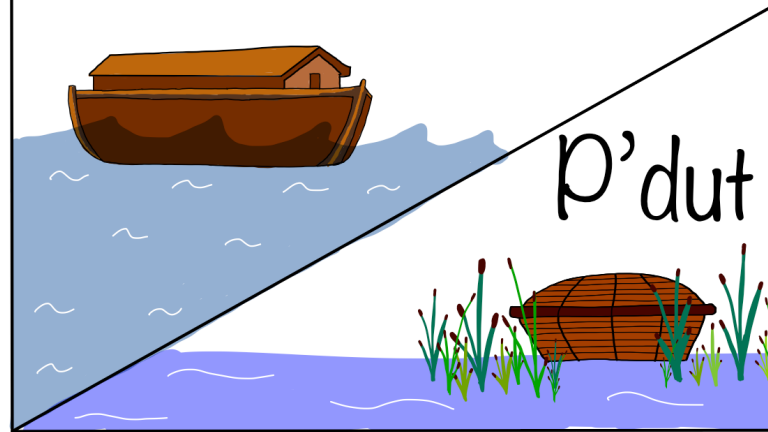


Sh'mot

שמות

"Names"



p'dut

Exodus 1:1-6:1

In this week's Parasha we learn of God's plan to redeem and restore His people to have a relationship with Him. God is patient with humanity as He demonstrates His powerful authority over His entire creation. Redemption (פְּדִיּוֹת - p'dut) will come to all who submit to His perfect will, but certain destruction awaits anyone who mistakes His patience for tolerance and continues to oppose Him.

~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~
Exodus 1:1-2:10

Exodus 1:7

But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the King of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive.

In Exodus 1:1-7 we find that even though the seven years of great famine had ended, the children of Yisra'el (Israel) remained in the land of Egypt. Yosef (Joseph), all his brothers and all that generation had died. God had blessed Egypt for blessing the descendants of Avraham (Abraham), and He had greatly multiplied the children of Yisra'el making them mighty and abundant in the land of Egypt.

In Exodus 1:8-11 we find that a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Yosef. This king had no desire to bless the children of Yisra'el so that he and his empire might be blessed by God. This king feared the vast and successful Yisra'elites and saw them as a threat to his kingdom. He feared that the descendants of Avraham living in Egypt might join with his enemies to wage war against him and win. The king devised a plan to subdue the Yisra'elites by enslaving them with harsh labor. He put taskmasters over them as they built supply cities for Pharaoh.

First Pray

Father God,

We praise You because Your will is perfect and does not change. Please help us submit to Your perfect will daily and stand firm with You no matter the cost in this world.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

Read Next

Exodus 1:1-6:1

In Exodus 1:12-14 we learn that even though the children of Yisra'el were afflicted, God was with them. The more they were burdened, the more they multiplied and grew strong. This made the King of Egypt dread them and increase the difficulty of their labor. Now, the Yisra'elites had to make their own mortar and brick as they built the supply cities for Pharaoh and had to work with rigor in all areas of service in the fields.

In Exodus 1:15-16 the King of Egypt spoke with two Hebrew midwives - Shiphrah and Puah. A midwife is a woman who has no children of her own but helps other women give birth to their babies. The king commanded these two women to kill all the newborn baby boys and allow only the daughters to live. Pharaoh did not want the Yisra'elites to remain a distinct people group because he was against the perfect will of God!

In Exodus 1:17-19 Shiphrah and Puah feared God more than they feared the King of Egypt. They knew that murdering the sons of Yisra'el was against the covenant God had made with Avraham, Yitz'chak (Isaac) and Ya'kov (Jacob). The midwives refused to obey this evil command. When sons continued to be born alive to their mothers, the king called the midwives and questioned them. Shiphrah and Puah bravely responded that life came to the Hebrew women strongly and it could not be stopped. Shiphrah and Puah believed in God's promises and faithfully acted in obedience to Him.

