

פרשת וארא / Parashat Va'era

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32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of G-d
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Struggling with Faith

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

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The seventh plague which Pharaoh's hard heart brought upon Mitzrayim (Egypt) was that of hail, rain, and fire. The scriptures say the kind of plague would be something that has never been seen before in Egypt. The Scriptures indicate that Moshe went before Pharaoh but **9:20** says: *Shmot / Exodus 9:20 The one among the servants of Pharaoh who feared the word of the Lord made his servants and his livestock flee into the houses*; suggesting that these proclamations made by Moshe were also made known to the public and those who feared the Lord brought in their livestock and servants.

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שמות 9:16-21

16 עֲמֹהַּ בַּדָּבָר וַתִּכְחַד מִן־הָאָרֶץ: וְאוֹלָם בַּעֲבוּר זֹאת
הַעֲמֹד־תִּיךָ בַּעֲבוּר הַרְאֵתְךָ אֶת־כְּחֹי וּלְמַעַן סַפֵּר שְׁמִי
17 בְּכָל־הָאָרֶץ: עוֹדֶיךָ מִסְתּוֹלֵל בְּעַמִּי לְבַלְתִּי שְׁלָחֵם:
18 הַגְּנִי מִמִּשְׁרֵי פֶעֶת מְחֹר בָּרֶד כְּבֹד מְאֹד אֲשֶׁר לֹא־הָיָה
19 כְּמֹהוּ בְּמִצְרַיִם לְמִן־הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וְעַד־עַתָּה: וְעַתָּה
שְׁלַח הֵעֵז אֶת־מִקְנֶךָ וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר לָךְ בַּשָּׂדֶה כָּל־
הָאָדָם וְהַבְּהֵמָה אֲשֶׁר־יִמְצָא בַּשָּׂדֶה וְלֹא יֵאָסֵף הַבַּיִתָּה
20 וְיָרַד עֲלֵהֶם הַבָּרָד וּמָתוּ: הִירָא אֶת־דְּבַר יְהוָה מֵעַבְדֵי
21 פְּרַעֲהַ הַנִּים אֶת־עַבְדָּיו וְאֶת־מִקְנֵהוּ אֶל־הַבָּתִּים: וְאֲשֶׁר
לֹא־שָׂם לִבּוֹ אֶל־דְּבַר יְהוָה וַיַּעֲזֹב אֶת־עַבְדָּיו וְאֵת־
מִקְנֵהוּ בַּשָּׂדֶה:

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Studying the Hebrew Scriptures, there are what's called the indicative verb and the imperative verb. The indicative denotes a verb that expresses a simple statement of a fact which tells us who we are and what G-d has done for us. The imperative expresses a command or exhortation which tells us how we should act as the children of G-d. In verse **9:19** we find there is a shift from what

Shmot / Exodus 9:16-21

9:16 'But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth. 9:17 'Still you exalt yourself against My people by not letting them go. 9:18 'Behold, about this time tomorrow, I will send a very heavy hail, such as has not been seen in Egypt from the day it was founded until now. 9:19 'Now therefore send, bring your livestock and whatever you have in the field to safety. Every man and beast that is found in the field and is not brought home, when the hail comes down on them, will die.' 9:20 The one among the servants of Pharaoh who feared the word of the Lord made his servants and his livestock flee into the houses; 9:21 but he who paid no regard to the word of the Lord left his servants and his livestock in the field. (NASB)

30 Moshe is telling Pharaoh is true of himself (the indicative) to an exhortation
telling him to bring all of his servants and livestock in from outside or they will
die (the imperative). Those who remained in the field were totally destroyed, the
livestock died, the servants, and even the vegetation (see *Shmot / Exodus 9:25*).
Pharaoh responds to Moshe, in *Shmot / Exodus 9:27-35*, and says “I have sinned.”
Pharaoh humbled himself enough to admit that he had sinned before G-d and
asked Moshe to intercede on behalf of him and his country (Mitzrayim). Though
35 Pharaoh humbled himself for a moment, he quickly hardened his heart again once
the plague had ceased. It is interesting to note that though Pharaoh saw the
various miracles G-d brought upon Mitzrayim (Egypt), actually seeing the miracle
in itself did not convince him to remain faithful in his promise to let the people
go. Faith and faithfulness to the Lord is very important; Yeshua also comments
40 on the importance of faith and belief in *John 20:29*.

