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שמות Shemot

Exodus 1:1-6:1

1

- וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הַבָּאִים מִצְרָיִמָּה אֶת יַעֲקֹב אִישׁ וּבֵיתוֹ בָּאוּ:

1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each coming with his household:
- רְאוּבֵן שִׁמְעוֹן לֵוִי וְיְהוּדָה:

2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah;
- יִשָּׁשְׁכָר זְבֻלֹן וּבִנְיָמִן:

3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin;
- דָּן וְנַפְתָּלִי גָד וְאַשֶּׁר:

4 Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher.
- וְיָחִי כָּל־נַפְשׁ יִצְחָק יַעֲקֹב שְׁבַעִים גָּפֶשׁ וְיוֹסֵף הָיָה בְּמִצְרַיִם:

5 The total number of persons that were of Jacob's issue came to seventy, Joseph being already in Egypt.
- וַיָּמָת יוֹסֵף וְכָל־אֶחָיו וְכָל הַדּוֹר הַהוּא:

6 Joseph died, and all his brothers, and all that generation.
- וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל פָּרוּ וַיִּשְׂרְצוּ וַיִּרְבּוּ וַיַּעֲצֻמוּ בְּמֶאֱדָה וַתִּמְלֵא הָאֲרֶץ אֹתָם:

7 But the Israelites were fertile and prolific; they multiplied and increased very greatly, so that the land was filled with them.
- וַיָּקָם מֶלֶךְ־חֹדֶשׁ עַל־מִצְרַיִם אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדָע אֶת־יוֹסֵף:

8 A new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph.
- וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־עַמּוֹ הִנֵּה עַם בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל רַב וְעָצוּם מִמֶּנּוּ:

9 And he said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are much too numerous for us.
- הֲבֵיאָה נִתְחַכְמָה לָּו פְּנִי־רִבָּה וְהָיָה כִּי־תִקְרָאנָה מִלְחָמָה וְנוֹסַף גַּם־הוּא עַל־שִׁנְאֵינוּ וְנִלְתַּם־בָּנוּ וְעָלָה מִן־הָאָרֶץ:

10 Let us deal shrewdly with them, so that they may not increase; otherwise in the event of war they may join our enemies in fighting against us and rise from the ground." (rise from the ground Meaning perhaps from their wretched condition, cf. Hos. 2.2; or "gain ascendancy over the country." Others "get them up out of the land.")
- וַיַּשְׁיִמוּ עָלֵיו שָׂרֵי מִסִּים לַמַּעַן עֲנֹתוֹ בְּסִבְלָתָם וַיִּבְנוּ עָרֵי מִסְכְּנוֹת לַפָּרֹעַ אֶת־פִּתּוֹם וְאֶת־רַעַמְסֵס:

11 So they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor; and they built garrison cities (garrison cities Others "store cities.") for Pharaoh: Pithom and Raamses.
- וּכְאֲשֶׁר יִעֲנוּ אֹתוֹ כֵּן יִרְבֶּה וְכֵן יִפְרֹץ וַיִּלָּצוּ מִפְּנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they increased and spread out, so that the [Egyptians] came to dread the Israelites.
- וַיַּעֲבְדוּ מִצְרַיִם אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּכָרָךְ:

13 The Egyptians ruthlessly imposed upon the Israelites
- וַיִּמְרְאוּ אֶת־חֲיֵיהֶם בְּעִבְדָּה קָשָׁה בַחֲמֹל וּבִלְבָּלִים וּבְכָל־עֲבֹדָה בִּשְׂדֵה אֶת כָּל־עֲבֹדָתָם אֲשֶׁר־עֲבָדוּ בָהֶם בְּכָרָךְ:

14 the various labors that they made them perform. Ruthlessly (the various labors that they made them perform. Ruthlessly Brought up from the end of the verse for clarity.) they made life bitter for them with harsh labor at mortar and bricks and with all sorts of tasks in the field.

