

*Parashat Bo*

[Shemot 10:1-13:16](#)

January 10, 2019

Sagi *Sagi ben Eyal v'Hila*

Eden *Eden bat Eran v'Arza*

Omri *Omri ben Eli-Mordecai v'Osnat*

#### SUMMARY

#### Omri

This week's Torah portion is *Parashat Bo*, and we will be reading Exodus Chapter 10, verses 1-3. God tells Moshe to come to Pharaoh and to tell him, once again, to let the Israelites go worship in the wilderness. Pharaoh's heart has been hardened and he refuses. God sends the last three plagues: locusts, darkness, and the death of first-born sons. The plagues begin to affect the Israelites differently from the Egyptians. For example, the plague of darkness only affects the Egyptians, not the Israelites.

#### Eden

Before the plague of locusts, Pharaoh agrees to let the Israelite men go out to worship, but when Moshe demands that the women and children must also come with them, Pharaoh refuses and only gives him permission to take the men.

After the plague of darkness, Pharaoh agrees to let the men and children go out to worship in the wilderness, but Moshe insists that the Israelites will take their animals, too. Pharaoh refuses and will not let them go.

#### Sagi

Only after the last plague does Pharaoh agree to send the men, the women, the children, and the animals out to worship God in the wilderness and asks them also to give him a blessing.

Before the final plague, God teaches the Israelites how to celebrate Passover--including the *mitzvot* of eating a Passover meal, eating matzah, remembering our exodus from Egypt, and parents explaining this holiday to their children.

### QUESTIONS

**1) Sagi:** In our study of this week's *parasha* we focused on the second-to-last plague, the plague of darkness.

**Eden:** For this plague, God tells Moshe to stretch out his hand towards the sky so that God can bring down a darkness so thick that you can touch it. Moshe stretches out his hand and a thick darkness covers Egypt. <<Omri flips off the lights.>>

**Sagi:** The Torah tells us that for three days, “לֹא-רָאוּ אִישׁ אֶת-אָחִיו” one person could not see another and no one even stood up. But the Israelites had light in their homes. How do you think you would feel if you were an Egyptian and you suddenly found yourself in such a thick darkness?

<<Omri flips on the lights.> <<Eden picks 3>>

**Omri:** I think I would probably make the best of it and go to sleep.

**Sagi:** I think I would be very curious--about what caused it, about what I might be able to do to make it light, and about what I might still be able to do in the darkness. I think I would want to try to write or to hit a baseball in the dark.

**2) Omri:** In the Torah it says that when the darkness fell, the Egyptians didn't get up from sitting for 3 days. Why do you think that might be? <<Omri picks 3>>

**Sagi:** I think they might be so scared of bumping into things that they couldn't move.

**Eden:** I bet they were probably praying to their gods. Three days is a long time to be in that kind of darkness and all the time they were probably afraid of what would come next--since they couldn't see anything.

**3) Eden:** This sounds like a terrible plague, but the Torah doesn't ever mention that the Israelites tried to help the Egyptians. Why do you think the Israelites might not have tried to help?

**<<Sagi picks 3>>**

**Omri:** Maybe the Israelites didn't help because, even though the Egyptians weren't all Pharaohs, they were responsible--in a way--for the Israelites being enslaved. They also didn't stand up to Pharaoh to tell him to stop.

**Eden:** Maybe the Israelites just saw the lights in their own homes and didn't realize that things were bad for the Egyptians. This is a good reminder to not just focus on ourselves. We should always be looking out for ways to help others.