John 20:29

*20:29 Jesus said to him, ‘Because you have seen Me, have you believed?
Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.’ (NASB)*

45 The Pharaoh of Egypt and even the disciples of Yeshua struggled with
belief and faith. The reading today emphasizes our fundamental calling, the
people of G-d are to believe and have faith in Yeshua the Messiah. Thomas lived
and walked with Yeshua while he was here on earth. He watched as Yeshua
50 healed the sick, taught, prayed, and received abuse from the roman soldiers, died
on the cross and rose to life again. Having bore witness to all of these things
Thomas still remained in doubt until he placed his hands into Yeshua’s scars
(hands and side). Similarly, Pharaoh was witness to the plagues that were brought
by the power of G-d to convince him to leave Yisrael go. After having witnessed
55 the miracle of the plagues, Pharaoh humbled himself for a moment, and then
quickly hardened his heart once again. These men, seeing the miracles of G-d,
continued to struggle with their belief in Him. Although we do not see Yeshua
now with our physical eyes, we are told in Scripture that we will see Him in the
future.

60 ***1 Corinthians 13:12***
*13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know
in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.*

65 Our struggle with the reality that we cannot see or touch Yeshua is the same
struggle Thomas had to deal with. Even those who resist faith in Yeshua today,
similarly to how Pharaoh resisted HaShem in our text this week, because we do
not see Him with our physical eyes, we too at times struggle. G-d has called us to
be his people, to serve him, and to reach out to others as we eagerly anticipate the
70 glorious day of His return. Though there are struggles and trials that lie ahead,
know that Scripture declares in the Torah, the Prophets, the Writings, and in the
Ketuvei Shelachim G-d’s unending love and that He has a plan for you in your
life, and a way of restoration and renewal in Yeshua the Messiah.

75 This week's reading is demonstrating the power of G-d in the redemption
of Yisrael from Mitzrayim (Egypt). Here in the Torah the revelation of G-d's
holiness is revealed in terms that denote danger and devastation. Why we might
ask does G-d reveal Himself in this way? Why not show His holiness and power
in terms of life and peace rather than death? In the hail storm, sounds of thunder,
80 lightening, and hail large enough to kill a man or beast, one has to wonder how
the children of Yisrael and Moshe could think that these plagues could reveal G-d
as holy. The answer for us is that G-d reveals Himself and His holiness by
showing us his absolute hatred of all that is unholy.

Psalms 5:4-6

85 *5:4 For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil
dwells with You. 5:5 The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You
hate all who do iniquity. 5:6 You destroy those who speak falsehood; The
Lord abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit. (NASB)*

90 These words "hate" and "destroy," that are attributed to the Lord G-d, may
sound strange in light of my previous comments on G-d's unending love and
plans for us. It may be that today we take for granted and fail to appreciate G-d's
holiness. From since the time of Adam and Chavah (Eve) mankind fell into a
state of unholiness as a result of sin and thus we stand unholy before a holy G-d.
95 From our perspective it is impossible for us to attain a holiness that would allow
us an audience before G-d. The only solution was for one who is Himself holy
should become a man and render Himself as an offering for the payment of sin.
The mystery of Yeshua's incarnation (the Word/Memrah become flesh) was the
solution to our dilemma of sin. In Yeshua we have a righteousness that is
100 accredited to our account and are given a promise that one day we will stand
before the Father in the righteousness of the Messiah and fully accepted by G-d.
If you are a doubting Thomas or a rebellious Pharaoh it is still possible to
experience a foretaste of the fellowship with G-d by placing your faith in Yeshua
the Messiah. If you would like to experience this today say with me the following
105 prayer, believe with all your heart, mind, and soul and you may rest assured by
that one day you will stand before the throne of glory full of assurance that you
will be accepted (see *Hebrews 4:16* and *Ephesians 2:18*)

110 Heavenly Father,

I have lived a rebellious life. In my heart I desire to begin and have a long
and lasting relationship with you but sometimes I don't know if I can remain
115 faithful like I should. There are so many things that draw me away from you, the
words of my mouth are impure and the thoughts in my heart are unacceptable.
My bad behavior in both word and deed seems to come so naturally it has really
been a struggle to live for you. Today, I commit myself, my life, my heart
(thoughts) my actions, all that I am to you Lord. I believe that you sent Yeshua
120 the Messiah to be my savior. I also believe that His blood was shed for the

125 forgiveness of my sins. Help me in my unbelief and strengthen my faith. Please help me to clean up my mouth (what I say) and to keep my heart and eyes straight on you. Help me to set my priorities straight so that I can begin to put you first, ahead of the things that would take me away from a relationship with you and that would hinder my faith.

I pray all of these things in Yeshua's name. Amen.

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Be Blessed in Yeshua 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

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