Shemot שמות

Exodus 1:1-6:1

- 1 These ar שְׁמִוֹתְ בְּנֶי יִשְׂרָאֵל הַבָּאִים מִצְרְיִמָה אָת יַעְלְּב אִישׁ וּבִיתוּ בְּאוּ: יְאֵלֶּה האסונים וֹאַלֶּה househo
  - 1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each coming with his household:
  - :ראובן שמעון לוי ויהודה 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah;
    - :יששכר זבולן ובנימן 3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin;
    - :דְן וְנַפְּתְלִי גָּד וְאָשֵׁר Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher.
  - : כַל־נֶפֶשׁ יִּצְאָי יֻרֶךְ־יַעֻקֹב שֹבְעִים נֻפֶּשׁ וְיוֹסֶף הִיָה בְמִצְרָיִם: נְיְהִי The total number of persons that were of Jacob's issue came to seventy, Joseph being already in Egypt.
    - וַיָּמֶת יוֹסֵףׁ וְכָל־אֶחְיו וְכָל הַהְּוֹר הַהְּוֹא: 6 Joseph died, and all his brothers, and all that generation.
  - פּרָוּ וַיִּשְׂרְצָּוּ וַיִּעַצְמְוּ בִּמְאָד מְאָד וַתְּמֵלֶא הָאָרֶץ אֹתְם: 7 But the Israelites were fertile and prolific; they multiplied and increased very greatly, so that the land was filled with them.
    - :וָיָקם מֵלֶּדְ־חִדְשׁ עַל־מַצְרְיִם אֲשֶׂר לְא־יָדְע אֶת־יוֹסְףּ: 8 A new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph.
    - יַלְאמֶר אָל־עָמֵוֹ הְגַּה עָם בְּנֶי יִשֹׂרָאֵל רָב וְעָצִוּם מִמְנוּ: 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."
  - ינשְימוּ לְבֶּרְעָה אֶת־פִּתְם וְאֶת־רַעְמְסְכּ: 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.
    - בּפְרֶרְיִם אֶת־בְּנֶי יִשׂוְרָאֶל בְּפְּרֶךְ: 13 The Egyptians ruthlessly imposed upon the Israelites
  - בְּכְלִיעֲבֹדְה בַּשֶּׁבְה אָת כָּלִ־עֲבִדְה אַת כָּל־עֲבִדְה אַת כָּל־עֲבִדְה אַת כָּל־עֲבִדְה בִּקֶּם בְּפְּבֶךְּוּ בִקְּם בְּפְּבֶרְ נִיְמִרְרוּ אֶת־חַיֵּיהֶם בַּעֲבֹדָה קְשָׂה בְּחֹמֶל וּבַלְבַנִים 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.

- לַמיַלִּדָת הָעָבַרְיֻת אֲשֵׂר שַם הָאַחַת שֹפַּרָה וִשָּׁם הַשַּׁנִית פּוּעָה: וַיֹּאמֵר מַלֶּךְ מִצְרִים
  - 15 The king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah,
  - 16 על־הָאָבנִים אִם־בָן הוּא וָהַמְתָן אתוֹ וִאִם־בַּת הוּא וָחָיָה: וַיֹאמֵר בִילֵדכוֹ אַת־הַעבריות וּראִיתֵן
    - 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."
- ּוְלָא עָשׂוּ כַאֲשֶׂר דִּבֶּר אֲלֵיהֶן מֶלֶךְ מִצְרְיִם וַתְחַיֶּין אֶת־הַיְלָדִים: ותיראן המילדת את־האלהים
- The midwives, fearing God, did not do as the king of Egypt had told them; they let the boys live.
- ַוַלָּאמֶר לָהֶן מַדְּוּעַ עֲשֹׁיתֶן הַדָּבָר הַזָּה וַתְּחַיָּין אֶת־הַיְלָדִים: וַיִּקרָא מַלְדִ־מִצרַיִם לַמִיּלְדֹת
- So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, letting the boys live?"
- ּ הָעבְרִיֻת כִי־חַיָּוֹת הַנָּה בְּטֶּׁרֶם תָבְוֹא אֲלֵהֶן הַמַיַּלֶּדֶת וְיָלְדוּ: וַתֹאמֶרָן הַמִילִדת אֱלֹ־פַּרִעָּה כֵי לָא כַנָּשִים הַמִּצְרִיִּת
- 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 נַיִּטֶב אֱלֹהִים לַמַיַלְדֶת וַיְרֵב הָעָם וַיַעָצָמוּ מאָד: people multiplied and increased greatly.
- 21 וַיָּהְי כִי־יַרְאָוּ הַמַיַלְדָת אָת־הָאֱלֹהִים וַיַּעְשׁ לָהֶם בַּתִים:
  - And [God] established households\*households Meaning of Heb. batim uncertain. for the midwives, because they feared God.
- ַלָאמֶר כָל־הַבֶּן הַיִּלּוֹד הַיָּאֹרָה תַשׁלִיכָהוּ וַכָל־הַבַּת תִחַיִּוּן: וִיצָו פַרעה לכָל־עַמוּ
- Then Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, "Every boy that is born you shall throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