- 15 The king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, saying, "When you deliver the Hebrew women, look at the birthstool: (birthstool More precisely, the brick or stone supports used by Egyptian women during childbirth.) if it is a boy, kill him; if it is a girl, let her live."
- 16 The midwives, fearing God, did not do as the king of Egypt had told them; they let the boys live.
- 17 So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, letting the boys live?"
- 18 The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women: they are vigorous. Before the midwife can come to them, they have given birth."
- 19 And God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and increased greatly.
- 20 And [God] established households (households Meaning of Heb. batim uncertain.) for the midwives, because they feared God.
- 21 Then Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, "Every boy that is born you shall throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."
- וַיֹּאמֶר מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם לַמִּיֻּלֶּדֶת הָעִבְרִית אֲשֶׁר שֵׁם הָאִחָת שִׁפְרָה וְשֵׁם הַשֵּׁנִית פּוּעָה:
- וַיֹּאמֶר בְּיֻלְדֶּכֶן אֶת־הָעִבְרִיּוֹת וּרְאִיתֶן עַל־הָאֲבָנִים אִם־בֶּן הוּא וְהַמָּתֵן אוֹתוֹ וְאִם־בֵּת הוּא וְחַיָּה:
- וְהַמִּיֻּלֶּדֶת אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים וְלֹא עָשׂוּ כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר אֲלֵיהֶן מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם וַתַּחֲיֶינָן אֶת־הַיָּלָדִים:
- וַיִּקְרָא מֶלֶךְ־מִצְרַיִם לַמִּיֻּלֶּדֶת וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶן מִדּוּעַ עָשִׂיתֶן הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וַתַּחֲיֶינָן אֶת־הַיָּלָדִים:
- וַתֹּאמְרֵן הַמִּיֻּלֶּדֶת אֶל־פַּרְעֹה כִּי לֹא כְנָשִׁים הַמִּצְרִיּוֹת הָעִבְרִית כִּי־חַיּוֹת הֵנָּה בְטָרָם תָּבוֹא אֲלֵהֶן הַמִּיֻּלֶּדֶת וְיָלְדוּ:
- וַיַּיָּטֵב אֱלֹהִים לַמִּיֻּלֶּדֶת וַיִּרְבּוּ הָעָם וַיַּעֲצֻמוּ מְאֹד:
- וַיֵּחֵי כִי־יֵרָאוּ הַמִּיֻּלֶּדֶת אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם בָּתִּים:
- וַיִּצְוּ פַרְעֹה לְכָל־עַמּוֹ לֵאמֹר כָּל־בֶּן הַיָּלֹד הֵבֶן הַיָּאֲרֹה תִשְׁלִיכֻהוּ וְכָל־בֵּת תַּחֲיֶין:

2

- 1 A certain member (member NJPS "man." See the Dictionary under 'ish.) of the house of Levi went and took [into his household as his wife] a woman of Levi.
- 2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw how beautiful he was, she hid him for three months.
- 3 When she could hide him no longer, she got a wicker basket for him and caulked it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child into it and placed it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile.
- 4 And his sister stationed herself at a distance, to learn what would befall him.
- 5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe in the Nile, while her maidens walked along the Nile. She spied the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to fetch it.
- וַיֵּלֶךְ אִישׁ מִבֵּית לֵוִי וַיִּקַּח אֶת־בֵּת־לוֹי:
- וַתָּהָר הָאִשָּׁה וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַתֵּרָא אוֹתוֹ כִּי־טוֹב הוּא וַתַּצְפֵּנֵהוּ שְׁלֹשָׁה יָרֵחִים:
- וְלֹא־יָכְלָה עוֹד הַצִּפְיָנוּ וַתִּקַּח־לוֹ תֵּבַת גִּמָּא וַתַּחְמֶרָהּ בַּחֲמֶר וּבִזְפָּת וַתִּשֶּׂם בָּהּ אֶת־הַיָּלֵד וַתָּשֶׂם בְּסוּף עַל־שִׁפְתֵי הַיָּאֵר:
- וַתִּתְצַב אָחוּתוֹ מֵרָחֵק לְדַעֲוָה מַה־יַּעֲשֶׂה לוֹ:
- וַתֵּרָד בַּת־פַּרְעֹה לְרַחֵץ עַל־הַיָּאֵר וְנַעֲרֹתֶיהָ הִלְכֹת עַל־יַד הַיָּאֵר וַתֵּרָא אֶת־הַתֵּבָה בְּתוֹךְ הַסּוּף וַתִּשְׁלַח אֶת־אִמָּתָהּ וַתִּקְחָהּ:

- 6 When she opened it, she saw that it was a child, a boy crying. She took pity on it and said, "This must be a Hebrew child."
- 7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a Hebrew nurse to suckle the child for you?"
- 8 And Pharaoh's daughter answered, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother.
- 9 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will pay your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it.
- 10 When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, who made him her son. She named him Moses, (Moses Heb. Mosheh from Egyptian for "born of"; here associated with mashah "draw out.") explaining, "I drew him out of the water."
- 11 Some time after that, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his kinsfolk and witnessed their labors. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his kinsmen.
- 12 He turned this way and that and, seeing no one about, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.
- 13 When he went out the next day, he found two Hebrews fighting; so he said to the offender, "Why do you strike your fellow?"
- 14 He retorted, "Who made you chief and ruler over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Moses was frightened, and thought: Then the matter is known!
- 15 When Pharaoh learned of the matter, he sought to kill Moses; but Moses fled from Pharaoh. He arrived (arrived Lit. "sat" or "settled.") in the land of Midian, and sat down beside a well.
- 16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. They came to draw water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock;
- 17 but shepherds came and drove them off. Moses rose to their defense, and he watered their flock.
- 18 When they returned to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come back so soon today?"
- 19 They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds; he even drew water for us and watered the flock."
- ותפתח ותראהו את־הילד והנה־נער בכה ותחמל עליו ותאמר מילדי העברים זה:
- ותאמר אחתו אל־בת־פרעה האלך וקראתי לך אשה מילקת מן העברית ותינק לך את־הילד:
- ותאמרה בת־פרעה לכי ותלך העלמה ותקרא את־אם הילד:
- ותאמר לה בת־פרעה הילכי את־הילד הזה והינקהו לי ואני אתן אֶת־שכרך ותקח האשה הילד ותניקהו:
- ויגדל הילד ותבאהו לבת־פרעה ויהי־לה לבן ותקרא שמו משה ותאמר כי מן־המים משיתהו:
- ויהי | בימים ההם ויגדל משה ויצא אל־אחיו וירא בסבלתם וירא איש מצלי מכה איש־עברי מאתיו:
- ויפן כה וכה וירא כי אין איש ויך את־המצלי ויטמנהו בחול:
- ויצא ביום השלי והנה שני־אנשים עברים נצים ויאמר לרשע למה תכה רעך:
- ויאמר מי שמך לאיש שר ושפט עלינו הלהרגני אתה אמר כאשר הרגת את־המצרי וירא משה ויאמר אכן נודע הדבר:
- וישמע פרעה את־הדבר הזה ויבקש להרג את־משה ויברח משה מפני פרעה וישב בארץ־מדין וישב על־הבאר:
- ולכהן מדין שבע בנות ותבאנה ותדלנה ותמלאנה את־הרהטים להשקות צאן אביהן:
- ויבאו הרעים ויגרשום ויקם משה ויושען וישק את־צאנם:
- ותבאנה אל־רעואל אביהן ויאמר מדוע מהרתן בא היום:
- ותאמרן איש מצלי הצילנו מיד הרעים וגם־הלה דלה לנו וישק את־הצאן:

- 20 וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־בָּנָתָיו וַאֲנִי לָמָּה זֶה עֹזְבֶתָן אֶת־הָאִישׁ קִרְאֵן לִי וַיֹּאכֵל לֶחֶם:
- 21 וַיֹּאֶל מֹשֶׁה לַשִּׁבְתָּ אֶת־הָאִישׁ וַיֵּתֶן אֶת־צִפּוֹרָה בְּתוּ לְמִשְׁהָ:
- 22 וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ גֶרְשֹׁם כִּי אָמַר גֵּר הָיִיתִי בְּאֶרֶץ נִכְרִיָּה:
- 23 וַיְהִי בַיָּמִים הָרַבִּים הָהֵם וַלְמַת מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם וַיִּאֲנָחוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִן־הָעֲבָדָה וַיִּזְעָקוּ וַתַּעַל שׁוֹעֲתָם אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים מִן־הָעֲבָדָה:
- 24 וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶת־נַאֲקָתָם וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת־בְּרִיתוֹ אֶת־אַבְרָהָם אֶת־יִצְחָק וְאֶת־יַעֲקֹב:
- 25 וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּדַּע אֱלֹהִים:

3

- 1 וּמִשְׁהָ הָיָה רָעָה אֶת־צֹאן יִתְרוֹ חֹתֶנּוּ כְהֵן מִדְיָן וַיִּנְהֶג אֶת־הַצֹּאן אַחֵר הַמִּדְבָּר וַיָּבֹא אֶל־הָר הָאֱלֹהִים חֹרֶבָה:
- 2 וַיֵּרָא מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה אֵלָיו בְּלַבַּת־אֵשׁ מִתּוֹךְ הַסִּנֵּה וַיֵּרָא וְהַנֵּה הַסִּנֵּה בָעֵר בָּאֵשׁ וְהַסִּנֵּה אֵינָנו אֵקֵל:
- 3 וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶסְרֶה־נָּא וְאֶרְאֶה אֶת־הַמְרָאָה הַגָּדֹל הַזֶּה מִדּוּעַ לֹא־יִבָּעַר הַסִּנֵּה:
- 4 וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה כִּי סָר לִרְאוֹת וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו אֱלֹהִים מִתּוֹךְ הַסִּנֵּה וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה מִשְׁהָ וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי:
- 5 וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־תִּקְרַב הָלֵם שְׁלִינְעִלֶיךָ מֵעַל רִגְלֶיךָ כִּי הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה עומד עָלָיו אֲדַמְתִּי־קֹדֶשׁ הוּא:
- 6 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנִכִּי אֱלֹהִי אֲבִיךָ אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם אֱלֹהֵי יִצְחָק וְאֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב וַיִּסְתֵּר מִשְׁהָ פָנָיו כִּי יָרָא מִהִבִּיט אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים:
- 7 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה רָאָה רְאִיתִי אֶת־עֲנִי עַמִּי אֲשֶׁר בְּמִצְרַיִם וְאֶת־צַעֲקָתָם שְׁמַעְתִּי מִפְּנֵי נַגְשָׁיו כִּי יִדְעָתִי אֶת־מַכָּאֲבָיו:
- 1 Now Moses, tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, drove the flock into the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.
- 2 A messenger of הוה appeared to him in a blazing fire out of a bush. He gazed, and there was a bush all aflame, yet the bush was not consumed.
- 3 Moses said, "I must turn aside to look at this marvelous sight; why doesn't the bush burn up?"
- 4 When הוה saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him out of the bush: "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Here I am."
- 5 And [God] said, "Do not come closer! Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you stand is holy ground!"
- 6 and continued, "I am the God of your father's [house]—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.
- 7 And הוה continued, "I have marked well the plight of My people in Egypt and have heeded their outcry because of their taskmasters; yes, I am mindful of their sufferings.

- וַיֵּרֶד לְהַצִּילָם מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם וּלְהַעֲלֵתָם מִן־הָאָרֶץ הַהִוא אֶל־אֶרֶץ טוֹבָה
וְרַחֲבָה אֶל־אֶרֶץ זָבֶת חֶלֶב וְדָבָשׁ אֶל־מְקוֹם הַכְּנָעֲנִי וְהַחִתִּי וְהָאֱמֹרִי
וְהַכְּנִזִּי וְהַחִוִּי וְהַיְבוֹסִי:
- וְעַתָּה הִנֵּה צָעֲקַת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּאָה אֵלַי וְגַם־רָאִיתִי אֶת־הַלֹּחֶץ אֲשֶׁר
מִצְרַיִם לֹחֲצִים אֹתָם:
- וְעַתָּה לֵךְ וְאֶשְׁלַחְךָ אֶל־פַּרְעֹה וְהוֹצֵא אֶת־עַמִּי בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל
מִמִּצְרַיִם:
- וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים מִי אֲנִכִּי כִּי אֵלֶךְ אֶל־פַּרְעֹה וְכִי אוֹצִיא
אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרַיִם:
- וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי־אֶהְיֶה עִמָּךְ וְזֶה־לְךָ הָאוֹת כִּי אֲנִכִּי שְׁלַחְתִּיךָ
בְּהוֹצִיאֶךָ אֶת־הָעָם מִמִּצְרַיִם תַּעֲבֹדוּן אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים עַל הַהָר הַזֶּה:
- וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים הִנֵּה אֲנִכִּי בֹא אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתִּי
לָהֶם אֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם שְׁלַחְנִי אֵלֵיכֶם וְאָמְרוּלִי מִה־שְׁמוֹ מָה אָמַר
אֱלֹהִים:
- וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה וַיֹּאמֶר כֹּה תֹאמַר לְבְנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶהְיֶה שְׁלַחְנִי אֵלֵיכֶם:
- וַיֹּאמֶר לְעֹד אֱלֹהִים אֶל־מֹשֶׁה כֹּה־תֹאמַר אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי
אֲבֹתֵיכֶם אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם אֱלֹהֵי יִצְחָק וְאֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב שְׁלַחְנִי אֵלֵיכֶם
זֶה־שְׁמִי לְעֹלָם וְזֶה זִכְרִי לְדֹר דֹּר:
- לֵךְ וְאַסְפַּתְּ אֶת־זִקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹתֵיכֶם
נִרְאָה אֵלַי אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב לֵאמֹר פְּקֹד פְּקֹדְתִּי אֶתְכֶם
וְאֶת־הָעָשׂוּי לָכֶם בְּמִצְרַיִם:
- וְאָמַר אֶעֱלֶה אֶתְכֶם מִעֵנִי מִצְרַיִם אֶל־אֶרֶץ הַכְּנָעֲנִי וְהַחִתִּי וְהָאֱמֹרִי
וְהַכְּנִזִּי וְהַחִוִּי וְהַיְבוֹסִי אֶל־אֶרֶץ זָבֶת חֶלֶב וְדָבָשׁ:
- 8 I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and to bring them out of that land to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey, the region of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.
- 9 Now the cry of the Israelites has reached Me; moreover, I have seen how the Egyptians oppress them.
- 10 Come, therefore, I will send you to Pharaoh, and you shall free My people, the Israelites, from Egypt.”
- 11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and free the Israelites from Egypt?”
- 12 And [God] said, “I will be with you; that shall be your sign that it was I who sent you. And when you have freed the people from Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain.”
- 13 Moses said to God, “When I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers’ [house] has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is [God’s] name?’ what shall I say to them?”
- 14 And God said to Moses, “Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh,” (Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh Meaning of Heb. uncertain; variously translated: “I Am That I Am”; “I Am Who I Am”; “I Will Be What I Will Be”; etc.) continuing, “Thus shall you say to the Israelites, ‘Ehyeh (Ehyeh Others “I Am” or “I Will Be.”) sent me to you.”
- 15 And God said further to Moses, “Thus shall you speak to the Israelites: הוּאִי, (This name (y-h-w-h; traditionally read Adonai “the Lord”) is here associated with the verb hayah “to be.”) the God of your fathers’ [house]—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you: This shall be My name forever, This My appellation for all eternity.
- 16 “Go and assemble the elders of Israel and say to them: הוּאִי, the God of your fathers’ [house]—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me and said, ‘I have taken note of you and of what is being done to you in Egypt,
- 17 and I have declared: I will take you out of the misery of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.’

