

# Parashat Bo

Exodus 10:1-13:16

JANUARY 31, 2020



## SUMMARY

G'd tells *Moshe* to come to *Par'oh* and to tell him, once again, to let the Israelites go worship in the wilderness. *Par'oh's* heart has been hardened and he refuses. G'd 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.

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

After the plague of darkness, *Par'oh* 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. *Par'oh* refuses and will not let them go.

Only after the last plague does *Par'oh* agree to send the men, the women, the children, and the animals out to worship G'd in the wilderness. The *Par'oh* asks *Moshe* and *Aharon* also to give him a blessing.

Before the final plague, G'd 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.

### From Our Commentators:

#### *Mechilta D'Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai*

וברכתם גם אתי מיכאן אתה אומר שהיה פרעה  
יודע שמחוסר תפלה ואין המקום מוחל לו לאדם  
עד שיפייס את חברו

**“And bless me, too”** From here you may say that Pharaoh knew that he was lacking in prayer, and G'd does not forgive a person until until that person has reconciled with / appeased their neighbor.

### FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1) Right before the plague of locusts, *Par'oh* agrees to let *just* the Israelite men leave for three days to worship in the wilderness. Why would *Par'oh* have agreed to let the Israelite men go to worship in the wilderness for 3 days, but insist that the women and children remain behind? Why would *Moshe* have refused this?
- 2) After the plague of darkness *Par'oh* agrees to let all the men, women, and children go out to worship in the wilderness for three days. *Moshe* insists that the Israelites also need to take their animals and *Par'oh* refuses. Why do you think *Moshe* insisted on the animals and why would *Par'oh* not let him take them?
- 3) After all of the plagues, when *Par'oh* finally does agree to send all of the Israelites and their animals, he asks for *Moshe & Aharon's* blessing. Why do you think *Par'oh* would want their blessing after all that?