- וַיָּלֵךְ אִישׁ מִבֶּית לַוָי וַיִּקְח אֵת־בַּת־לַוִי:
- 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.
- וַתַלֵד בַּן וַתַרֵא אתוֹ כִי־טוֹב הוֹא וַתִצפְנַהוּ שׁלשַׁה יִרַחִים: ותהר האשה
- The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw how beautiful he was, she hid him for three months.
- בַחַמַר וּבַזָּפֵת וַתְשֵׁם בָהֹ אֵת־הַיֵּלֵד וַתְשֵׁם בַּסוּף עַל־שִׁפָּת הַיִּאְר: ולא־יָכַלָה עוד הַצַּפִינוֹ וַתְקח־לוֹ תֶבַת גֹמֵא וַתַחמְרָה
- 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.
- וַתַתַצַב אַחתו מַרַחַק לדֵעָה מַה־יֵעשה לִו:
- And his sister stationed herself at a distance, to learn what would befall him.

וַתְרֵא אַת־הַתַבָּה בַתְוֹךְ הַסוֹף וַתְשׁלָח אַת־אַמַתָּה וַתִּקְחֵהָ: The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe in וַתַבֶּד בַּת־פַּרִעה לִרְחָץ עַל־הַיָּאר וְנַעַרתֵיה הלכת עַל־יָד הַיִּאָר the Nile, while her maidens walked along the Nile. She spied the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to fetch it. וְהִנֵּה־נָעַר בֹּכָה וַתַּחְמַל עָלָיו וַתֹּאמֶר מִיַלְדֶי הָעבְרִים זֶה: When she opened it, she saw that it was a child, וַתִּפַתַח וַתִּרִאֶהוּ אֵתֹ־הַלֵּלֵד a boy crying. She took pity on it and said, "This must be a Hebrew child." וַקרָאתִי לָךָּ אִשָּה מֵינַקת מַן הַעברַיַת וִתִינַק לָךָ אֵת־הַיָּלֵד: Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall וַתאמר אַחתוֹ אַל־בַת־פַּרעה הַאַלַך I go and get you a Hebrew nurse to suckle the child for you?" וַתְאמֵר־לָה בַּת־פַּרעה לָכִי וַתַּלֵךְ הָעַלמַה וַתִּקרָא אַת־אָם הַיִּלֵד: And Pharaoh's daughter answered, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this ּוְהֵינִקְהוּ לִי וַאֲנִי אֶתֶן אֶת־שְׂכָרֶךְ וַתִּקְח הָאִשֶּה הַיֶּלֶד וַתְּנִיקְהוּ: וַתְאמֵר לָה בַת־פַּרעה הֵילִיכִי אַת־הַיָּלֵד הַזֵּה child and nurse it for me, and I will pay your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. 10 וְיְהִי־לָה לְבֵן וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ מֹשֶׁה וַתֹּאמֶר כֶּי מִן־הַמַיִם מְשִׁיתְהוּ: When the child grew up, she brought him to וַיִגַדַל הַיֵּלֶד וַתִבאָהוֹ לבַת־פַּרעה 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." ַויָרְא בְּסִבְלֹתְם וַיַּרְאֹ אַישׁ מִצְרִי מַכֶּה אִישֹּ־עָבְרָי מֵאֶחִיו: Some time after that, when Moses had grown up, וֹיֹהִי וֹ בַּיָּמֵים הָהֵם וַיִּגְהָל משֶה וַיֵּצְא אֶל־אֶחִיו he went out to his kinsfolk and witnessed their labors. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his kinsmen. 12 וַיָּפֵן כֹה וָלָה וַיָּרָא כִי אָין אָיש וַיַּךְ אַת־הַמִצְרִי וַיִּטִמְנָהוּ בַּחוּל: He turned this way and that and, seeing no one about, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ּ וִהְנֵּה שֹנֵי־אַנָשֵים עבִרִים נִצִּים וַיֹּאמֵר לְרָשַׂע לָמָה תַכָּה רֵעַך: 13 When he went out the next day, he found two Hebrews fighting; so he said to the offender, ויצא ביום השני "Why do you strike your fellow?" He retorted, "Who made you chief and ruler ַכַאֲשֶׂר הָרַגִּתְ אֵת־הַמִּצָרַי וַיִּירָא מֹשֵׁה וַיֹּאמַר אָכָן נוֹדָע הַדָּבָר: וואמר מי שמך לאיש שר ושפט עלינו הלהרגני אתה אמר over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Moses was frightened, and thought: Then the matter is known! When Pharaoh learned of the matter, he sought וִיבַרָח מֹשֵׁה מִפָּנֵי פַרִעֹה וַיָּשֵׂב בִּאֲרֵץ־מִדִיַן וַיָּשֵׂב עְלֹ־הַבַּאֵר: 15 וַיִשֹׁמַע פַּרעה אַת־הַדָּבָר הַזֵּה וַיִּבַקשׁ לַהַרְג אַת־משַה 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. וַתְבָאנָה וַתִּדְלֵנָה וַתִּמַלֵּאנָה אֵת־הַרהָטִים לֹהַשֹּקוֹת צָאן אַבִיהְן: Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. ולכהן מדין שבע בנות They came to draw water, and filled the troughs

וַיָבאו הָרעִים וַיגָרשַוֹם וַיִּקם משֵה וַיִּושׁעַן וַיַשׁק אַת־צאנָם:

to water their father's flock;

but shepherds came and drove them off. Moses rose to their defense, and he watered their flock.

- בא הַיִּוֹם: When they returned to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come back so soon today?"
- 19 מצרי הצילנו מיֶד הַרעִים וגַם־דָלָה דָלָה לָנוּ וַיַשֹּק אֲת־הַצְאן: וַתאמרן איש
  - They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds; he even drew water for us and watered the flock."
- 20 אֶל־בְּנֹתְיו וְאַיֻוֹ לְמָה זֶה עֲזַבְתֶן אֶת־הָאִישׁ קרְאֶן לִוֹ וִיִאכַל לָחֶם: ויאמר
  - He said to his daughters, "Where is he then? Why did you leave the man? Ask him in to break bread."

  - בתו לִמשֵה: אַת־צִפּרָה בַתְּוֹ לְמשֵה: אַת־הָאָישׁ וַיִּתְן אַת־צִפּרָה בַתְּוֹ לְמשֵה: 21 Moses consented to stay with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah as wife.
  - 22 בַּן וַיִּקרָא אַת־שֹמוּ גַרשַם כִי אָמַר גַר הָיִיתִי בַאַרֵץ נָכַריָה: וַתָּלֵד
- She bore a son whom he named Gershom,\*Gershom Associated with ger sham, "a stranger there." for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land."
- מן־הָצֶבֹדָה וַיִּזְעֶקוּ וַתְּעַל שַוְעָתָם אֶל־הָאֱלֹהְים מן־הָצֶבֹדָה: וַיִּהִיּ בַיָּמִׂים הַרַבִּים הָהֵם וַיָּמַתֹּ מֶלֵּךָ מִצְּרִיִם וַיֵּאַנִחְוּ בִנֵי־יִשִּׁרָאֵל
- A long time after that, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites were groaning under the bondage and cried out; and their cry for help from the bondage rose up to God.
- וישמע אלהים את־נאקתם
- ביק אָת־יַצַקק אָת־יַעַקב: God heard their moaning, and God remembered נְיָזַכֶּר אֲלֹהִים אֲת־בַּרִיתוֹ אֶת־אַבַּרָהָם אַת־יַצַקק וָאָת־יַעַקב: the covenant with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.
  - וַיָרָא אֱלֹהִים אֱת־בַּנֶי יִשֹׂרָאַל וַיַּדַע אֱלֹהִים:
- God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

- וַיִּנְהָג אֶת־הַצאן אַחַר הַמִּדְבָּר וַיָּבֶא אֶל־הָר הָאֱלֹהִים חֹרְבָה: ומשה היה רעה את־צאן יתרו חתנו כהן מדין
- 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.
- מתוך הַסנָה וַיַּרָא וִהְנָה הַסנָה בער בָּאֵשׁ והַסנָה אֵינָנוּ אָכָל: וַיַרָא מַלְאַך יהוָה אַלִיו בַלְבַּת־אֲשׁ
- A messenger of הוהי 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.
- וִאַרָאֵה אַת־הַמַרָאָה הַגָּדִל הַזָּה מַדִּוֹע לא־יִבַעָר הַסְנָה: ויאמר משה אסרהינא
- Moses said, "I must turn aside to look at this marvelous sight; why doesn't the bush burn up?"
- אַלִּיו אֱלֹהִים מתוך הַסוֹּה וַיָּאמֵר משָה משה וַיִּאמֵר הנְנִי: וַיָּרָא יִהֹוָה כֵּי סָר לִראָוֹת וַיִּקְרָא
- When הוהי saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him out of the bush: "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Here I am."
- מעל רַגַלֵּיךָ כֵי הַמַּלְוֹם אַשַר אַתָּה עוֹמֶד עַלִּיו אַדִּמַת־קֹדֵשׁ הוּא: וַיִאמֵר אַל־תקרב הַלָּם שַל־נעלִיךָ
- And [God] said, "Do not come closer! Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you stand is holy ground!"
- ָוַאלֹהָי יַעֲקֹב וַיַסְתָר מֹשֶׁהֹ פָּנָיו כֵּי יָרֵא מֵהַבִּיט אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים: וַיֹאמֵר אָנֹכִי אֵלֹהֶי אָבִיךָ אֵלֹהֶי אַבַרָהָם אֵלֹהֵי יִצְחָק
- 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.