- 18 They will listen to you; then you shall go with the elders of Israel to the king of Egypt and you shall say to him, "הוהי, the God of the Hebrews, became manifest to us. Now therefore, let us go a distance of three days into the wilderness to sacrifice to our God הוהי."
- 19 Yet I know that the king of Egypt will let you go only because of a greater might.
- 20 So I will stretch out My hand and smite Egypt with various wonders which I will work upon them; after that he shall let you go.
- 21 And I will dispose the Egyptians favorably toward this people, so that when you go, you will not go away empty-handed.
- 22 Each woman shall borrow from her neighbor and the lodger in her house objects of silver and gold, and clothing, and you shall put these on your sons and daughters, thus stripping the Egyptians."
- וְשָׁמְעוּ לְקֹלְךָ וּבֵאתָ אִתָּהּ וְזָקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם וְאַמְרָתָם אֵלָיו יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הָעִבְרִיִּים נִקְרָה עֲלֵינוּ וְעַתָּה נֵלְכֶה־נָּא הָרֹדֶף שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים בַּמִּדְבָּר וְנִזְבְּחָה לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ:
- וְאֲנִי יָדַעְתִּי כִּי לֹא־יֵתֵן אֶתְכֶם מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם לְהֵלֵךְ וְלֹא בִיד חֲזָקָה:
- וְשֹׁלַחְתִּי אֶת־יָדִי וְהִכִּיתִי אֶת־מִצְרַיִם בְּכָל נִפְלְאוֹתֵי אֲשֶׁר אַעֲשֶׂה בְּקִרְבּוֹ וְאַחֲרֵי־כֵן יִשְׁלַח אֶתְכֶם:
- וְנִתַּתִּי אֶת־חַן הָעַם־הַזֶּה בְּעֵינֵי מִצְרַיִם וְהָיָה כִּי תֵלְכוּן לֹא תֵלְכוּ רֵיקָם:
- וְשָׂאֵלָה אִשָּׁה מִשְׁכָּנָתָהּ וּמִגֵּרָתָהּ בֵּיתָהּ כְּלֵי־כֶסֶף וְכְלֵי זָהָב וּשְׂמֹלֹת וּשְׂמָתָם עַל־בְּנֵיהֶם וְעַל־בָּנוֹתֵיהֶם וְנִצְּלָתָם אֶת־מִצְרַיִם:

4

- 1 But Moses spoke up and said, "What if they do not believe me and do not listen to me, but say: הוהי did not appear to you?"
- 2 הוהי said to him, "What is that in your hand?" And he replied, "A rod."
- 3 [God] said, "Cast it on the ground." He cast it on the ground and it became a snake; and Moses recoiled from it.
- 4 Then הוהי said to Moses, "Put out your hand and grasp it by the tail"—he put out his hand and seized it, and it became a rod in his hand—
- 5 "that they may believe that הוהי, the God of their ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, did appear to you."
- 6 הוהי said to him further, "Put your hand into your bosom." He put his hand into his bosom; and when he took it out, his hand was encrusted with snowy scales! (scales Cf. Lev. 13.2–3.)
- 7 And [God] said, "Put your hand back into your bosom."—He put his hand back into his bosom; and when he took it out of his bosom, there it was again like the rest of his body.—
- 8 "And if they do not believe you or pay heed to the first sign, they will believe the second.
- וְעַתָּה מִשָּׁה וְנֹאמַר וְהָן לֹא־יֵאֱמִינוּ לִי וְלֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ בְּקֹלִי כִּי יֹאמְרוּ לֹא־נִרְאָה אֵלֶיךָ יְהוָה:
- וְנֹאמַר אֵלָיו יְהוָה (מִזֶּה) [מִה־זֶּה] בְּיָדְךָ וְנֹאמַר מִטָּה:
- וְנֹאמַר הִשְׁלִיכֵהוּ אֶרֶצָה וְיִשְׁלַכְהוּ אֶרֶצָה וַיְהִי לְנָחָשׁ וַיִּנָּס מִשָּׁה מִפְּנָיו:
- וְנֹאמַר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה שְׁלַח יָדְךָ וְנָחֲזְ בּוֹנִבּוֹ וְיִשְׁלַח יָדוֹ וַיִּחְזַק בּוֹ וַיְהִי לְמִטָּה בְּכַפּוֹ:
- לְמַעַן יֵאֱמִינוּ כִּי־נִרְאָה אֵלֶיךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹתָם אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם אֱלֹהֵי יִצְחָק וְאֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב:
- וְנֹאמַר יְהוָה לוֹ עוֹד הִבֵּאתָנִי יָדְךָ בְּחִיקְךָ וַיָּבֵא יָדוֹ בְּחִיקוֹ וַיּוֹצֵאָהּ וְהָיָה יָדוֹ מְצֻרֶעֶת כְּשֹׁלֵג:
- וְנֹאמַר הֲשִׁב יָדְךָ אֶל־חִיקְךָ וְנִשְׁבַּח יָדוֹ אֶל־חִיקוֹ וַיּוֹצֵאָהּ מִחִיקוֹ וְהָיָה־שָׁבָה כְּבָשָׂרוֹ:
- וְהָיָה אִם־לֹא יֵאֱמִינוּ לָךְ וְלֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ לְקֹל הָאֵת הָרִאשׁוֹן וְהָאֵת הַשֵּׁנִי:

- והִלֵּה אִם־לֹא יֵאֱמָינוּ גַם־לְשׁוֹנֵי הָאֲתוֹת הָאֵלֶּה וְלֹא יִשְׁמָעוּן לְקֹלְךָ
וְלִקְחָתָּ מִמִּימֵי הַיָּאֵר וְשִׁפְכָתָּ הַיִּבְשָׁה וְהָיוּ הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר תִּקַּח
מִן־הַיָּאֵר וְהָיוּ לְדָם בַּיִבֶּשֶׁת׃
- 9 And if they are not convinced by both these signs and still do not heed you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and it—the water that you take from the Nile—will turn to blood on the dry ground.”
- וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־יְהוָה בִּי אֲדֹנָי לֹא אִישׁ דְּבָרִים אֲנִכִּי גַם מִתְמוּל
גַּם מִשְׁלֵשׁ גַּם מֵאָז דִּבַּרְתָּ אֶלַי־עֲבָדְךָ כִּי כְבֹּד־פֶּה וּכְבֹּד לְשׁוֹן
אֲנִכִּי׃
- 10 But Moses said to יהוה, “Please, O my lord, I have never been a man of words, either in times past or now that You have spoken to Your servant; I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.”
- וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלָיו מִי שֵׁם פֶּה לְאָדָם אִם מִי־יִשְׁוֹם אִלֵּם אִם חֵלֶשׁ אִם
פֶּקֶח אִם עֵוֶר הֲלֹא אֲנִכִּי יְהוָה׃
- 11 And יהוה said to him, “Who gives humans speech? Who makes them dumb or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, יהוה?”
- וַעֲתָה לֵךְ וְאֲנִכִּי אֶהְיֶה עִם־פִּיךָ וְהוֹרִיתִיךָ אֲשֶׁר תִּדְבֹּר׃
- 12 Now go, and I will be with you as you speak and will instruct you what to say.”
- וַיֹּאמֶר בִּי אֲדֹנָי שְׁלַח־נָא בְיַד־תְּשֻׁלָּח׃
- 13 But he said, “Please, O my lord, make someone else Your agent.” (make someone else Your agent Lit. “send through whomever You will send.”)
- וַיַּחֲרֹאֲף יְהוָה בְּמֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמֶר הֲלֹא אֶהְיֶה אִתְּךָ הַלֹּלִי יִדְעָתִי
כִּי־דָבָר יִדְבֹּר הוּא וְגַם הִנֵּה־הוּא יֵצֵא לְקִרְאָתְךָ וְרָאָךְ וְשָׂמַח
בְּלִבּוֹ׃
- 14 יהוה became angry with Moses and said, “There is your brother Aaron the Levite. He, I know, speaks readily. Even now he is setting out to meet you, and he will be happy to see you.
- וְדִבַּרְתָּ אֵלָיו וְשַׂמְתָּ אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים בְּפִיו וְאֲנִכִּי אֶהְיֶה עִם־פִּיךָ
וְעִם־פִּיהוּ וְהוֹרִיתִי אֶתְכֶם אֵת אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשׂוּן׃
- 15 You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth—I will be with you and with him as you speak, and tell both of you what to do—
- וְדִבַּר־הוּא לְךָ אֶל־הָעָם וְהָיָה הוּא יְהִי־הֶלֶךְ לָפָה וְאַתָּה תְּהִי־לֹו
לְאֱלֹהִים׃
- 16 and he shall speak for you to the people. Thus he shall serve as your spokesman, with you playing the role of God (playing the role of God Cf. 7.1.) to him.
- וְאַתָּה־תִּמָּטֶה הַזֶּה תִּקַּח בְּיָדְךָ אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה־בּוֹ אֶת־הָאֲתוֹת׃
