



Bo Exodus 10:1-13:16
Torah Teaching
by Moshe Schwab

Names

Kefa – Peter
 Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one;
 Christ in the Greek means to be smudged
 Moshe – Moses
 Pesach – Passover
 Shaul – Paul
 Yeshua – Jesus' real name
 Yĕhōvāh – God's real name forever (Ex. 3:15)
 Yochanan – John
 Yochanan the Immerser – John the Baptist

Terms

Chametz – leavened bread
 Haftarah – reading from the prophets
 Moedim – God's feasts (Gen. 1:14; Lev. 23:1)
 Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible
 Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible
 Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the Torah
 Bo – the 15th Torah portion

The Torah portion for this week is *Bo*. *Bo* means, "enter." Moshe and Aharon are told by God to ask Pharaoh how much longer will he not submit to God and not let His people go? If someone said to me, "How much longer will you not submit to God," it would sure get my attention. How about you? Will you submit to God or will you keep doing things your own way?

Just recently, I posed a question to someone. Did Yeshua really get rid of the law? Yeshua said, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets;" Matthew 5:17 NKJV. The fact that He had to say that speaks volumes prophetically. Many of these people were committed to keeping God's commandments; so in a way, Yeshua didn't need to say that. Perhaps Yeshua meant that for people who needed to hear that.

People reverse what Yeshua said. If someone told you that they believed in God, would you go around telling people that they didn't. That is the logic somehow people use to reverse what Yeshua said. Kefa said, "As also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures;" 2 Peter 3:15-16 NKJV. What are they untaught in? There was no New Testament at the time. What kind of destruction do you think he is talking about?

The unbelieving rabbis also change God's words. For example, the ancient rabbis considered Isaiah 53 to be about the Messiah. Even Abraham and Isaac on Mt. Moriah is an obvious symbol of the Messiah providing a sacrifice for us, but they reverse the scriptures in order to manipulate them. God provided a sacrifice on Mr. Moriah instead of Isaac. Some rabbis say

Isaiah 53 is about Israel. Some reframe the entire Old Testament portion without Israel being part of it, but the the entire Old Testament is mostly about Israel. It seems people have gone overboard with misinterpretations.

We read about the amazing power of God in these portions and about Israel being set free so they could be free to keep God's commandments and serve God. In this era, we also have the opportunity to follow God if we so choose.

The Egyptians and Pharaoh were trusting in their false gods – the river god, the frog god etcetera. God brings the last three plagues on the Egyptians; locusts, darkness for three days, and death of the first born. In order for Israel to avoid their first born dying, they had to take a lamb or goat, kill it, put its blood on the lintel and door posts, and roast it and eat it. From then on, they were to remember Pesach every year on the 14th of Nisan at twilight and eat unleavened bread for 7 days.

Before we get to that, in this portion, God made locusts to cover the land and Pharaoh's servants told Pharaoh that he should let Israel go. Pharaoh briefly considers letting Israel go, but he relented and didn't let them go. Then God told Moshe to raise his hand toward the sky and there was darkness over the land for three days. It says in John 3:19 that mankind has preferred darkness and sin. There was light in the homes of the Israelites though. Isn't that amazing! That's where the light was; it was with and in the believing community. Then Pharaoh said they could go, but they had to leave their flocks. Moshe said they needed them and Pharaoh changed his mind and told Moshe that they couldn't go and if he saw Moshe's face again, he would die.

Next is the death of the first born. The Israelites were to ask for their neighbors for gold and silver and it says the people were favorably disposed toward Israel and considered Moshe a great man. Israel was to begin their year on the month of Nisan every year and on the tenth of the month they were to select a lamb without defect in its first year. They were to kill it at dusk on the 14th of Nisan and observe Pesach (Passover) from the evening of the 14th to the evening of the 21st and also eat no chametz (leavened bread). **In order to keep God's feasts appropriately, we need to know the Jewish calendar** and when the Jewish months begin. The Gregorian calendar is a pagan oriented calendar. It does not help us to know when to observe God's feasts.

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Exodus 12:24 NKJV says, "And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever." The word "observe" means to keep or guard; it is the Hebrew word *shamar*. We are to guard the Passover and God's feasts. They are God's *moedim* (Genesis 1:14); God's times. In Leviticus 23:1, *moedim* refers to God's feasts. So *moedim* in Genesis refers to God's feasts. The stars and moon were created in the sky were for signs and so we could observe God's feasts. Shaul says we are to keep the Passover, "Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the

unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." 1 Corinthians 5:8 NKJV. Shaul expects believers to be keeping the Passover and God's feasts; they were for believers in the past and are still relevant for believers.

On the first and last days, they were to have a holy assembly and they were not work except to prepare food. There is typically a holy assembly for a Pesach meal. Exodus 2:16 NKJV says, "No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat — that only may be prepared by you;" It is okay to prepare food for our families on Shabbat, but we shouldn't do any cumbersome laborious celebrations on Shabbat — that would be work. Don't make unnecessary work for yourself on Shabbat. They were to explain to their children that God spared their houses from the death of the first born.

They observed what Moshe told them to do and they were to put the lamb or goats' blood on the doorposts and lintels. They were to roast it and eat it in a hurry with matza. The blood on their homes was to mark the houses that God passes over and their first born would not die. That's why it is called the Passover. The Jews see salvation occurring on Pesach. Yeshua whose name means salvation, gave Himself on Pesach some 1,447 years later¹ for our salvation as well.

In the middle of the night, God allows the destroyer to kill all the first born of Egypt. The ancients considered the first born to be important. We see the believing line following true believers who followed God and not necessarily the first born. Being the first born doesn't make a person a believer. God plays no favorites the Bible says; believing and behaving like we believe pleases God.