- וְאֶת־צַעֲקְתָם שָׁמַׁעְתִּיֹ מִפְנֵי נְגְשָׂיו כִּי יָדְעְתִּי אֶת־מַכְאבִיו: וַיָאמֶר יְהוָה רָאָה רָאִיתִי אֶת־עֵנִי עַמִי אֲשֶׂר בְּמִצְרְיִם
- 7 And הוהי 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.
- אֶל־מְקוֹם הְּכְנַעֲנִי וְהְחִתֹּי וְהָאֱמֹרִי וְהַפְּרִזִּי וְהַחִּיִי וְהִיְבוּסִי: הַהִוֹא אֶל־אָרֶץ טוֹבָה וּרְחָבָה אֶל־אָרֶץ זָבְת חָלָב וּדְבֵשׁ וָאֵבֵּד לְהַצִּילִוֹ מִיָּד מִצְלִיִם וְּלְהַעֲלֹתוֹ מִן־הַאָּרֶץ
- 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.
- בָּאָה אֵלֵי וְגַם־רָאִיתִיּ אֶת־הַלַּחַץ אֲשֶׂר מִצְרְיִם לֹחֲצֶים אֹתְם: וִעתָּה הַנָּה צַעַקת בַּנֵי־יִשׂרָאַל
- 9 Now the cry of the Israelites has reached Me; moreover, I have seen how the Egyptians oppress them.
- ָלְלָה וְאֶשְׂלָחֲךָ אֶל־פַּרְעָה וְהוֹצֶא אֶת־עַמְי בְנֶי־יִשֹׂרָאֶל מִמִּצְרָיִם: וַעַתָּה
- 10 Come, therefore, I will send you to Pharaoh, and you shall free My people, the Israelites, from Egypt."
- אָנֹכִי כִּי אַלֶּךְ אֶל־פַּרְעָהְ וְכִי אוֹצִיא אֶת־בְּנָי יִשׁׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרְיִם: וֹיָאמֶר משֶׁה אֶל־הְאֱלֹהִים מֵי
  - 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and free the Israelites from Egypt?"
  - אֶת־הָעֶם מִמִּצְלַיִּם תְּעבְדוּן אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים עֵל הָהָר הַזָּה: כִּי־אָהָיָה עַמַךְ וְזָה־לְּךָ הָאוֹת כִּי אָנֹכִי שַׂלְחִתְיךָ בְּהוֹצִיאֲךְ וֹיִאמר
- 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."
- אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם שְׂלָחָנִי אֲלֵיכֶם וְאָמְרוּ־לֵּי מַה־שַּׂמְוֹ מָה אֹמָר אֲלֵהֶם: אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים הֹנֵּה אָנֹכֵי בָא אֶל־בִּנָי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתְּי לָהֶם אֱלֹהָי וַיֹּאמֵר משֵׁה
- 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 אָהְיֶה וַיֹּאמֶר כִּה תֹאמֵר לִבְנֶי יִשְׂרָאֵׁל אָהְיֶה שְׁלָחְנִי אֲלֵיכֶם: וַיָּאמֵר אֱלֹהים אֱל־משֶׁה אָהְיֶה אֲשֶׂר
  - 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 נאלהָי יַעֲקֹב שְּלָחְנִי אֲלֵיכֶם זֶה־שִּׁמְי לְעֹלָם וְזָה זִכְרִי לְדְר דִּר: אֵל־בְּנֵי יִשִּׁרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהָי אֲבֹתִיכֶם אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָחָם אֱלֹהָי יִצְחָק וַיִּאמֵר עוֹד אֵלֹהִים אֵל־משֵׁה כָּה־תאמַר
  - 15 And God said further to Moses, "Thus shall you speak to the Israelites: הוהי," הוהי 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.

