

Parshah Insights 2021

Parshah: Va'eira

(Exodus 6:2-9:35)

Exodus 6:2-3

Elohim spoke further to Moses and said to him, “I am **יהוה** and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as **El Shaddai**, but by My name – **יהוה** – I did not make Myself known to them.”

Exodus 3:13-16

Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?”

God said to Moses...

אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה
(*Eh'yeh Asher Eh'yeh*)

And He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel...

אֶהְיֶה
(*Eh'yeh*)

...has sent me to you.” God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel...

יְהוָה

... the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations. Go and gather the elders of Israel together

and say to them, 'יהוה, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, 'I am indeed concerned about you and what has been done to you in Egypt.'"

יהוה

היה = "was"

הוה = "is"

יהי = "will be"

Adonai's name – יהוה – is a verb.

The Four Cups of the Seder

Exodus 6:6-8

“Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am **Adonai** [יהוה], and ...

- 1) **I will** bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and ...
- 2) **I will** deliver you from slavery to them, and ...
- 3) **I will** redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.
- 4) **I will** take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am Adonai your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

(5) **I will** bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am **Adonai**.”

Causes of Spiritual Deafness

Exodus 6:9

Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of (a) **shortness of spirit** and (b) **hard labor**.

They are “he”

Exodus 6:27

It was **they** who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt about bringing out the people of Israel from Egypt; **he** was Moses and Aaron.

Did Pharaoh Lose His Free Will?

Exodus 7:3-4

But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, Pharaoh will not listen to you...

“Strengthening Pharaoh’s heart is precisely what gave Pharaoh free will.”

∞ Dennis Prager

Exodus 9:12

But Adonai hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not listen to them, as Adonai had spoken to Moses.

Organized Disaster – Pt. 1

Introduction to Plagues 1-3:

Exodus 7:17 Thus says Adonai, **“By this you shall know that I am Adonai ...”** [5:2]

Introduction to Plagues 4-6:

Exodus 8:18 [22] “But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where My people dwell, so that no

swarm shall be there, **that you may know** that I am Adonai in the midst of the land.”

Introduction to Plagues 7-9:

Exodus 9:14-16 “For this time I will send all My plagues on you yourself, and on your servants and your people, **so that you may know** that there is none like Me in all the earth. For by now I could have put out my hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth. But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.”

Organized Disaster – Pt. 2

Plagues 1, 4, 7 are announced by the river.

Plagues 2, 5, 8 are announced in the palace.

Plagues 3, 6, 9 are not announced at all.

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

“Hardening the Heart” & “Strengthening the Heart” – Is there a Difference?

Exodus 8:11 [15]

But when Pharaoh saw that there was a respite, he **hardened** [כבד, *chabeid*] his heart and would not listen to them, as Adonai had said.

Exodus 8:15 [19]

... But Pharaoh’s heart was ^{made stubborn} **strengthened** [חזק, *chezak*], and he would not listen to them, as Adonai had said.

Harden = to NOT DO what God commands

Strengthen = to DO what God has forbidden

The Finger of God

Exodus 8:15 [19]

Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is **the finger of God.**” But Pharaoh’s heart was stubborn, and he would not listen to them, as Adonai had said.

Luke 11:19-20

“And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by **the finger of God** that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you.”

The Uniqueness of the 7th Plague

Exodus 9:14

“For this time I will send all my plagues against your heart ...”

Discussion Questions:

- How do we pronounce God's name? And how do we mispronounce His name?
- When you see how the "chaos" of the plagues was organized, how do you now view chaos in your own life?
- Discuss the seventh plague. Why does God say, "This time I shall send *all* My plagues..."?
- How does the 7th plague parallel the 1st and the 9th?
- God's name of mercy – YHVH – is used throughout the account of the plagues. Why didn't He use His name 'Elohim' instead?

NOTES:

Isaiah 53:4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried. Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Genesis 15:7 And He said to [Abraham], "I am Adonai [YHVH] who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it."

Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Hebrews 3:1-2 Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Yeshua, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house.

Ezekiel 29:3 Speak and say, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh, king of Egypt, the great monster that lies in the midst of his rivers, that has said, 'My Nile is mine, and I myself have made it.'"

Exodus 5:2 But Pharaoh said, "Who is Adonai, that I should obey His voice and let Israel go? I do not know Adonai, and moreover, I will not let Israel go."