Pharaoh tells Moshe, Aharon, and the people of Israel to leave along with their herds. The people of Egypt gave the Israelites silver and gold jewelry and clothing and gave them whatever they requested. Israel went up from Ra'amses to Sukkot with 600,000 men. It was a mixed crowd and they baked matza from the dough they brought from Egypt.

A mixed group refers to people from Egypt and other nations who joined Israel in faith as they left Egypt.

A mixed group (Exodus 12:38) with the men numbering 600,000 left Egypt; perhaps about 2 million people including women and children. They left so they could be set free from the sinful idolatry of the Egyptians and serve God. God dealt with the idols of Egypt the Bible says in Exodus 12:12. They spent 430 years in Canaan and Egypt (215 in Canaan and 215 in Egypt — some say it is 210 and 220). It was 430 years to the day that they began their journey back to Canaan. God was giving them the land of Canaan because of the terrible sin in that land; they even sacrificed their children to the pagan gods.

We should note that believers in Messiah are also a mixed group. It seems the giving of the

¹ Recent research places Israel leaving Egypt in 1447 BC and not 1305 or 1285 BC.

Holy Spirit returned the Jews to their own roots where all who accept the true God can be part of the believing community. A mixed group of Jews and Gentiles left Egypt and the Gentiles were assimilated into Israel. It had to be both Jews and Egyptians because of the number of people who left Egypt. It would have been impossible for the Jews to have had that many offspring in only 215 years. Also, the Bible tells us Caleb was not Jewish but was assimilated into the tribe of Judah. His genealogy is in the Bible. "Caleb the son of Jephunneh, the Kenizzite;" Numbers 32:12 NKJV. He became Jewish and he represented Judah as one of the twelve spies. The rabbis say "mixed group" means it was people who had different jobs. This obviously is not true. The rabbis also say Caleb was Jewish. This is obviously only true in the sense that he became Jewish. If people don't like what the Bible says, they change what it is saying or means. When we change God's word, we don't have God's word any more.

The believers in Messiah too are a mixed group of Jews and Gentiles who are set free from sin by the Messiah. We should remember that it is through God's hand and sacrifice we become heirs of salvation through Yeshua. Just as Israel was set free from sin to serve God, we are also set free to live for Yehovah. Yeshua's sacrificial act of humility resulted in God giving the Holy Spirit so that the power of God would work in us through the Holy Spirit and help us live right. The Pesach meal foreshadows the time when the Messiah Yeshua gave up His life sacrificially for us so that we can be forgiven of our sins, live by the power of God, and obtain eternal life through the help of the Messiah.

Yeshua is referred to as God's lamb by Yochanan the Immerser. The Jews back then clearly understood that the Messiah was to die for our sins as it says in Isaiah 53 about the Messiah.

Israel had lived in Canaan and Egypt for 430 years to the day. No foreigner was to eat the Pesach lamb, but a circumcised servant could or a circumcised foreigner that lived in the land could. In John 1:29 CJB, it says that Yochanan identified Yeshua as a our deliverer, as "God's lamb." "The next day, Yochanan saw Yeshua coming toward him and said, 'Look! God's lamb!'"

They also were not to break any bones of the Pesach lamb. That is also a fulfillment of prophecy about our righteous Messiah Yeshua (Psalm 34:19-20). The soldiers pierced Yeshua instead of breaking His bones. John 19:33-34 NKJV says, "They did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear." Zechariah 12:10 NKJV is a prophecy about Yeshua being pierced; "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn."

Yeshua was from the line of David. The Greek manuscripts **do not** show Yeshua being from the line of David. Some of the Hebrew manuscripts of Matthew 1 put Yeshua in the line of

David. Often, the Greek manuscripts were corrected by the Hebrew manuscripts. For example, the story about the woman caught in adultery was **not** in the Greek manuscripts for hundreds of years, but was finally put in John 8 because it was in the Hebrew manuscripts.

But not everything in the Greek manuscripts got corrected. Words in the Greek scriptures were changed to disassociate the Bible from its Jewishness or to even persecute the Jews. Yeshua was Jewish and so were all the early believers. We now have lots of Hebrew manuscripts of the New Testament portion. The reason there are more Greek manuscripts is because the Roman empire secretly stole the early faith and made it illegal to keep the scriptures and God's feasts. Their Greek manuscripts were intended to change the scriptures in order to disassociate the scriptures from their Jewish context. They killed the early believers and burned the Hebrew manuscripts wherever they found them. There are still people today who wrongly oppose the Hebrew manuscripts.

*There are still people today who
oppose the Hebrew origins of the Bible.*

When Israel gets to their land, they were to set aside the firstborn men and animals and redeem the men; they could also redeem a donkey with a lamb. It would be a sign on their hand and frontlets between their eyes that God brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand. This reference to a sign on their hands and frontlets between their eyes was never meant to be physically done as some say (by using a tefillin). That was a something they were to do mentally. A phylactery or tefillin was not worn in Judaism until the first century AD.

The Haftarah for Bo is Jeremiah 46:13-28. This portion begins by saying that Egypt will be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar; Babylon are more than locusts it says obviously referring to one of the ten plagues. Egypt will be handed over to Babylon. Israel also would have to suffer for their sin, but God promised to return Israel from their exile in Babylon.

We see the a God in this portion who wants **us** to do what is right and He wants to restore His people. We see in the New Testament portion that God provides a way through the Messiah to also restore us to Him. In addition to God's commandments, we need the Messiah and the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us. Yeshua gave us the Torah and He gave us another helper, the Holy Spirit. John 14:15-17 NKJV, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth."