

Torah Cycle 2018-19

Parshah: Shemot

(Exodus 1:1 – 6:1)

Outline of Shemot

- Ch. 1 – Pharaoh and “the Jewish problem”
- Ch. 2 – Birth & growth of Moses
Moses flees Egypt
- Ch. 3-4 – Moses’ encounter with God / Commission
Moses’ excuses
- Ch. 5 – Moses & Aaron come to Pharaoh
Epic failure / The stage is set

ABRAHAM

Born in **Ur**
Moves to **Canaan**
Sojourns in **Egypt**
Returns to **Canaan** (dies)
1 (or 2?) sons
Son "dies" ...
... but is received back.
1 letter **added** to name:
אברם → אברהם
Blessed by a King
Battles with **Kings**
Oath taken on thigh ...
(not to take wife for Isaac
from Canaanite women)

Growth

I
S
A
A
C

JACOB

Born in **Canaan**
Moves to **Ur**
Sojourns in **Canaan**
Moves to **Egypt** (dies)
12 sons
Son "dies" ...
... but is received back.
1 letter **retained** in name:
יעקב → ישראל
Blesses a King
Wrestles with **God**
Oath taken on thigh
(not to be buried in Egypt
but in Canaan)

Transformation

Exodus 1:16

And he said, "... if it is a son, then you shall put him to death. But if it is a daughter, then she shall live."

Boys → physical death

Girls → spiritual death

Exodus 1:17

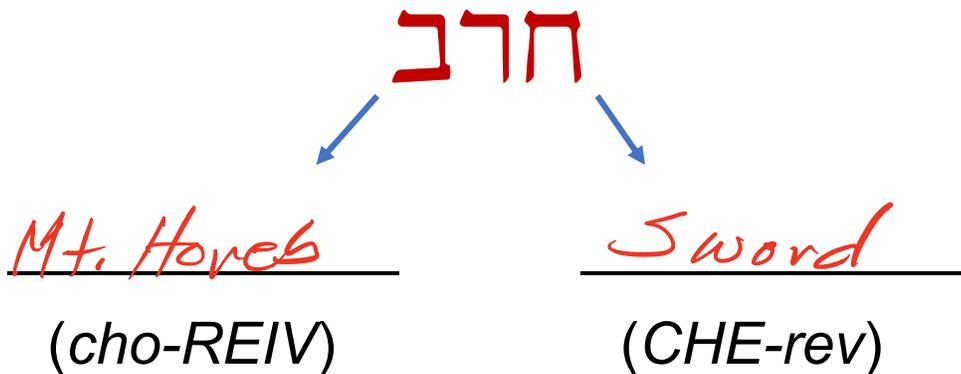
But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live.

*Those who feared God saved Hebrew babies, while those who feared Pharaoh helped drown Hebrew babies... It was the midwives' fear of God that liberated them from fear of the Egyptian tyrant. This point is overlooked: **Fear of God is a liberating emotion**, freeing one from a disabling fear of evil, powerful people.*

∞ Dennis Prager

Exodus 3:1

Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to **Horeb**, the mountain of God.



Genesis 3:24

So He drove the man out, and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming **sword** which turned every direction to guard the way to the Tree of Life.

חרב (che-rev)	=	<u>Sword</u>
סנה (s'neh)	=	<u>Thorn Bush / Mt. "Sinai"</u>
מדבר (mid-bar)	=	<u>Wilderness</u>
דבר (davar)	=	<u>Word</u>

Excuses, Excuses

1 – Who am I? (3:11)

You're no one. But I will be with you.

2 – Who are You? (3:13)

I AM WHAT I AM

John 14:21, 23 *“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me, and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him... If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him...”*

3 – They won't believe me. (4:1)

That's not your job.

4 – But, I’m deficient. (4:10)

Who made you?

5 – Please send someone else. Anyone! (4:13)

Now you’re just making Me mad.

"Serpent" = "Staff"
= "What?"

Exodus 4:21

Adonai said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; **but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.**”

Strengthening Pharaoh’s heart is exactly what gave Pharaoh free will.

☞ Dennis Prager