

# Bo, Torah

Exodus 12:29-13:16

In the middle of the night the LORD struck down all the first-born in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sat on the throne to the first-born of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the first-born of the cattle. And Pharaoh arose in the night, with all his courtiers and all the Egyptians—because there was a loud cry in Egypt; for there was no house where there was not someone dead.

He summoned Moses and Aaron in the night and said, “Up, depart from among my people, you and the Israelites with you! Go, worship the LORD as you said!

שמות י"ב:כ"ט-י"ג:ט"ז

וַיְהִי | בַּחֲצֵי הַלַּיְלָה וַיְהוֹה הַכָּה  
כָּל־בְּכוֹרֹ בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם מִבְּכֹר  
פַּרְעֹה הַיֹּשֵׁב עַל־כִּסְאוֹ עַד בְּכוֹר  
הַשְּׂבִי אֲשֶׁר בְּבַיִת הַבּוֹר וְכָל  
בְּכוֹר בְּהֵמָה:  
וַיָּקָם פַּרְעֹה לַיְלָה הוּא וְכָל־עַבְדָּיו  
וְכָל־מִצְרַיִם וַתְּהִי צַעֲקָה גְדֹלָה  
בְּמִצְרַיִם כִּי־אֵין בַּיִת אֲשֶׁר אֵין־נֶשֶׁם  
מֵת:

וַיִּקְרָא לְמִשְׁה וּלְאַהֲרֹן לַיְלָה  
וַיֹּאמֶר קוּמוּ צְאוּ מִתּוֹךְ עַמִּי  
גַם־אַתֶּם גַּם־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּלְכוּ  
עֲבַדוּ אֶת־יְהוָה כַּדְּבַרְכֶם:  
גַּם־צֵאוּנְכֶם גַּם־בְּקִרְכֶם קְחוּ  
כֹּהֵן דְּבַרְתֶּם וּלְכוּ וּבְרַכְתֶּם  
גַּם־אֶתִּי:

Take also your flocks and your herds, as you said, and begone! And may you bring a blessing upon me also!”

The Egyptians urged the people on, impatient to have them leave the country, for they said, “We shall all be dead.”

So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls wrapped in their cloaks upon their shoulders.

The Israelites had done Moses’ bidding and borrowed from the Egyptians objects of silver and gold, and clothing.

And the LORD had disposed the Egyptians favorably toward the people, and they let them have their request; thus they stripped the Egyptians.

The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, aside from children.

וּתְחַזֵּק מִצְרַיִם עַל־הָעַם לְמַהֲרָה  
לְשַׁלְּחָם מִן־הָאָרֶץ כִּי אָמְרוּ כָּל־נַפְשֵׁי  
מִתַּיִם:

וַיִּשְׂא הָעַם אֶת־בְּצִקוֹ טָרֵם יַחְמִץ  
מִשְׂאֲרֹתָם צָרְחָה בְּשִׂמְלֹתָם  
עַל־שִׁכְמָם:

וּבְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל עָשׂוּ כַדְבָּר מִשֵּׁה  
וַיִּשְׂאֻהוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם כָּל־יֶכֶסֶף וְכָל־יְ  
זָהָב וּשְׂמֹלֹת:

וַיְהִי־הוּא נָתַן אֶת־חֶן הָעַם בְּעֵינָיו  
מִצְרַיִם וַיִּשְׂאֻהוּ וַיִּנְצְלוּ  
אֶת־מִצְרַיִם: {פ}

וַיִּסְעוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִרַעְמֶסֶס  
סֹכְתָה כְּשֵׁש־מֵאוֹת אֶלֶף רַגְלִי  
הַגְּבָרִים לְבַד מִטָּף:

וְגַם־עָרַב רַב עָלָה אִתָּם וְצֹאן  
וּבָקָר מִקְנֵה כָּבֵד מְאֹד:

וַיֹּאֲפוּ אֶת־הַבָּצֵק אֲשֶׁר הוֹצִיאוּ  
מִמִּצְרַיִם עֲגֹת מִצּוֹת כִּי לֹא חָמֵץ  
כִּי־גָרְשׁוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם וְלֹא יִכְלוּ

Moreover, a mixed multitude went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds. And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had taken out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, since they had been driven out of Egypt and could not delay; nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves. The length of time that the Israelites lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years; at the end of the four hundred and thirtieth year, to the very day, all the ranks of the LORD departed from the land of Egypt. That was for the LORD a night of vigil to bring them out of the land of Egypt; that same night is the LORD's, one of vigil for all the children of Israel throughout the ages. The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: This is the law of the

לְהַתְמַהֲמֶהָ וְגַם-צֹדָה לֹא-עָשׂוּ  
לָהֶם:

