

Parashat Bo

פרשת בא

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Are you beginning to resemble what you are Worshiping?

השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Exodus 6:2-9:35

הפטרה: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

הברית: Romans 9:14-33

החדשה

Triennial cycle: *Shemot / Exodus 10:1-11:3*

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In this week's reading (*Shemot / Exodus 10:1-11:3*), Moshe and Aaron speak to Pharaoh asking to let the people go to worship their God: *Shemot / Exodus 10:3 Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me. (NASB)* Worship is important for God's people, but did you know that according to Scripture the worshiper begins to resemble what is being worshiped? *Tehilim / Psalms 115:1-9* says the gods of the nations (idols) are made from silver and gold, the work of man's hands. These idols are helpless, mute, blind, deaf, and lame, and that these idols that are made are impotent, unable to communicate or meet the needs of its worshiper. *Tehilim / Psalms 115:8* says that those who make the idols will be like them and so will everyone who trust in them. The Scriptures speak of how Pharaoh was hard of heart; he was like the Egyptian idols he worshiped, cold, blind, and dumb because he did not worship the one true God of Yisrael. As we worship the one who is Faithful and true we become faithful and true followers of God. Worshiping the one who is loving and holy, we too are able to become loving and holy. The Lord God we worship is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, all things created are subject to His lordship, as faithful followers of God have you chosen to submit yourself to God's authority and reign in your life?

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שמות 10:1-4

ש י וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה בֹּא אֶל־פַּרְעֹה כִּי־אֲנִי הִכְבַּדְתִּי פָרֹחַ
 אֶת־לְבָבוֹ וְאֶת־לֵב עַבְדָּיו לְמַעַן שְׁתִּי אֶתְּתִי אֱלֹהִים בְּקִרְבָּם׃
 2 וְלְמַעַן תִּסְפָּר בְּאָזְנֵי בְנֵי וְכִן־בְּנֵיךָ אֵת אֲשֶׁר הִתְעַלְלִיתִי
 בְּמִצְרַיִם וְאֶת־אֶתְּתִי אֲשֶׁר־שָׁמְתִי בָּם וַיִּדְעֻתֶם כִּי־אֲנִי
 3 יְהוָה׃ וַיָּבֹא מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן אֶל־פַּרְעֹה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו כֹּה־
 אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הָעִבְרִיִּים עַד־מָתַי מֵאֲנִת לַעֲנַת מִפְּנֵי
 4 שְׁלַח עַמִּי וַיַּעֲבֹדְנִי׃ כִּי אִם־מָאֵן אַתָּה לְשַׁלַּח אֶת־עַמִּי
 5 הֲנִי מֵבִיא מַחַר אֲרֵבָה בְּנִבְלָה׃ וְכִסָּה אֶת־עֵינֵי הָאָרֶץ

Shemot / Exodus 10:1-4

10:1 Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may perform these signs of Mine among them, 10:2 and that you may tell in the hearing of your son, and of your grandson, how I made a mockery of the Egyptians and how I performed My signs among them, that you may know that I am the Lord.' 10:3 Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me. (NASB)

Chesed

לֹא לָנוּ יִרְדָּה לֹא לָנוּ
 כִּי־תִשְׁמַח תֵּן כְּבוֹד
 עַל־חַסְדֶּךָ עַל־אֱמֶתֶךָ:
 לָמָּה יֹאמְרוּ הַגּוֹיִם
 אֵי־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם:
 וְאֵדְוֹת בַּשָּׁמַיִם
 כֹּל אֲשֶׁר־הֶפֶץ עֵשָׂה:
 עֲצָבִים בְּסָף וְזָבָב
 מַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵי אָדָם:
 פֶּה־לָהֶם וְלֹא יִדְבֹר
 שְׁנִים לָהֶם וְלֹא יִרְאֶה:
 אָזְנוֹת לָהֶם וְלֹא יִשְׁמָעוּ
 אֵף לָהֶם וְלֹא יִרְחִיזוּ:
 יָדָיו וְלֹא יַמְשִׁיחַן
 רַגְלֵיהֶם וְלֹא יִדְלְכוּ
 לֹא־יִדְעוּ בְּעִוְיָתָם:
 כַּמֹּתֵם יְהוָה עֲשִׂיתֶם
 כֹּל אֲשֶׁר־בְּרַמְתָּ בָהֶם:
 יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּטַח בִּירְדָּה
 עֲזָרָם וּמִגִּדְּתָם דָּוָא:

Tehilim / Psalms 115:1-9

115:1 Not to us, O Lord, not to us, But to Your name give glory Because of Your lovingkindness, because of Your truth. 115:2 Why should the nations say, 'Where, now, is their God?' 115:3 But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. 115:4 Their idols are silver and gold, The work of man's hands. 115:5 They have mouths, but they cannot speak; They have eyes, but they cannot see; 115:6 They have ears, but they cannot hear; They have noses, but they cannot smell; 115:7 They have hands, but they cannot feel; They have feet, but they cannot walk; They cannot make a sound with their throat. 115:8 Those who make them will become like them, Everyone who trusts in them. 115:9 O Israel, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield. (NASB)

These Scriptures in *Tehilim / Psalms* speaks of the true nature of the gods (the idols) the nations worship. Our verses for this week reveal to us the nature of the God of Yisrael; He cares for His people and He is working to set

His people free from the bondage of slavery and sin. As God delivers the people from slavery, He demonstrates how He is the Lord of lords and King of kings and that it is Him alone we should worship. Worship has theological significance, it is not just something that we do but it is something that shapes who we are according to the *Tehilim / Psalms*. Worship forces us to abandon the idols of our hearts that have enslaved us and taken dominion and power over our lives. Worship also prepares us for fellowship with God and identifies us as His people. According to *Tehilim / Psalms 150*, praise begins in the heavenly sanctuary and resounds throughout the domain of God. From there it is taken up on earth who praises the Lord with a variety of instruments and with dancing. Then finally, everything that has breath praises the Lord in *Tehilim / Psalms 150:6*. In *Parashat Bo*, we see the awesome and mighty power of God who delivers His people from slavery in Egypt. Can you see in this week's Parashat, how the worship of God resounds throughout these verses in a way that we should shout for joy and praise for the Lord's work of salvation? As worshipers of God, we know that our Father in Heaven is good; He is holy, true, faithful, loving, and almighty.

We have seen how God's wrath was poured out on the Egyptians, the unbelievers. We also see today the victory of Christ the Messiah which includes a victory for His people. Though the powers of the world in Yeshua's day had come against Him, He was victorious, and according to the Book of *Hitgalut / Revelation*, it is written that "the lamb will overcome" (17:14) meaning that every king is subject to His throne, every idolatrous religious ruler is subject to His Lordship and every disobedient person is subject to Yeshua the lamb of God. Also, according to *Hitgalut / Revelation*, we will share in His (Yeshua's) victory just as the children of Yisrael shared in the victory and spoils of that victorious deliverance from the bondage of slavery. He (God) has called us and chosen us to be a faithful people, have you remained faithful in your walk before the Lord?

Side Note:

I thought this would be an interesting side note on reading the Hebrew Scriptures, in *Verse 1, Tehilim / Psalms 115*. The word used in 115:1 for "lovingkindness" is the Hebrew word "Chesed" meaning "grace." Glory is given to God's name because of His Grace and Mercy, and because of His Truth.

God's grace is demonstrated in all of Scripture including the Tanach (Old Testament). Mercy and Grace are not new to the Ketuvei Shelachim (Apostolic Writings, NT). I have heard it said that "Grace" was only made known in the Ketuvei Shelachim. This is not true because Mercy and Grace has been made known in the Scriptures from the very beginning to God's people. (Compare this verse with *Tehilim / Psalms 31:16*)

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80 We are to remain faithful, and the way to spiritual victory begins with our faith, a
faith that trusts in Yeshua the Messiah even in the midst of persecution and a faith
that establishes His word in our hearts. Do you have that kind of faith? In this
New Year 2011, I hope that you will make every effort to remain faithful and true
85 to the one true God of Yisrael and to Yeshua, our Savior, King, Lord and
Messiah.

Heavenly Father,

90 *Help me to be a worshiper of You in the midst of the everyday
troubles of life in this coming year. Help me to recognize that what was
done in the past was done so to be able to see, understand, and know You,
and to see what you will do in the future. Help me to see that every
injustice we suffer is noted by You and that You will repay. Help me to
95 follow the example of Moshe, and Yeshua, to remain faithful and to extend
forgiveness to those who are your enemies. According to the Scriptures, I
know that you are faithful, true, holy, and a loving God and for this I
praise your Holy Name. I offer this praise as a gift to You Lord, thank
you. I pray these things in Yeshua's name.*

100 *Amen!*

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Be Blessed in Yeshua, Christ our Messiah!

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:
Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
"Yeshua" King Messiah forever and ever