- ים במצרים: "Go and assemble the elders of Israel and say to" ווַעַקב לַאמַר פַּקדתוּ אַתכַם וָאַת־הַעָשווי לָכַם בּמַצַריִם: אַלַהֵם יִהוָּה אֵלהַי אַבְתִיכֶם נִרְאָה אַלַי אֱלהַי אַבְרָהָם יִצְחָק לָךָ וִאָסַפּת' אַת־זִקנֵי יִשֹׁרָאֵל וִאָמַרַת
  - them: הוהי, 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 וַהָאֱמֹרִי וָהַפַּרְוֹּי וָהַחָוִי וְהַיִבוּסִי אֱל־אֶרֵץ זָבַת חָלָב וּדְבַשֹׁ: ואמר אעלה אתכם מעני מצרים אל ארץ הכנעני והחתי
- 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.'
- נַלְכָה־נָּא דֶרֵךְ שַׁלְשַׁת יָמִים בַּמִדבָּר וַנַזְבַחָה לִיהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ: מִצְרַיִם וַאֲמַרַתָם אֲלִיוֹ יִהוָּה אֱלֹהַי הַעבריִים נִקְרָה עְלֵינוּ וַעַתָּה ושַמעו לקלָךָ ובָאתְ אַתָה ווקנֵי ישׁרָאַל אַל־מֵלְךָ
- 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, הוהיי, 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.
- יָדַעתִי כִּי לִא־יִתַן אַתַכֶם מַלֵּךָ מִצְרַיִם לַהַלַּךָ וִלְא בִיָּד חַזָּקָה:
  - 19 Yet I know that the king of Egypt will let you go only because of a greater might.
- 20 בְּכֹל נִפְּלָאתַי אֲשָר אָעֱשֶה בְּקרְבֵּו וְאַחֲרֵי־כֶן יְשַלָּח אֶתְכֶם: ושלחתי את־יַדי והכיתי את־מצרים
  - 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 אַת־חָן הַעָּם־הַזָּה בִּעִינַי מִצְרַיִם וֹהַיָהֹ כִּי תַלַכוּוְ לְא תַלְכִוּ רֵיקם: ונתתי
  - And I will dispose the Egyptians favorably toward this people, so that when you go, you will not go away empty-handed.
  - ושמלת ושמתם על־בניכם ועל־בנתים ונצלתם את־מצרים: ושאַלָּה אשה משכנתה ומגרת ביתה כלי־כסף וכלי זהב
- 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."

- לִי וְלָא ישִׁמְעוּ בְּקלִי כֵּי יִאמְרוּ לְא־נַרְאָה אֵלֶיךָ יְהוָה: וַיָען משה וַלאמר והן לא־יַאַמינו
- But Moses spoke up and said, "What if they do not believe me and do not listen to me, but say: did not appear to you?"
- וַיָּאמֶר אַלַיו יָהוָה )מזה( ]מַה־זֵה[ ביַדַךְ וַיִּאמֵר מַטַה:
- said to him, "What is that in your hand?" And he replied, "A rod."
- הַשֹלִיכָהוּ אַרצָה וַיַשלִּכָהוּ אַרצָה וַיִהְי לִנָחָשׁ וַיַנָס משה מפּנָיו: וַלֹּאמֵר
- [God] said, "Cast it on the ground." He cast it on the ground and it became a snake; and Moses recoiled from it.
- שלַח יָדַךָ וַאַחוֹ בִּזִנָבֶו וַיִשׁלָח יָדוֹ וַיַחַוֵק בוֹ וַיִהֵי לִמַטָה בִּכַפוּ: וַיָּאמֵר יְהוַה אֵל־משה
- 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—
- יָהוָה אֱלֹהֶי אֲבֹתָם אֱלֹהָי אַבְרָהֶם אֱלֹהֶי יִצְחָק וַאלֹהֶי יַעֲקֹב: לִמַען יַאַמִּינוּ כִּי־נִרְאָה אֵלֵיךָ
- "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."

- יַדְרָ בַּחֵילֶךָ וַיָּבָא יָדִוֹ בִּחֵילָוֹ וַיַּוֹצִאָה וִהְנָּה יָדִוֹ מִצַרָעַת כַּשַּׁלֵג: וַלֹּאמֵר יהוָה לו עוד הבא־נָא
- 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.
- וַיָשֵב יָדִו אֵל־חֵיקוֹ וַיִּוֹצִאָה מַחֵיקוֹ וִהְנֵה־שַבָה כִבְשַׂרְוֹ: וַיֹאמֵר הָשַב יִדְרָ אֵל־חֵיקֹּךְ
- 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.-
- ולָא ישמעו לקל הָאָת הָראשון והאַמינו לקל הָאָת הָאַחַרון: וָהַיָה אִם־לָא יַאֲמַינוּ לַדָּ
- "And if they do not believe you or pay heed to the first sign, they will believe the second.
- הַיַבשָׁה וָהַיִּוּ הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר תִקח מוְ־הַיָּאֹר וָהַיִּוּ לְדַם בַּיַבַּשַׂת: הָאתוֹת הָאַלֵה וִלָּא יִשִּׁמְעוֹן לִקְלַךְ וִלְקחתְ מִמֵימֵי הַיִּאֹר וִשְׂפַּכְתְּ וָהַיָּה אָם־לָא יַאֲמֹינוּ גַם לְשׁנֵי
- 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."
- משׁלְשֹׁם גָּם מֵאָז דַבֶּרְךָ אֶל־עַבְדַּךָ כִי כְבַד־פַה וּכִבַד לָשִׁוֹן אַנִכִי: משה אל־יהוה בי אדני לא איש דברים אנכי גם מתמול גם ויאמר
- But Moses said to הוהי, "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."
- אָו מִי־יָשוּם אָלֵם אָו חַבֶשׁ אָו פַקחַ אָו עוַר הַלְא אָנכי יהוָה: וַיֹּאמֵר יִהוָה אֵלָיו מֵי שָם פַה לָאָדָם
- And הוהי said to him, "Who gives humans speech? Who makes them dumb or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, הוהי?
- וְעַתָּה לֵךְ וְאָנֹכִי אֶהְיֶה עִם־פִּידָ וְהוֹרֵיתִיךָ אֲשֶׂר תְדַבְּר:
- 12 Now go, and I will be with you as you speak and will instruct you what to say."

  - 13 But he said, "Please, O my lord, make someone וַיָּאמֵר בִּי אֲדֹנִי שַׁלְּח־נָא בַיִּד־תְּשַׁלְח: else Your agent."\*make someone else Your agent Lit. "send through whomever You will send."
- יִדַבֶּר הַוֹא וגָם הנֵה־הוּא יצֵא לִקרָאתֹךָ וִרָאַךָ וִשְׂמַח בַּלִבְּוֹ: יָהוֹה בִּמשֵׂה וַיֹּאמֵר הַלֹּא אַהַרן אָחִיךָ הַלֵּוֹי יָדַעתִי כִי־דַבֵּר וַיִּחַר־אַּף
- הוהי 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.
- אָהיָה עם־פֿיךָ ועם־פֿיהוּ וְהוֹרֵיתִי אָתכַם אָת אַשר תַעשון: ודברת אליו ושמת את־הדברים בפיו ואנלי
  - 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-
- לָךָ אֵל־הָעָם וִהָיָה הוּאֹ יָהְיֵה־לָּךָ לְפֵּה וִאַתָּה תָהְיֵה־לְּוֹ לֵאלֹהִים: ודבר־הוא
  - 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.
  - ואת־הַמַטָה הַזָה תִקח בַּיָדָךָ אֲשֶׂר תַעֲשֵׂה־בִּוֹ אֵת־הָאֹתְת.
- And take with you this rod, with which you shall perform the signs."
- 18 Moses went back to his father-in-law וְאֶרְאֶה הַעוֹדְם חַיֻים וַיִּאמֶר יִתְרֶוֹ לְמֹשֶׂה לֶךְ לְשִׁלְוֹם: חתנו ויאמר לו אַלכַה נָא ואַשובה אַל־אַחַי אַשר־בּמצרים וַיַּלֵךְ מֹשֵׂה וַיָשַב וּ אֵל־יָתֵר
  - 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."

- וַיאמר יהוָה אַל־משה במדיון
  - 20 וַיָּשָׂב אַרְצָה מִצְרְיִם וַיִּקְח מֹשֶׂה אֶת־מַטָּה הָאֱלֹהְים בְּיָדְוֹ: וַיַּלָח משה אַת־אשתו ואַת־בַנַיו וַיַרכבם על־הַחַמֹר
- וַעשִיתָם לפני פַרעָה וַאַני אַחזָק אַת־לבוֹ וֹלְא יִשַׁלַּח אַת־הַעְם: בַּלַכִתְךָּ לָשָוּב מִצַּרַיִמָה רָאֵה כָּל־הַמִּפִּתִים אֲשֵׂר־שַׁמִתִּי בִיָּדֵךָ וַיָאמֵר יהוָהֿ אֵל־משֵהֿ
  - 22 ואָמַרת אַל־פַרעָה כָה אָמַר יְהוֹה בַנִי בכרי ישראַל:
- 23 אֶת־בְּנִי וֹיְעַבְדֵנִי וַתְּמָאֶן לְשַׂלְחֻוֹ הִנֵּהֹ אָנֹכֵי הֹבֵג אֶת־בִּנְךָ בְּכֹרֶךָ: ואמר אליך שלח