וּמוֹשֵׁב בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר יָשְׁבוּ  
בְּמִצְרַיִם שְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וְאַרְבַּע  
מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה:

וַיְהִי מִקֵּץ שְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וְאַרְבַּע  
מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיְהִי בְּעֶצֶם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה  
יֵצְאוּ כָּל-צְבָאוֹת יְהוָה מֵאֶרֶץ  
מִצְרַיִם:

לַיַּל שְׁמַרְיִם הוּא לַיהוָה לְהוֹצִיאֵם  
מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם הוּא-הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה  
לַיהוָה שְׁמַרְיִם לְכָל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
לְדֹרֹתָם: {פ}

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן זֹאת  
חֻקַּת הַפֶּסַח כָּל-בְּנוֹנְכָר לֹא-יֹאכַל  
בּוֹ:

וְכָל-עֶבֶד אִישׁ מִקְּנַת-כֶּסֶף וּמִלְתָּה  
אֹתוֹ אִזּוֹ יֹאכַל בּוֹ:

תּוֹשֵׁב וְשָׂכִיר לֹא-יֹאכַל בּוֹ:

בְּבַיִת אֶחָד יֹאכַל לֹא-תוֹצִיא

מִן-הַבַּיִת מִן-הַבָּשָׂר חוּצָה וְעֶצֶם

passover offering: No foreigner shall eat of it.

But any slave a man has bought may eat of it once he has been circumcised.

No bound or hired laborer shall eat of it.

It shall be eaten in one house: you shall not take any of the flesh outside the house; nor shall you break a bone of it.

The whole community of Israel shall offer it.

If a stranger who dwells with you would offer the passover to the LORD, all his males must be circumcised; then he shall be admitted to offer it; he shall then be as a citizen of the country. But no uncircumcised person may eat of it.

There shall be one law for the citizen and for the stranger who dwells among you.

And all the Israelites did so; as the LORD had commanded Moses and

לֹא תִשְׁבְּרוּ-בּוֹ:

כָּל-עֵדֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל יַעֲשׂוּ אֹתוֹ:

וְכִי-יִגְוֹר אֶתְךָ גֵר וְעָשָׂה פֶסַח

לַיהוָה הַמּוֹל לּוֹ כָּל-זָכָר וְאִזְ יִקְרַב

לַעֲשׂוֹתוֹ וְהָיָה כְּאֶזְרַח הָאָרֶץ

וְכָל-עֶרְל לֹא-יֹאכַל בּוֹ:

תּוֹרָה אַחַת יִהְיֶה לְאֶזְרַח וְלִגֵּר

הַגֵּר בְּתוֹכְכֶם:

וַיַּעֲשׂוּ כָּל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה

יְהוָה אֶת-מֹשֶׁה וְאֶת-אַהֲרֹן בֵּן

עֲשׂוֹ: {ס}

וַיְהִי בְּעֶצֶם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה הוֹצִיא יְהוָה

אֶת-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם

עַל-צְבֹאתָם: {פ}

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:

קִדְשִׁי לִי כָּל-בְּכוֹר פֶּטֶר כָּל-לְחֶם

בְּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאָדָם וּבַבְּהֵמָה לִי

הוּא:

וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-הָעָם זָכוֹר

אֶת-הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר יִצְאֹתֶם

מִמִּצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים כִּי בַחֲזֹק

Aaron, so they did.

That very day the LORD freed the Israelites from the land of Egypt, troop by troop.

The LORD spoke further to Moses, saying,

“Consecrate to Me every first-born; man and beast, the first issue of every womb among the Israelites is Mine.”

And Moses said to the people, “Remember this day, on which you went free from Egypt, the house of bondage, how the LORD freed you from it with a mighty hand: no leavened bread shall be eaten.

You go free on this day, in the month of Abib.

So, when the LORD has brought you into the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you shall

יָד הוֹצִיא יְהוָה אֶתְכֶם מִזֶּה וְלֹא יֹאכַל חֶמֶץ:

הַיּוֹם אַתֶּם יֹצְאִים בְּחֹדֶשׁ הָאָבִיב:  
וְהָיָה כִּי־יָבִיֶאֱתָ יְהוָה אֶל־אֶרֶץ  
הַכְּנַעֲנִי וְהַחִתִּי וְהָאֱמֹרִי וְהַחִוִּי  
וְהַיְבוּסִי אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְרָהָם  
לָתֵת לְךָ אֶרֶץ זָבַת חֶלֶב וְדָבָשׁ  
וְעַבְדָּתָ אֶת־הָעַבְדָּה הַזֹּאת בְּחֹדֶשׁ  
הַזֶּה:

