

# Shemot, Torah, January 18, 2025

Exodus 4:18-6:1

(18) Moses went back to his father-in-law Jethro and said to him, “Let me go back to my kinsfolk in Egypt and see how they are faring.” And Jethro said to Moses, “Go in peace.”

(19) יהוה said to Moses in Midian, “Go back to Egypt, for all those who sought to kill you are dead.”

(20) 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. (21) And יהוה said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, 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. (22) Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says יהוה: Israel is My first-born son. (23) I have said

שמות ד'י"ח-ו'א:

(יח) וַיָּלֶךְ מֹשֶׁה וַיָּשָׁב | אֶל-יֵתֵר  
חָתָנוּ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אֲלֹכָהּ נָא וְאֲשׁוּבָה  
אֶל-אַחֵי אֲשֶׁר-בְּמִצְרַיִם וְאֶרְאֶה  
הֲעוֹדִים חַיִּים וַיֹּאמֶר יֵתֵרוֹ לְמֹשֶׁה  
לֵךְ לְשָׁלוֹם: (יט) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה  
אֶל-מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְיָן לֵךְ שָׁב מִצְרַיִם  
כִּי-מֵתוּ כָּל-הָאֲנָשִׁים הַמְּבַקְשִׁים  
אֶת-נַפְשְׁךָ: (כ) וַיִּקַּח מֹשֶׁה  
אֶת-אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאֶת-בָּנָיו וַיִּרְכָּבֵם  
עַל-הַחֲמֹר וַיָּשָׁב אֶרְצָה מִצְרַיִם  
וַיִּקַּח מֹשֶׁה אֶת-מִטֵּה הָאֱלֹהִים  
בְּיָדוֹ: (כא) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה  
בְּלָכְתְּךָ לָשׁוּב מִצְרַיִם רְאֵה  
כָּל-הַמִּפְתִּיחַ אֲשֶׁר-שָׁמַתִּי בְיָדְךָ  
וְעָשִׂיתָם לִפְנֵי פַרְעֹה וְאָנִי אֲחַזְּקֶךָ  
אֶת-לְבָבוֹ וְלֹא יִשְׁלַח אֶת-הָעָם: (כב)  
וְאָמַרְתָּ אֶל-פַּרְעֹה כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה

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.” (24) At a night encampment on the way, יהוה encountered him and sought to kill him. (25) 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!” (26) And when [God] let him alone, she added, “A bridegroom of blood because of the circumcision.” (27) יהוה said to Aaron, “Go to meet Moses in the wilderness.” He went and met him at the mountain of God, and he kissed him. (28) Moses told Aaron about all the things that יהוה had committed to him and all the signs about which he had been instructed. (29) Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the Israelites. (30) Aaron repeated all the words that יהוה had spoken to Moses, and he performed

בְּנֵי בְכָרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: (כג) וְאָמַר אֵלָיךְ  
שְׁלַח אֶת־בְּנֵי וַיַּעֲבֹדֵנִי וְתִמְאַן  
לְשַׁלְּחוֹ הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי הֵרַג אֶת־בְּנִיךָ  
בְּכַרְךָ: (כד) וַיְהִי בַדְרֹךְ בַּמָּלֶוֶן  
וַיִּפְגְּשֵׁהוּ יְהוָה וַיִּבְקֹשׁ הַמִּיתוֹ: (כה)  
וַתִּקַּח צִפּוֹרָה צִר וַתְּכַרֵּת אֶת־עֲרֻלַּת  
בְּנֵהּ וַתִּגַּע לְרַגְלָיו וַתֹּאמֶר כִּי  
חַתָּן־דָּמִים אַתָּה לִּי: (כו) וַיִּרְף  
מִמֶּנּוּ אַז אָמְרָה חַתָּן דָּמִים  
לְמוֹלַת: {פ} (כז) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה  
אֶל־אַהֲרֹן לֵךְ לִקְרַאת מֹשֶׁה  
הַמִּדְבָּרָה וַיֵּלֶךְ וַיִּפְגְּשֵׁהוּ בְּהַר  
הָאֱלֹהִים וַיִּשְׁקֹלוּ: (כח) וַיַּגֵּד מֹשֶׁה  
לְאַהֲרֹן אֵת כָּל־דִּבְרֵי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר  
שָׁלְחוֹ וְאֵת כָּל־הָאֵתָת אֲשֶׁר צִוָּהוּ:  
(כט) וַיֵּלֶךְ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן וַיֵּאֲסֹפוּ  
אֶת־כָּל־זִקְנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ל) וַיִּדְבֹּר  
אַהֲרֹן אֵת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר  
יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וַיַּעַשׂ הָאֵתָת לְעֵינֵי  
הָעָם: (לא) וַיֵּאֲמֶן הָעָם וַיִּשְׂמְעוּ  
כִּי־פָקַד יְהוָה אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְכִי

the signs in the sight of those assembled, (31) and the assembly was convinced. When they heard that יהוה had taken note of the Israelites and that [God] had seen their plight, they bowed low in homage. (1) Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, “Thus says יהוה, the God of Israel: Let My people go that they may celebrate a festival for Me in the wilderness.” (2) But Pharaoh said, “Who is יהוה that I should heed him and let Israel go? I do not know יהוה, nor will I let Israel go.” (3) They answered, “The God of the Hebrews has become manifest to us. Let us go, we pray, a distance of three days into the wilderness to sacrifice to our God יהוה, lest [God] strike us with pestilence or sword.” (4) But the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why do you distract the people from their tasks? Get to your labors!” (5) And Pharaoh continued, “The people of

רָאָה אֶת־עֲנָנִים וַיִּקְדּוּ וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ: (א)  
וְאַחַר בָּאוּ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן וַיֹּאמְרוּ  
אֶל־פַּרְעֹה כֹּה־אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי  
יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁלַח אֶת־עַמִּי וַיַּחְגּוּ לִי  
בַמִּדְבָּר: (ב) וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה מִי יְהוָה  
אֲשֶׁר אֶשְׁמַע בְּקִלְוֹ לְשַׁלַּח  
אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יַדְעֹתִי אֶת־יְהוָה  
וְגַם אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא אֶשְׁלַח: (ג)  
וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֱלֹהֵי הָעִבְרִים נִקְרָא עָלֵינוּ  
נִלְכָה זֶה דָּרָךְ שְׁלִשֵׁת יָמִים  
בַּמִּדְבָּר וְנִזְבַּחַהּ לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ  
כְּפִן־יִפְגַּעֲנוּ בַדְּבָר אֹו בַחֲרָב: (ד)  
וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהֵם מִלֶּךְ מִצְרַיִם לָמָּה  
מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן תִּפְרִיעוּ אֶת־הָעַם  
מִמַּעֲשֵׂיו לָכוּ לְסַבְּלֹתֵיכֶם: (ה)  
וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה הִן־רַבִּים עֲתָה עִם  
הָאָרֶץ וְהִשְׁבַּתֶּם אֹתָם מִסַּבְּלֹתֶם:  
(ו) וַיֵּצֵאוּ פַרְעֹה בַיּוֹם הַהוּא  
אֶת־הַנֹּגְשִׁים בָּעַם וְאֶת־שֹׁטְרָיו  
לֵאמֹר: (ז) לֹא תֹאסְפוּן לָתֵת תְּבוֹן  
לְעַם לְלִבָּן הַלְּבָנִים כְּתִמּוֹל שְׁלֹשָׁם

the land are already so numerous, and you would have them cease from their labors!” (6) That same day Pharaoh charged the taskmasters and overseers of the people, saying, (7) “You shall no longer provide the people with straw for making bricks as heretofore; let them go and gather straw for themselves. (8) 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!’ (9) Let heavier work be laid upon those involved; let them keep at it and not pay attention to deceitful promises.” (10) So the taskmasters and overseers of the people went out and said to the people, “Thus says Pharaoh: I will not give you any straw. (11) You must go and get the straw yourselves wherever you can find it; but there shall be no decrease

הֵם יִלְכוּ וְקִשְׁשׁוּ לָהֶם תְּבֹן: (ח)  
וְאֶת־מִתְכַנְּתֵי הַלְּבָנִים אֲשֶׁר הֵם  
עֹשִׂים תְּמוֹל שְׁלֶשֶׁם תְּשִׂימוּ  
עֲלֵיהֶם לֹא תִגְרְעוּ מִמֶּנּוּ כִּי־גֵרָפִים  
הֵם עַל־כֵּן הֵם צָעֲקִים לֵאמֹר  
נִלְכָה נִזְבַּחַה לֵאלֹהֵינוּ: (ט) תִּכְבֹּד  
הָעֲבֹדָה עַל־הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיַּעֲשׂוּ־בָהּ  
וְאֶל־יִשְׁעוּ בְּדַבְרֵי־שָׁקֶר: (י) וַיֵּצְאוּ  
נֹגְשֵׁי הָעָם וְשֹׁטְרֵי וַיֹּאמְרוּ  
אֶל־הָעָם לֵאמֹר כֹּה אָמַר פַּרְעֹה  
אֵינֶנִּי נֹתֵן לָכֶם תְּבֹן: (יא) אַתֶּם לָכוּ  
קָחוּ לָכֶם תְּבֹן מֵאֲשֶׁר תִּמְצְאוּ כִּי  
אֵין נִגְרַע מֵעֲבֹדְתְכֶם דָּבָר: (יב)  
וַיִּפֹּץ הָעָם בְּכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם  
לְקִשְׁשׁ קֶשׁ לְתֹבֹן: (יג) וְהַנֹּגְשִׁים  
אָצִים לֵאמֹר כָּלוּ מַעֲשֵׂיכֶם  
דְּבַר־יִוִם בְּיוֹמוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר בְּהִיּוֹת  
הַתְּבֹן: (יד) וַיִּכּוּ שֹׁטְרֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
אֲשֶׁר־שָׂמוּ עֲלֵהֶם נֹגְשֵׁי פַרְעֹה  
לֵאמֹר מִדּוּעַ לֹא כָלִיתֶם חֲקֻכֶם  
לְלֶבֶן כִּתְמוֹל שְׁלֶשֶׁם גַּם־תְּמוֹל

whatever in your work.” (12) Then the people scattered throughout the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw. (13) And the taskmasters pressed them, saying, “You must complete the same work assignment each day as when you had straw.”

(14) And the overseers 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?” (15) Then the overseers of the Israelites came to Pharaoh and cried: “Why do you deal thus with your servants? (16) No straw is issued to your servants, yet they demand of us: Make bricks! Thus your servants are being beaten, when the fault is with your own people.” (17) He replied, “You are shirkers, shirkers! That is why you say, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to יהוה.’” (18) Be off now to your work! No

גַּם־הַיּוֹם: (טו) וַיִּבְאוּ שְׂטָרֵי בְנֵי  
יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּצְעֲקוּ אֶל־פַּרְעֹה לֵאמֹר  
לָמָּה תַעֲשֶׂה כֹה לַעֲבָדֶיךָ: (טז) תָּבוֹן  
אֵין נִתָּן לַעֲבָדֶיךָ וּלְבָנִים אֹמְרִים  
לָנוּ עֲשׂוּ וְהִנֵּה עֲבָדֶיךָ מְכִים  
וְחָטֵאת עִמָּךְ: (יז) וַיֹּאמֶר נְרָפִים  
אַתֶּם נְרָפִים עַל־כֵּן אַתֶּם אֹמְרִים  
נִלְכָּה נִזְבַּחַה לַיהוָה: (יח) וְעַתָּה  
לָכוּ עֲבְדוּ וְתָבוֹן לֹא־יִנָּתֶן לָכֶם וְתָבוֹן  
לְבָנִים תִּתְּנוּ: (יט) וַיִּרְאוּ שְׂטָרֵי  
בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶתֶם בְּרַע לֵאמֹר  
לֹא־תִגְרְעוּ מִלְּבַנְיֹכֶם דְּבַר־יוֹם  
בְּיוֹמוֹ: (כ) וַיִּפְגְּעוּ אֶת־מֹשֶׁה  
וְאֶת־אַהֲרֹן נֹצְעִים לְקִרְאתָם  
בְּצִאתָם מֵאֵת פַּרְעֹה: (כא) וַיֹּאמְרוּ  
אֵלֵהֶם יְיָ רֵא יְהוָה עֲלֵיכֶם וַיִּשְׁפֹּט  
אֲשֶׁר הִבְאִשְׁתֶּם אֶת־רֵיחֵנוּ בְּעֵינֵי  
פַרְעֹה וּבְעֵינֵי עֲבָדָיו לְתַת־חָרָב  
בְּיָדָם לְהַרְגֵנוּ: (כב) וַיֵּשֶׁב מֹשֶׁה  
אֶל־יְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדֹנָי לָמָּה  
הִרְעַתָּה לָעַם הַזֶּה לָמָּה זֶה

straw shall be issued to you, but you must produce your quota of bricks!” (19) Now the overseers of the Israelites found themselves in trouble because of the order, “You must not reduce your daily quantity of bricks.” (20) As they left Pharaoh’s presence, they came upon Moses and Aaron standing in their path, (21) and they said to them, “May יהוה look upon you and punish you for making us loathsome to Pharaoh and his courtiers—putting a sword in their hands to slay us.” (22) Then Moses returned to יהוה and said, “O my lord, why did You bring harm upon this people? Why did You send me? (23) 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.” (1) Then יהוה 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

שְׁלַחְתָּנִי: (כג) וּמֵאֵז בְּאֹתִי  
אֶל־פַּרְעֹה לְדַבֵּר בְּשֵׁמוֹךְ הֲרַע לְעַם  
הַזֶּה וְהֵצֵל לֹא־הֵצֵלְתָּ אֶת־עַמְּךָ:  
(א) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה עֲתָה  
תִּרְאֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶעֱשֶׂה לְפַרְעֹה כִּי  
בְיַד חֲזָקָה יִשְׁלַחֵם וּבְיַד חֲזָקָה  
יִגְרָשׂם מֵאֶרֶץ־סִי

greater might he shall drive them  
from his land.”