  - : אֶת־עָרְלָת בְּלָה וַתַּגְּע לְרַגְלְיו וַתֹּאמֶר כִי חֲתַן־דָּמֶים אַתָּה לִי: וַתַּלָּח צַפּרָה צַר וַתְכַרת
    - וַיַּרֶף מִמַנוּ אָז אָמַרָה חַתַן דַמִים לַמוּלִת:
- לקראת משה המדברה וילך ויפגשהו בהר האלהים וישקילו: ויאמר יהוה אל־אהרן לך
  - 28 אֶת כָל־דִבְרֶי יְהוָה אֲשֶׂר שִלְחָוֹ וְאֶת כָל־הָאתֹת אֲשֵׂר צוַהוּ: וַיַּגַד משה לאַהַרֹן
    - 29 וַיָּלֶךְ מֹשֵה וִאָהַרְן וַיָּאַסִפּוּ אַת־כָּל־זִקנֵי בִּנֶי יִשֹׁרָאֵל:
    - אֲשֶׂר־הִבֶּר יְהֹוָה אֶל־מֹשֵׂה וַיִּעְשׁ הָאֹתְת לְעִינֶי הָעָם: וַיִּדְבֶּר אָהֵרֹן אָת כָל־הַדְּבָרִים
    - יָהוָה אֵת־בַּנֶי יִשֹׁרָאֵל וִכִי רָאָה אֵת־עַנִיָּם וַיִּקְדְוּ וַיְשַׁתַחֵוִוּ: וַיַאַמֵן הָעָם וַיִשמעוֹ כִי־פָּלְד

- said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, הוהי 19 לְךְ שַׂב מִצְרְיִם כִּי־מֵׁתוֹּ כָּל־הָאֲנָשֹׁיִם הָמְבַקּשִׁים אֶת־נַפְּשַׂךָ. for all those 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 הוהי 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.
  - Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says הוהי: 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."
  - הוהי, At a night encampment on the way וְיָהֵי בַבֵּרַךְ בַּמַלְוֹן וַיְפַגְּשָׁהוּ יְהוֹה וַיִּבַּקְשׁ הַמִיתוּ: encountered him and sought to kill him.
    - \*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 And when [God] let him alone, she added, "A bridegroom of blood because of the circumcision."
    - 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 הוהי had committed to him and all the signs about which he had been instructed.
    - Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the Israelites.
    - Aaron repeated all the words that הוהי had spoken to Moses, and he performed the signs in the sight of those assembled,
    - and the assembly was convinced. When they heard that הוהי had taken note of the Israelites and that [God] had seen their plight, they bowed low in homage.

- כה־אָמַר יִהוָהֹ אֱלֹהֶי יִשֹׁרָאֵל שַלַחֹ אֵת־עַמִי וְיָחְגוּ לִי בַּמִדבַּר: Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to ואַהַר באו משה ואַהַרן וַיאמרו אַל־פַּרעה Pharaoh, "Thus says הוהי, the God of Israel: Let My people go that they may celebrate a festival for Me in the wilderness." אַת־ישׂרָאַל לָא יָדַעתיּ אַת־יהוֹה וגָם אַת־ישׂרָאַל לָא אַשׁלַח: But Pharaoh said, "Who is הוהי that I should heed וַיָאמֵר פַּרעה מִי יהוָה אֲשֶׁר אֲשׁמַע בִקְלוּ לְשַׁלַח him and let Israel go? I do not know הוהי, nor will I let Israel go." בַּמִדבָּר וִנִזְבַחָה לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ פַּוֹיִפִנְענוּ בַדֶּבֵר אוּ בַחְרֵב: They answered, "The God of the Hebrews has וַיָּאמְרוּ אֱלֹהֶי הָעַבְרִים נִקְרָא עָלִינוּ נָלֹכָה נָא הַבֶּךְ שׁלֹשֵׁת יַמִּים become manifest to us. Let us go, we pray, a distance of three days into the wilderness to sacrifice to our God הוהי, lest [God] strike us with pestilence or sword." לָמַה משָה וִאָהַרון תַפּרֵיעוּ אַת־הַעָם מִמַעַשִיוּ לְכוּ לְסבַלֹּתִיכָם: But the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and וַיָּאמֵר אַלַהֵם מַלַךְ מִצְּרַיִם Aaron, why do you distract the people from their tasks? Get to your labors!" And Pharaoh continued, "The people of the land פַרעה הַן־רַבִּים עַתָּה עָם הָאָרֵץ וִהְשַבַּתָּם אֹתָם מַסִבְּלֹתְם: are already so numerous,\*The people of the land ויאמר 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. וַיצַו פַרעה בַיִום הַהוּא אַת־הַנגשים בַעם וָאַת־שטרַיו לֵאמר: That same day Pharaoh charged the taskmasters and overseers of the people, saying, לָעָם לִלִבְן הַלְבֵנִים כִתְמֵוֹל שׁלְשַׁם הַם יֵלְכוֹ וִקְשִׁשׁוּ לָהֵם תַבֵּן: "You shall no longer provide the people with לא תאספון לתת תבן straw for making bricks as heretofore; let them go and gather straw for themselves. :כִי־נִרְפַים הַם עַל־כַּן הָם צְעֲקִים לֵאמֹר נֵלְכָה נִזְבְּחָה לֵאלֹהִינוּ: But impose upon them the same quota of bricks אַשֵר הַם עשִים תִמְוּל שַלְשֹם תְשַימוּ עַלְיהֵם לְא תִגְרְעוּ מִמְנוּ as they have been making heretofore; do not ואת־מתכנת הלבלים reduce it, for they are shirkers; that is why they cry, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God!' תכבָּד הָעַבדָה על־הָאַנָשִים ויַעשוּ־בָה ואַל־יִשׁעוּ בַּדְבַרֵי־שַׁקְר: 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."
- יבְרָע מֵעֲבֹדַתְּכֶם הָבְר מְאָשֶׁר תִּמְצֵאוּ כִּי אָין נִגְרָע מֵעֲבֹדַתְּכֶם הָבְר.
  You must go and get the straw yourselves wherever you can find it; but there shall be no decrease whatever in your work."

וַיַּצאו נגשי העם ושטריו

ינאמְרוּ אֶל־הִעָם לֵאמֶר כַּה אָמָר פַרְעֹה אֵינֶנִי נֹתְן לָכֶם תְבֶן: So the taskmasters and overseers of the people

:וָיָפֶץ הִעְם בְּכָל־אָרֶץ מִצְרְיִם לְקְשָׁשׁ קְשׁ לַּתְבֶן: 12 Then the people scattered throughout the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw.

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

- אַצים לַאמַר כַּלִּוּ מַעַשִּׁיכַם בִּיוֹמוֹ כַאָשֵר בַּהַיִוֹת הַתְבַן: And the taskmasters pressed them, saying, "You והנגשים
  - must complete the same work assignment each day as when you had straw."
  - לא כליתֶם חָקכָם לֹלְבֹּן כִתְמַוֹל שִׁלְשֹׁם גַם־תְמַוֹל גַם־הַיְוֹם: שטרי בני ישראל אשר־שמו עלהם נגשי פרעה לאמר מדוע
- 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 בני ישראל ויצעקו אל פרעה לאמר למה תעשה כה לעבדיך: וַיַבאו שטרי
  - Then the overseers of the Israelites came to Pharaoh and cried: "Why do you deal thus with your servants?
  - ווּלָבְנִים אמרִים לָנוּ עֲשַׂוּ וִהְנָּה עֲבָדֶיךָ מְכִים וּחְטָאת עְמַךָ: 16 No straw is issued to your servants, yet they תַבו אין נתן לעבדיך
    - demand of us: Make bricks! Thus your servants are being beaten, when the fault is with your own people."

  - :ובחה לִיהוָה: אַתָם אָמְרִים נַלְכָה נַזְבַּחָה לִיהוָה: 17 He replied, "You are shirkers, shirkers! That is why you say, 'Let us go and sacrifice to הוהי.'
    - 18 ועתה לכו עבדו ותבן לא־ינתן לכם ותכן לבנים תתנו:
      - Be off now to your work! No straw shall be issued to you, but you must produce your quota of bricks!"
    - 19 אתם ברע לאמר לא־תגרעו מלבניכם דבר־יום ביומו: וַיִראו שטרַי בני־ישראַל
      - Now the overseers of the Israelites found themselves in trouble because of the order, "You must not reduce your daily quantity of bricks."

  - בּצְאתָם מַאָת פַּרָעָה: אַת־אַהָרֹן נַצָּבִים לָקרָאתָם בּצָאתָם מַאָת פַּרָעָה: 20 As they left Pharaoh's presence, they came upon Moses and Aaron standing in their path,
- 21 אַת־רֵיחַנוּ בִּעִינִי פַרִעה ובִעִינֵי עַבְדָיו לָתַת־חֶרֵב בִיָּדָם לִהָרְגַנוּ: ויאמרו אַלַהָם יָרֵא יהוָה עַלִיכָם ויִשׁפַט אַשֶר הבאַשׁתָם
  - 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 ניאמר אַדנִּי לָמָה הַרֵעֹתָה לָעָם הוַּהָ לְמָה זֶה שְׁלַחְתְנִי: וַיִשָב משָה אֵל־יִהוַה
    - Then Moses returned to הוהי and said, "O my lord, why did You bring harm upon this people? Why did You send me?
  - ַלִדַבֶּר בִּשֹּׁמֵּךָ הַרַע לָעָם הַזָּה וִהַצֶּל לֹא־הַצַּלִתְ אַת־עַמֵּךָ: ומאו באתי אל־פרעה
- 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."

- לפַרעָה כִי ביָד חַזָּקה ישלחם וביָד חַזָּקה יגָרשַם מאַרצו: ויאמר יהוה אל־משה עתה תראה אשר אעשה
- 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."