



Parshat Bo

For the week ending 8 Shevat 5760
14 & 15 January 2000

Overview

Hear so that through miraculous plagues the world will know for all time that He is the one true G-d. Pharaoh is warned about the plague of locusts and is told how severe it will be. Pharaoh agrees to release only the men, but Moshe insists that everyone must go. During the plague, Pharaoh calls for Moshe and Aharon to remove the locusts, and he admits he

heart, and again Pharaoh fails to free the Jews. The country, except for the Jewish People, is then engulfed in a palpable darkness. Pharaoh calls for Moshe and tells him to take all the Jews out of Egypt, but to leave their flocks behind. Moshe tells him that not only will they take their own flocks, but Pharaoh must add his own too. Moshe tells Pharaoh that Hashem is going to bring one more plague, the death of the firstborn, and then the Jews will leave Egypt. Hashem again hardens

again, Moshe will be put to death. Hashem tells Moshe that the month of Nissan will be the chief month. The Jewish people are commanded to take a sheep on the 10th of the month and guard it until the 14th. The sheep is then to be slaughtered as a Pesach offering, its blood put on their door-posts, and its roasted meat eaten. The blood on the door-post will be a sign that their homes will be passed-over when Hashem strikes the firstborn of Egypt. The Jewish People are told to memorialize this day as the Exodus from Egypt by never

commands, and the Jewish People fulfill them flawlessly. Hashem sends the final plague, killing the first born, and Pharaoh sends the Jews out of Egypt. Hashem tells Moshe and Aharon the laws concerning the Pesach sacrifice, pidyon haben (redemption of the first born son) and tefillin.

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Insights

EXCUSE ME WHAT HAPPENS IF I PRESS THIS LARGE RED BUTTON?

Ecabin of a large airplane flying at 35,000 feet above an azure sea, sailing by fluffy cumulus clouds as high as the Empire State building. Sitting in the -stick being moved by some unseen hand as the auto-pilot

Imagine our young schoolboy turning to the pilot and purpose of the third green button in the fourth array of the second bank in the left-hand rear panel above the co-

532 buttons in this cockpit are self-explanatory?! You understand what every button, lever and dial does in this cockpit *except*

And it shall be when your son will ask you at

Rashi says that the question characterizes the son as a fool. This is problematic. For this exact same question *What is this* is asked by another son. The wise son. How can the same three words connote both foolishness and wisdom?

Imagine a different schoolboy in the cabin of that 747. and switches. It would be wonderful if you would tell me a little

these amazing buttons levers and switches by which we can father to explain to him, as much as possible, the laws, the statutes and the commandments of the Torah. When the *mitzvah*, he

revealing his ignorance.

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Sources:

Devarim 6:20; Rabbi Shimon Schwab in Maayan Beit Hashoeva

Haftarah: Yirmiyahu 46:13 - 28

EVERY DOG HAS HIS DAY

Much attention is given in the Torah to the ten

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the great super-power, Egypt, could fall. Each plague demonstrated how the mighty empire was like putty in G-

This was not the last time Egypt would suffer devastation. The Prophet

Babylon. Her armies will turn and flee from the invaders who

will appear more numerous than locusts; they will cut her down like so many axes reducing a forest to nothingness.

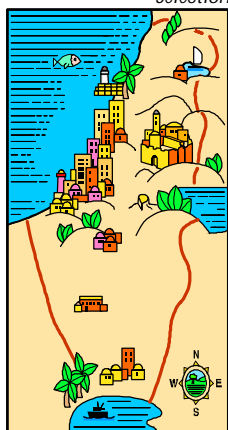
Egypt gives way to Babylonia, and Babylonia later falls to Medio-Persia. All are transient. They rise to the greatest of heights, but disappear without a trace when G-d so decrees.

Israel, however, will never be wiped out. We live on to fulfill our eternal mission as the Chosen People.

There is no human super-power for us to put our trust in. The higher they rise, the bigger their fall.

LOVE OF THE LAND

Selections from classical Torah sources which express the special relationship between the People of Israel and Eretz Yisrael



ZICHRON YAAKOV

One of the first Jewish settlements in the country, Zichron Yaakov was established by Baron Edmond de Rothschild and named in honor of his father Yaakov (James). It is the home of

throughout the country and the world. Its altitude, proximity to the coast and natural beauty has made it a popular vacation area.

The population of Zichron Yaakov is a combination of veteran settlers and new immigrants. There is a sizeable religious community with a wide range of educational institutions, including Yeshivat Ohr Yaakov that was established by Ohr Somayach and attracts English-speaking students from all over the world.

Parshat

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