- 17 And take with you this rod, with which you shall perform the signs.”
- וַיֵּלֶךְ מֹשֶׁה וַיָּשָׁב | אֶל־יֶתֶר חֹתָנוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אֵלֶכָה נָא וְאֶשׁוּבָה
אֶל־אֲחִי אֲשֶׁר־בְּמִצְרַיִם וְאֶרְאֶה הָעוֹדִם חַיִּים וַיֹּאמֶר יֵתֵרוֹ לְמֹשֶׁה לֵךְ
לְשָׁלוֹם׃
- 18 Moses went back to his father-in-law Jether (Jether I.e., Jethro.) and said to him, “Let me go back to my kinsfolk in Egypt and see how they are faring.” (how they are faring Lit. “whether they are still alive.”) And Jethro said to Moses, “Go in peace.”
- וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְיָן לֵךְ שׁוּב מִצְרַיִם כִּי־מָתוּ כָּל־הַנֹּשְׁאִים
הַמִּבְקָשִׁים אֶת־נַפְשְׁךָ׃
- 19 יהוה said to Moses in Midian, “Go back to Egypt, for all those who sought to kill you are dead.”
- וַיִּקַּח מֹשֶׁה אֶת־אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאֶת־בָּנָיו וַיָּרֻכְבּוּם עַל־הַחֲמֹר וַיָּשָׁב אֶרְצָה
מִצְרַיִם וַיִּקַּח מֹשֶׁה אֶת־מִטְּהַ הָאֱלֹהִים בְּיָדוֹ׃
- 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.
- וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה בְּלָכְתְּךָ לָשׁוּב מִצְרַיִם רְאֵה כָּל־הַמִּפְתִּים
אֲשֶׁר־שַׂמְתִּי בְיָדְךָ וַעֲשִׂיתָם לִפְנֵי פַרְעֹה וְאֲנִי אֶחְזֹק אֶת־לִבּוֹ וְלֹא
יִשְׁלַח אֶת־הָעָם׃
- 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 ואמרת אל־פרעה כה אמר יהוה בני בכרי ישראל:
23 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, "Thus says יהוה: Israel is My first-born son.
- 23 ואמר אליך שלח את־בני ויעבדני ותמאן לשלחו הנה אנכי
הרג את־בנך בכרך:
24 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."
- 24 ויהי בדרך במלון ויפגשו יהוה ויבקש המיתו:
25 At a night encampment on the way, יהוה encountered him and sought to kill him.
- 25 ותלח צפלה צר ותכרת את־ערלת בלה ותנע לרגליו ותאמר כי
חתן־דמים אתה לי:
26 (Meaning of verse uncertain.) 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 וירף ממנו אז אמרה חתן דמים למולת:
27 ויאמר יהוה אל־אהרן לך לקראת משה המדברה וילך
ויפגשו בחר האלהים וישקלו:
28 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 ויגד משה לאהרן את כל־דברי יהוה אשר שלחו ואת כל־האִתָּה
אשר צוהו:
29 Moses told Aaron about all the things that יהוה had committed to him and all the signs about which he had been instructed.
- 29 וילך משה ואהרן ויאספו את־כל־זקני בני ישראל:
30 Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the Israelites.
- 30 וידבר אהרן את כל־הדברים אשר־דבר יהוה אל־משה ויעש האִתָּה
לעני העם:
31 Aaron repeated all the words that יהוה had spoken to Moses, and he performed the signs in the sight of those assembled,
- 31 ויאמן העם וישמעו כי־פלד יהוה את־בני ישראל וכי ראה
את־עַלְמֵם ויקדו וישתחוו:
32 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.

5

- 1 ואחר באו משה ואהרן ויאמרו אל־פרעה כה־אמר יהוה אלי
ישראל שלח את־עמי ויחגו לי במדבר:
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 ויאמר פרעה מי יהוה אשר אשמע בקלו לשלח את־ישראל לא
ידעתי את־יהוה וגם את־ישראל לא אשלח:
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 ויאמרו אלהי העברים נקרא עלינו נלכה לא דרך שלשת ימים
במדבר ונבחה ליהוה אלהינו פריפגענו בדבר או בחרב:
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."

- וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם לְמַדּוּ מִשֶּׁה וְאַהֲרֹן תַּפְרִיעוּ אֶת־הָעָם מִמַּעֲשֵׂיו לָכוּ לִסְבִּלְתֵּיכֶם:
- וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה הַיִּרְרָבִים עִתָּה עִם הָאָרֶץ וְהִשְׁבַּתֶּם אֹתָם מִסְבִּלְתָּם:
- וַיֵּצֵא פַרְעֹה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא אֶת־הַנְּשִׂאִים בָּלֶם וְאֶת־שֹׁטְרָיו לֵאמֹר:
- לֹא תֹאסְפוֹן לַהֲתִת תָּבוֹן לָעָם לִלְבֹּן הַלְבָנִים כְּתָמוּל שִׁלְשָׁם הֵם יִלְכוּ וְקִשְׁשׁוּ לָהֶם תָּבוֹן:
- וְאֶת־מִתְכַּנֶּת הַלְבָנִים אֲשֶׁר הֵם עֹשִׂים תָּמוּל שִׁלְשָׁם תַּשְׁיִמוּ עֲלֵיהֶם לֹא תִנְרָעוּ מִמֶּנּוּ כִּי־נִרְפִּים הֵם עַל־כֵּן הֵם צָעֲקִים לֵאמֹר נִלְכָּה נִזְבַּחַה לֵאלֹהֵינוּ:
- תִּכְבֹּד הָעֶבֶדָה עַל־הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיַּעֲשׂוּ־בָהּ וְאֵלֵי־שָׁעוֹ בְּדַבְרֵי־שָׁקֶר:
- וַיֵּצְאוּ נְשֵׂי הָעָם וּשְׁטָרָיו וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל־הָעָם לֵאמֹר כֹּה אָמַר פַּרְעֹה אֵינֶנִּי נֹתֵן לָכֶם תָּבוֹן:
- אֲתֶם לָכוּ קַחוּ לָכֶם תָּבוֹן מֵאֲשֶׁר תִּמְצְאוּ כִּי אֵין נִגְרַע מִעֲבַדְתְּכֶם דִּבֶּר:
- וַיִּפֶץ הָעָם בְּכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לִקְשֹׁשׁ קֹשׁ לַתָּבוֹן:
- וְהַנְּשִׂאִים אֲצִים לֵאמֹר כָּלוּ מַעֲשֵׂיכֶם דְּבַר־יוֹם בְּיוֹמוֹ כֹּאֲשֶׁר בְּהַיּוֹת הַתָּבוֹן:
- וַיִּכּוּ שְׁטָרֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר־שָׂמוּ עֲלֵהֶם נְשֵׂי פַרְעֹה לֵאמֹר מִדּוּעַ לֹא כָלִיתֶם חֻקְכֶם לִלְבֹּן כְּתָמוּל שִׁלְשָׁם גַּם־תָּמוּל גַּם־הַיּוֹם:
- וַיָּבֹאוּ שְׁטָרֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּצְעֲקוּ אֶל־פַּרְעֹה לֵאמֹר לְמַדּוּ תַעֲשֶׂה כֹה לַעֲבָדֶיךָ:
- 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 the land are already so numerous, (The people of the land are already so numerous Samaritan “Even now they are more numerous than the people of the land,” i.e., than the native population (cf. Gen. 23.7).) and you would have them cease from their labors!” (from their labors See 1.5–11.)
- 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; (those involved Lit. “the [salient] participants.” Trad. “the men.” See the Dictionary under ‘ish.) 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 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 הוהי.’”
- 18 Be off now to your work! No 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 הוהי 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 הוהי 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.”
- וְכֵן אֵין נִתֵּן לַעֲבָדֶיךָ וּלְבָנִים אֲמָרִים לָנוּ עֲשׂוּ וְהִנֵּה עֲבָדֶיךָ מְכִים וְחֻטְאֵת עִמָּךְ:
- וַיֹּאמֶר נִרְפִּים אַתֶּם נִרְפִּים עַל־כֵּן אַתֶּם אֲמָרִים גִּלְכָּה נִזְבַּחַה לַיהוָה:
- וַעֲתָה לָכוּ עֲבְדוּ וְתִבֶּן לֹא־יִנָּתֵן לָכֶם וְתִכֶּן לְבָנִים תִּתְּנוּ:
- וַיִּרְאוּ שֹׁטְרֵי בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶתֶם בָּרַע לֵאמֹר לֹא־תִגְרַעוּ מִלְּבַנֵּיכֶם דְּבָר־יּוֹם בְּיוֹמוֹ:
- וַיִּפְגְּעוּ אֶת־מֹשֶׁה וְאַתְיָאֵהֳרֹן נֹצְבִים לְקִרְיָתָם בְּצֵאתָם מֵאֵת פַּרְעֹה:
- וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵהֶם יְיָ הִנֵּה עָלִיכֶם וַיִּשְׁפֹּט אֲשֶׁר הִבֵּשְׁתֶּם אֶת־יְרֵיחוֹנוּ בְּעֵינֵי פַרְעֹה וּבְעֵינֵי עֲבָדָיו לְתַת־חֶרֶב בְּיָדָם לְהָרְגֵנוּ:
- וַיֵּשֶׁב מֹשֶׁה אֶל־יְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדֹנָי לְמָה הִרְעִיתָה לָעָם הַזֶּה לְמָה זֶה שְׁלַחְתָּנִי:
- וּמֵאֲזַי בָּאתִי אֶל־פַּרְעֹה לְדַבֵּר בְּשִׁמְךָ הִרָע לָעָם הַזֶּה וְהִצַּל לֹא־הִצַּלְתָּ אֶת־עַמְּךָ:

6

- 1 Then הוהי 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.”
- וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה עֲתָה תִּרְאֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶעֱשֶׂה לְפַרְעֹה כִּי בְיַד חֲזָקָה יִשְׁלַחֵם וּבְיַד חֲזָקָה יִגְרָשֵׁם מֵאֶרְצוֹ: