

1

- שמואל בני ישראל הבאים מצרמה את יעקב איש וביתו באו:
ואלה
- 1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each coming with his household:
- 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah;
- 3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin;
- 4 Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher.
- 5 The total number of persons that were of Jacob's issue came to seventy, Joseph being already in Egypt.
- 6 Joseph died, and all his brothers, and all that generation.
- 7 But the Israelites were fertile and prolific; they multiplied and increased very greatly, so that the land was filled with them.
- 8 A new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph.
- 9 And he said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are much too numerous for us.
- 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."
- 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.
- 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they increased and spread out, so that the [Egyptians] came to dread the Israelites.
- 13 The Egyptians ruthlessly imposed upon the Israelites
- 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.
- ראובן שמעון לוי ויהודה:
יששכר זבולון ובנימין:
דן ונפתלי גד אשר:
כל־נפש יצאי יִהְיֶה־יעקב שבעים נפש ויוסף היה במצרים:
ויהי
- ותמת יוסף וכל־אחיו וכל הָדוֹר ההוא:
פרו ונשׂרצו ויִרְבּוּ וַיַּעֲצֻמוּ במֵאד מֵאד ותמלא הארץ אתם:
ובני ישראל
- ויקם מלך־חדש עלי־מצרים אשר לא־יָדַע את־יוסף:
ויאמר אל־עמו הִנֵּה עַם בני ישראל רב וַעֲצוּם מִמֶּנּוּ:
- מלחמה ונוסף גס־יהוא על־שנאינו ונגלחם־בנו ועלה מר־הארץ:
הבה נתחכמה לו פִּרְיָרְבָה וְהִזָּה כִּי־תתקראנה
- בסבלתם ויבן ערי מסכנות לפרעה את־פתם ואת־רעמסס:
וישִׂימו עליָו שרי מסים למען עֲנֹתוּ
- וכאשר יעֲנֶוּ אלו כן ירבה וכן יִפְרֹץ וַיִּלְצוּ מִפְּנֵי בני ישראל:
- ויַעֲבֹדוּ מִצְרַיִם את־בני ישראל בַּפֶּרֶךְ:
- ובכל־עֲבֹדָה בשָׂדֶה את כל־עֲבֹדָתָם אשר־עֲבָדוּ בהם בַּפֶּרֶךְ:
ויִמְרֹדוּ אֶת־חַיִּיהֶם בעֲבֹדָה קָשָׁה בחֹמֶר ובלִבְנִים

- 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 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."
- אֲצִים לאמר כלו מעשיכם דבר־יום ביומו כאשר בהיות התבן:
והנגשים
- לא כליתם חקכם ללבן כתמול שלשם גס־תמול גס־היום:
שטר־י בני ישראל אשר־שמו עליהם נגשִׁי פרעה לאמר מדיע ניכֹו
- בני ישראל ויצעקו אל־פרעה לאמר למה תעשה כה לעבד־ך:
ויבאו שטר־י
- ולבנים אמרים לנו עשו וְהִנֵּה עֹבְדֶיךָ מִכִּים וחסותא עמך:
תָּבוּ אִין נתן לעבד־ך
- נרפים אתם נרפים עליכן אתם אמרים נלכה נזבחה ליהוה:
ויאמר
- ועתה לכו עבדו ותבן לא־יִנְתֶּן לכם ותבן לבנים תתנו:
- אתם ברע לאמר לא־תִנְדְּעוּ מלבניכם דבר־יום ביומו:
ויראו שטר־י בני־ישראל
- את־משה ואת־אהרן נצבים לקראתם בצאתם מאת פרעה:
ויפִגְעוּ
- את־יחיזנו בעיני פרעה ובעיני עבדיו לתת־חרב בידם להרגנו:
ויאמרו אליהם יָאֵה הִנֵּה עליכם וישפֹט אשר הבאשתם
- ויאמר אֲדֹנִי למה הרעלתה לעם הַזֶּה למה זֶה שלחתני:
וישב משה אלי־יהוה
- לדבר בשמך הרע לעם הַזֶּה והצֵל לא־יהצֵל את־עמך:
ומאָז באתי אל־פרעה

6

- 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 greater might he shall drive them from his land."
- לפרעה כי ביד חזקה ישלחם וביד חזקה יגרשם מארצו:
ויאמר יהוה אל־משה עתה תראה אשר אַעֲשֶׂה

15 The king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah.

16 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."

17 The midwives, fearing God, did not do as the king of Egypt had told them; they let the boys live.

18 So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, letting the boys live?"

19 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."

20 And God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and increased greatly.

21 And [God] established households*households Meaning of Heb. batim uncertain, for the midwives, because they feared God.

22 Then Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, "Every boy that is born you shall throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

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.

2

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 the land are already so numerous,*The people of the land 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 his sister stationed herself at a distance, to learn what would befall him.

14 And his sister stationed herself at a distance, to learn what would befall him.

15 And his sister stationed herself at a distance, to learn what would befall him.

16 And his sister stationed herself at a distance, to learn what would befall him.

17 And his sister stationed herself at a distance, to learn what would befall him.

18 And his sister stationed herself at a distance, to learn what would befall him.

19 And his sister stationed herself at a distance, to learn what would befall him.

20 And his sister stationed herself at a distance, to learn what would befall him.

21 And his sister stationed herself at a distance, to learn what would befall him.

22 And his sister stationed herself at a distance, to learn what would befall him.

וַתָּרָא אֶת־הַתִּבְּלָה בַּתּוֹךְ הַסּוּף וַתִּשְׁלַח אֶת־אִמָּתָהּ וַתִּקְחָהּ:
וַתֵּרֶד בַּת־פַּרְעֹה לַחֲזֹץ עַל־הָיָר וַנִּעְרָתֶיהָ הִלְכַת עַל־יַד הָיָר

וַהֲנִידָעָר בָּכָה וַתַּחֲמֵל עָלָיו וַתֹּאמֶר מִלִּדִּי הָעֶבְרִים זֶה:
וַתַּפְתָּח וַתִּרְאֶהוּ אֶת־הַיֶּלֶד

וַקְרָאתִי לָךְ אִשָּׁה מִלִּקְחַת מִן הָעֶבְרִיָּת וַתֵּינֶנּוּ לָךְ אֶת־הַיֶּלֶד:
וַתֹּאמֶר אָחִיתוּ אֶל־בַּת־פַּרְעֹה הָאֵלֶּךְ

וַתֹּאמְרֵלָה בַּת־פַּרְעֹה לְכִי וְהָלַךְ הָעַלְמָה וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־אָם הַיֶּלֶד:

וַהֲנִיקָהּ לִי וְאֲנִי אֶתֶּן אֶת־שִׂכְרִי וַתִּחַד הָאִשָּׁה הַיֶּלֶד וַתִּנְיָקָהּ:
וַתֹּאמֶר לָהּ בַּת־פַּרְעֹה הִילִיכִי אֶת־הַיֶּלֶד הַזֶּה

וַיְהִי־לָהּ לְבֵן וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ מֹשֶׁה וַתֹּאמֶר כִּי מִן־הַמַּיִם מָשִׂיתָהּ:
וַיִּגְדֵּל הַיֶּלֶד וַתִּבְאָהוּ לְבַת־פַּרְעֹה

וַיָּרָא בַסְּבִלָתָם וַיֵּרָא אִישׁ מִצְרַיִם מִכָּה אִישׁ־עִבְרִי מֵאֲחֵיו:
וַיָּתִיּוּ בַּמַּיִם הָהֵם וַיִּגְדֵּל מֹשֶׁה וַיֵּצֵא אֶל־אֲחָיו

וַיִּפֶן כֹּה וְכֹה וַיָּרָא כִּי אֵין אִישׁ וְנָךְ אֶת־הַמִּצְרַיִם וַיִּטְמְנֶהוּ בַּחוּל:

וַהֲנִה שְׁנֵי־אֲנָשִׁים עֹבְרִים נֹצִים וַיֹּאמֶר לָרֵשֶׁע לָמָּה תָּכָה רָעוֹךְ:
וַיֵּצֵא בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי

כַּאֲשֶׁר הִרְגֵּת אֶת־הַמִּצְרַיִם וַיִּירָא מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמֶר אֲכֹן נֹדַע הִדְבַּר:
וַיֹּאמֶר מִי שִׁמְךָ לֵאשׁוֹר שֶׁר וּשְׁפֹט עָלֵינוּ הִלְהִירְגִנִּי אִתָּהּ אִמֹּר

וַיִּבְרַח מֹשֶׁה מִפָּנָיו פָּרַעַה וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּאַרְצ־מִדְיָן וַיֵּשֶׁב עַל־הַבָּאֵר:
וַיִּשְׁמַע פַּרְעֹה אֶת־הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה וַיִּבְקֹשׁ לַהֲרֹג אֶת־מֹשֶׁה

וַתִּבְאֶנָּה וַתּוֹדֵלְנָהּ וַתִּמְלֵאנָהּ אֶת־הַתְּהֻמֹּת לַחֲשֹׁקוֹת צֹאן אֲבִיהֶן:
וַלְכֹתָן מִדְּוָן שִׁבְעֵה בָנוֹת

וַיָּבֹאוּ הָרֻעִים וַיִּגְרָשׁוּם וַיִּקֶּם מֹשֶׁה וַיּוֹשְׁעֵן וַיִּשְׁקֹץ אֶת־צֹאנָם:

לָךְ שָׁב מִצְרַיִם כִּי־מָלְחוּ כָל־הָאֲנָשִׁים הַמִּבְקָשִׁים אֶת־נַפְשְׁךָ:
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְיָן

וַיָּשֶׁב אֶרְצָהּ מִצְרַיִם וַיָּקַח מֹשֶׁה אֶת־מִטָּה הָאֱלֹהִים בִּידּוֹ:
וַיִּלָּךְ מֹשֶׁה אֶת־אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאֶת־בָּנָיו וַיִּרְכַּבֶם עַל־הַחֲמֹר

וַעֲשִׂיתֶם לִפְנֵי פָרַעַה וְאֲנִי אֲחֻזֵּק אֶת־לְבֹו וְלֹא יִשְׁלַח אֶת־הָעָם:
בְּלִכְתּוֹ לָשׁוּב מִצְרַיִםהָרָאָה כָּל־הַמִּפְתִּיחַ אֲשֶׁר־שָׁמָּה בִּידּוֹ:
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה

וַאֲמַרְתָּ אֶל־פַּרְעֹה כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה בְּנִי בְכֹרִי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

אֶת־בְּנִי וְעֶבְדִּי וַתִּמְאַן לִשְׁלַחַו הִנֵּה אֲנִכִּי הֹלֵךְ אֶת־בְּנִי בְּכֹרִי:
וַאֲמַר אֵלָיִךְ שִׁלַּח

וַיְהִי בַּדֶּרֶךְ בְּמִלְכוֹ וַיִּפְגְּשֻׁהוּ יְהוָה וַיִּבְקֹשׁ הַמִּיתּוֹ:

אֶת־עֶרְלַת בָּנָהּ וַתִּגַּע לְרַגְלָיו וַתֹּאמֶר כִּי חֲתֻדִּים־אָתָּה לִי:
וַתִּקַּח צִפּוֹרָה זָרָה וַתִּכְרַחַל

וַיִּרְךְ מִכְּנוֹ אֵן אִמָּלָהּ תָּתֶן דָּמַי לְמוֹלַת:

לִקְרַאת מֹשֶׁה הַמִּדְבָּרָה וַיִּלָּךְ וַיִּפְגְּשֻׁהוּ בַּהָר הָאֱלֹהִים וַיִּשְׁקִלּוּ:
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אַהֲרֹן לָךְ

אֵת כָּל־דְּבָרֵי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר שָׁלַח וְאֵת כָּל־הָאֲתָת אֲשֶׁר צִוָּהוּ:
וַיַּגִּד מֹשֶׁה לְאַהֲרֹן

וַיִּלָּךְ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן וַיִּאָּסְפוּ אֶת־כָּל־זִקְנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

אֲשֶׁר־הִבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וַיַּעַשׂ הָאֲתָת לְעֵינֵי הָעָם:
וַיִּדְבֹּר אַהֲרֹן אֵת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים

וַיְהוָה אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְכִי רָאָה אֶת־עַנְיָם וַיִּקְרֹו וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ:
וַיִּאָּמְנוּ הָעָם וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ כִּי־פִקֵּד

16 “Go and assemble the elders of Israel and say to them: יהוה, 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, יהוה, 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 יהוה.’

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 of 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.”

4

1 But Moses spoke up and said, “What if they do not believe me and do not listen to me, but say: יהוה did not appear to you?”

2 יהוה 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 יהוה 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 יהוה, the God of their ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, did appear to you.”

7 And יהוה 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.

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: יהוה 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.

ואת־צעקתם שמעתי מפני נגשיו כי ידעתי את־מכאביו: ויאמר יהוה ראה ראיתי את־עני עמי אשר במצרים

אלי־מקום הכנעני והחתי והאמרי והפרזי והחוי והיבסי: ההוא אלי־ארץ טובה ורחבה אלי־ארץ זבת חלב ודבש ואני להצילו מיד מצרים ולהעלותו מן־הארץ

באה אלי וגם־ראיתי את־הלחץ אשר מצרים לחצים אתם: ועלה הנה צעקת בני־ישראל

לכה ואשלחך אלי־פרעה והוצא את־עמי בני־ישראל ממצרים: ועתה

אנכי כי אך אלי־פרעה וכי אוציא את־בני ישראל ממצרים: ויאמר משה אלי־האלהים מי

את־העם ממצרים תעבדון את־האלהים על הקר הנה: כי־אנייה עמך ויהי־לך האות כי אנכי שלחתיך בהוציאך ויאמר

אבותיכם שלחני אליכם ואמר־לי מה־שמו מה אמר אלהם: אלי־האלהים הנה אנכי בא אלי־בני ישראל ואמרתי להם אלהי ויאמר משה

אנייה ויאמר כה תאמר לבני ישראל אנייה שלחני אליכם: ויאמר אלהים אלי־משה אנייה אשר

ואלתי יעקב שלחני אליכם והשמי לעלם נזה זכרי לך הרי: אלי־בני ישראל יהוה אלהי אבותיכם אלהי אברהם אלהי יצחק ויאמר עוד אלהים אלי־משה כה־תאמר