שִׁבְעַת יָמִים תֹּאכַל מִצַּת וּבַיּוֹם  
הַשְּׁבִיעִי חָג לַיהוָה:  
מִצּוֹת יֹאכַל אֵת שִׁבְעַת הַיָּמִים  
וְלֹא־יִרְאֶה לְךָ חֶמֶץ וְלֹא־יִרְאֶה לְךָ  
שָׂאֵר בְּכָל־גַּבְלֶךָ:

וְהַגְדַּת לְבִנְךָ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר  
בְּעֵבוֹר זֶה עָשָׂה יְהוָה לִי בְּצֵאתִי  
מִמִּצְרַיִם:

וְהָיָה לְךָ לְאוֹת עַל־יָדְךָ וּלְזִכְרוֹן  
בֵּין עַיְנֶיךָ לְמַעַן תִּהְיֶה תּוֹרַת יְהוָה  
בְּפִיךָ כִּי בְיַד תּוֹקָה הוֹצִיָּאתָ יְהוָה  
מִמִּצְרַיִם:

observe in this month the following practice:

“Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a festival of the LORD.

Throughout the seven days unleavened bread shall be eaten; no leavened bread shall be found with you, and no leaven shall be found in all your territory.

And you shall explain to your child on that day, ‘It is because of what the LORD did for me when I went free from Egypt.’

“And this shall serve you as a sign on your hand and as a reminder on your forehead—in order that the Teaching of the LORD may be in your mouth—that with a mighty hand the LORD freed you from Egypt.

You shall keep this institution at its set time from year to year.

“And when the LORD has brought you into the land of the

וּשְׁמַרְתָּ אֶת־הַחֻקָּה הַזֹּאת  
לְמוֹעֵדָה מִיָּמִים יְמִימָה: {פ}  
וְהָיָה כִּי־יִבְאֶךָ יְהוָה אֶל־אֶרֶץ  
הַכְּנַעֲנִי כַּאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְךָ  
וְלֹאֲבֹתֶיךָ וּנְתַנָּה לְךָ:  
וְהָעֵבֶרֶת כָּל־פֶּטֶר־רֶחֶם לִיהוָה  
וְכָל־פֶּטֶר | שֹׁגֵר בְּהֵמָה אֲשֶׁר  
יִהְיֶה לְךָ הַזִּכָּרִים לִיהוָה:  
וְכָל־פֶּטֶר חֵמֶל תִּפְדֶּה בְּשֵׂה  
וְאִם־לֹא תִפְדֶּה וְעִרְפְּתוּ וְכָל בְּכוֹר  
אָדָם בְּבִנְיֶיךָ תִפְדֶּה:  
וְהָיָה כִּי־יִשְׁאַלְךָ בְּנֶךָ מָחָר לֵאמֹר  
מַה־זֹּאת וְאָמַרְתָּ אֵלָיו בְּחֹזֶק יָד  
הוֹצִיאָנוּ יְהוָה מִמִּצְרַיִם מִבֵּית  
עֲבָדִים:  
וַיְהִי כִּי־הִקְשָׁה פְרַעֲהוֹ לְשַׁלְּחָנוּ  
וַיַּהַרְג יְהוָה כָּל־בְּכוֹר בְּאֶרֶץ  
מִצְרַיִם מִבְּכֹר אָדָם וְעַד־בְּכוֹר  
בְּהֵמָה עַל־כֵּן אֲנִי זֹבֵחַ לִיהוָה  
כָּל־פֶּטֶר רֶחֶם הַזִּכָּרִים וְכָל־בְּכוֹר  
בְּנֵי אֶפְרָיִם:

Canaanites, as He swore to you  
and to your fathers, and has given  
it to you,  
you shall set apart for the LORD  
every first issue of the womb: every  
male firstling that your cattle drop  
shall be the LORD's.

But every firstling ass you shall  
redeem with a sheep; if you do not  
redeem it, you must break its neck.  
And you must redeem every first-  
born male among your children.  
And when, in time to come, your  
child asks you, saying, 'What does  
this mean?' you shall reply, 'It was  
with a mighty hand that the LORD  
brought us out from Egypt, the  
house of bondage.

When Pharaoh stubbornly refused  
to let us go, the LORD slew every  
first-born in the land of Egypt, the  
first-born of both man and beast.  
Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD  
every first male issue of the womb,  
but redeem every male first-born  
among my children.'

וְהָיָה לְאוֹת עַל־יְדֹכָהּ וּלְטוֹטְפֹת  
בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ כִּי בְחֹזֶק יָד הוֹצִיאָנוּ  
יְהוָה מִמִּצְרַיִם: {ס}

“And so it shall be as a sign upon  
your hand and as a symbol on your  
forehead that with a mighty hand  
the LORD freed us from Egypt.”