִוְּהוּ:
וַיֵּלֶךְ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן וַיֹּאסְפוּ
אֶת־כָּל־זִקְנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
וַיְדַבֵּר אַהֲרֹן אֵת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים
אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה
וַיַּעַשׂ הָאֹתוֹת לְעֵינֵי הָעָם:
וַיֵּאֱמֹן הָעָם וַיִּשְׂמְעוּ כִּי־פִקֹּד
יְהוָה אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְכִי

and the people were convinced. When they heard that the LORD had taken note of the Israelites and that He had seen their plight, they bowed low in homage.

Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Let My people go that they may celebrate a festival for Me in the wilderness.”

But Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD that I should heed Him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.”

They answered, “The God of the Hebrews has manifested Himself to us. Let us go, we pray, a distance of three days

רָאָה אֶת-עַנְיָם וַיִּקְדּוּ
וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ:
וְאַחֵר בָּאוּ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן
וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל-פַּרְעֹה כֹּה-אָמַר
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁלַח
אֶת-עַמִּי וַיַּחֲגוּ לִי בַמִּדְבָּר:
וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה מִי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר
אֶשְׁמַע בְּקִלְוֹ לְשַׁלַּח
אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יָדַעְתִּי
אֶת-יְהוָה וְגַם אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא
אֶשְׁלַח:
וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֱלֹהֵי הָעִבְרִים נִקְרָא
עָלֵינוּ גִלְגָּה זֶה דְרֹךְ שְׁלִשֵׁת
יָמִים בַּמִּדְבָּר וְנִזְבַּחַהּ לַיהוָה
אֱלֹהֵינוּ פֶּן-יִפְגַּעֵנוּ בַדָּבָר אוֹ
בַחֶרֶב:
וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם
לָמָּה מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן תִּפְרִיעוּ

into the wilderness to sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest He strike us with pestilence or sword.”

But the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why do you distract the people from their tasks? Get to your labors!”

And Pharaoh continued, “The people of the land are already so numerous, and you would have them cease from their labors!”

That same day Pharaoh charged the taskmasters and foremen of the people, saying, “You shall no longer provide the people with straw for making bricks as heretofore; let them go and gather straw for themselves.

אֶת־הָעַם מִמַּעֲשֵׂיוֹ לָכוּ
לְסַבְּלְתֵיכֶם:

וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה הַיְּרֻבִים עִתָּה
עִם הָאָרֶץ וְהִשְׁבַּתְתֶּם אֹתָם
מִסַּבְּלָתָם:

וַיֵּצְאוּ פַרְעֹה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא
אֶת־הַנְּגִשִׁים בָּעַם וְאֶת־שֹׁטְרָיו
לֵאמֹר:

לֹא תֵאסְפוּן לָתֵת תְּבֹן לָעַם
לְלֶבֶן הַלְּבָנִים כְּתִמּוֹל שְׁלֹשָׁם
הֵם יֵלְכוּ וְקִשְׁשׁוּ לָהֶם תְּבֹן:
וְאֶת־מִתְכַּנֶּת הַלְּבָנִים אֲשֶׁר
הֵם עֹשִׂים תִּמּוֹל שְׁלֹשָׁם
תְּשִׂימוּ עֲלֵיהֶם לֹא תִגְרְעוּ
מִמֶּנּוּ כִּי־נִרְפִים הֵם עַל־כֵּן
הֵם צְעָקִים לֵאמֹר גְּלַחָה
נִזְבַּחָה לֵאלֹהֵינוּ:

But impose upon them the same quota of bricks as they have been making heretofore; do not reduce it, for they are shirkers; that is why they cry, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God!'

Let heavier work be laid upon the men; let them keep at it and not pay attention to deceitful promises."

So the taskmasters and foremen of the people went out and said to the people, "Thus says Pharaoh: I will not give you any straw.

You must go and get the straw yourselves wherever you can find it; but there shall be no decrease whatever in your work."

תִּכְבֹּד הָעֲבֹדָה עַל־הָאֲנָשִׁים
וַיַּעֲשׂוּ־בָהּ וְאֶל־יִשְׁעוֹ
בְּדַבְרֵי־שָׁקֶר:

וַיֵּצְאוּ נְגִישֵׁי הָעַם וְשֹׁטְרָיו
וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל־הָעַם לֵאמֹר כֹּה
אָמַר פַּרְעֹה אֵינְנִי נֹתֵן לָכֶם
תָּבֹן:

אַתֶּם לָכוּ קָחוּ לָכֶם תָּבֹן
מֵאֲשֶׁר תִּמְצְאוּ כִּי אֵין נִגְרַע
מֵעֲבֹדְתְכֶם דָּבָר:

וַיִּפֹּץ הָעַם בְּכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם
לְקַשֵּׁשׁ קֶשׁ לַתָּבֹן:

וְהַנְּגִשִׁים אָצִים לֵאמֹר כָּלוּ
מֵעֲשִׂיכֶם דְּבַר־יְוֹם בְּיוֹמוֹ
כַּאֲשֶׁר בְּהֵיֹת הַתָּבֹן:

וַיָּכּוּ שֹׁטְרֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֲשֶׁר־שָׂמוּ עֲלֵהֶם נְגִישֵׁי פַרְעֹה
לֵאמֹר מִדְּוֵעַ לֹא כִלְיֹתֶם

Then the people scattered throughout the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw. And the taskmasters pressed them, saying, “You must complete the same work assignment each day as when you had straw.” And the foremen of the Israelites, whom Pharaoh’s taskmasters had set over them, were beaten. “Why,” they were asked, “did you not complete the prescribed amount of bricks, either yesterday or today, as you did before?” Then the foremen of the Israelites came to Pharaoh and cried: “Why do you deal thus with your servants? No straw is issued to your servants, yet they demand of

חֲקַכֶּם לְלִבָּן כְּתִמּוֹל שְׁלֵשׁם
גַּם־תִּמּוֹל גַּם־הַיּוֹם:
וַיָּבֹאוּ שֹׁטְרֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
וַיִּצְעֲקוּ אֶל־פַּרְעֹה לֵאמֹר לָמָּה
תַּעֲשֶׂה כֹּה לַעֲבָדֶיךָ:
תָּבוֹן אֵין נִתָּן לַעֲבָדֶיךָ וּלְבָנִים
אֲמָרִים לָנוּ עֲשׂוּ וְהִנֵּה עֲבָדֶיךָ
מִכֶּם וְחֹטְאֵת עִמָּךְ:
וַיֹּאמֶר נְרָפִים אַתֶּם נְרָפִים
עַל־כֵּן אַתֶּם אֲמָרִים גְּלֻכָּה
נִזְבַּחַה לַיהוָה:
וְעַתָּה לָכֵן עֲבָדוּ וְתָבוֹן
לֹא־יָנִיתוּ לָכֶם וְתָכוֹן לְבָנִים
תִּתְּנוּ:
וַיֹּרְאוּ שֹׁטְרֵי בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־מֶלֶךְ
בְּרַע לֵאמֹר לֹא־תִגְרְעוּ
מִלְּבָנֵיכֶם דְּבַר־יּוֹם בְּיוֹמוֹ:

us: Make bricks! Thus your servants are being beaten, when the fault is with your own people.”

He replied, “You are shirkers, shirkers! That is why you say, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.’”

Be off now to your work! No straw shall be issued to you, but you must produce your quota of bricks!”

Now the foremen of the Israelites found themselves in trouble because of the order, “You must not reduce your daily quantity of bricks.”

As they left Pharaoh’s presence, they came upon Moses and Aaron standing in their path,

וַיִּפְגְּעוּ אֶת־מֹשֶׁה וְאֶת־אַהֲרֹן
נֹצְבִים לְקִרְאָתָם בְּצֵאתָם
מֵאֵת פַּרְעֹה:
וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיִם יְיָהוָה יִרְאֵה
עֲלֵיכֶם וַיִּשְׁפֹּט אֲשֶׁר
הִבְאִשְׁתֶּם אֶת־רִיחֵנוּ בְּעֵינַי
פַּרְעֹה וּבְעֵינַי עֲבָדָיו
לְתַת־חֶרֶב בְּיָדָם לְהַרְגֵנוּ:
וַיֹּשֶׁב מֹשֶׁה אֶל־יְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר
אֲדֹנָי לָמָּה הִרְעַתָּה לְעַם הַזֶּה
לָמָּה זֶה שְׁלַחְתָּנִי:
וּמֵאֵז בֵּאתִי אֶל־פַּרְעֹה לְדַבֵּר
בְּשִׁמְךָ הִרַע לְעַם הַזֶּה וְהִצֵּל
לֹא־הִצַּלְתָּ אֶת־עַמִּי:
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה עֲתָה
תִּרְאֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶעֱשֶׂה לְפַרְעֹה
כִּי בֵּיד חֲזָקָה יִשְׁלַחֵם וּבֵיד
חֲזָקָה יִגְרָשֵׁם מֵאֶרֶץ: {ס}

and they said to them, “May the LORD look upon you and punish you for making us loathsome to Pharaoh and his courtiers—putting a sword in their hands to slay us.”

Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, “O Lord, why did You bring harm upon this people? Why did You send me?

Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has dealt worse with this people; and still You have not delivered Your people.”

Then the LORD said to Moses, “You shall soon see what I will do to Pharaoh: he shall let them go because of a greater might; indeed, because of a

greater might he shall drive
them from his land.”