In Exodus 1:20-21 God was very pleased with Shiphrah and Puah because they valued His word and acted in submission to His will no matter the cost to themselves. God blessed the two midwives, giving them families of their own! The children of Yisra'el continued to multiply and grow mighty in the land of Egypt.

In Exodus 1:22 Pharaoh made a new law in Egypt. He commanded that every Yisra'elite son born must be thrown into the river to die while every daughter would stay alive. Pharaoh wanted the daughters of Yisra'el to grow up and have no one to marry except Egyptians. He wanted to keep the Yisra'elites in his land without the threat of them joining the enemy in war against him.



The river in Egypt was worshipped as a god by the Egyptians.

~ Exodus Chapter 2 ~

In Exodus 2:1-4 we learn of another Hebrew woman who feared God more than man. Despite Pharaoh's attempts to end marriage between Hebrews, this woman married a descendant of Ya'kov from the house of Levi. She gave birth to three children, first a daughter and then two sons. She knew her youngest son's birth was good and pleasing to God despite the new law of Pharaoh. She did not throw him in the river to die as Pharaoh had commanded. Rather, she hid her son for three months until she could hide him no more. Like Shiphrah and Puah, she was obedient to God over man no matter the cost to herself. She made an ark and covered it with pitch to make it waterproof to save her son from the water. She placed her son in the ark and laid it in the reeds at the bank of the river. She sent her daughter to stay with the ark a distance away to see what would happen.

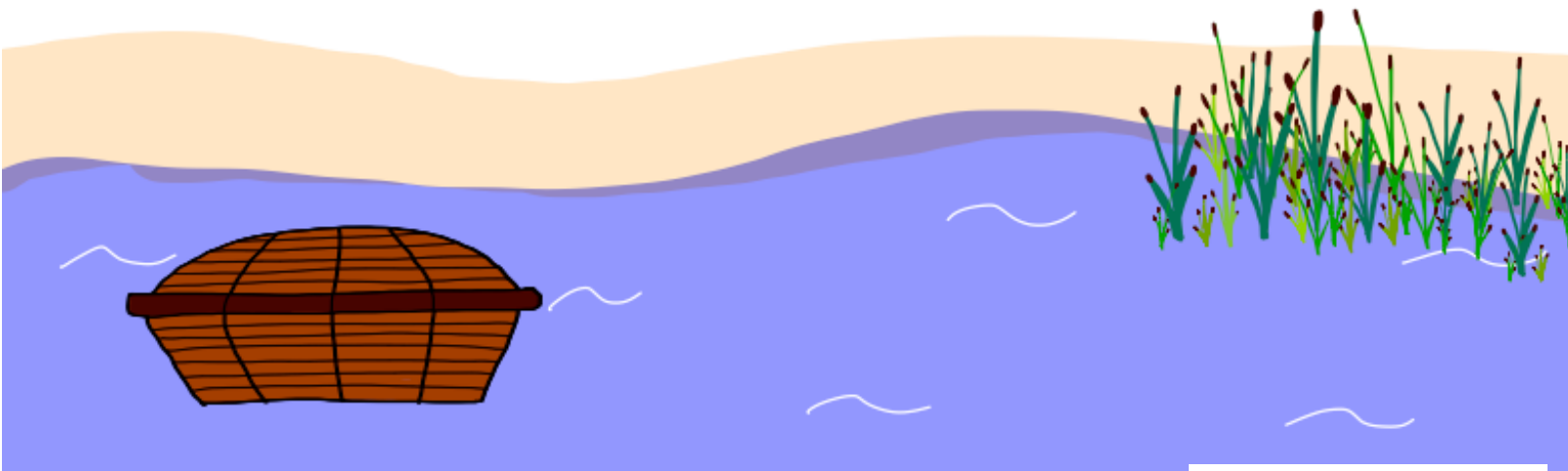
In Exodus 2:5-6 the daughter of Pharaoh came to that very location with her maids to bathe that day. She noticed the ark and sent her maids to get it. When Pharaoh's daughter opened the ark, the baby cried! Even though she knew he was a Hebrew because he was circumcised, she had compassion on him.

In Exodus 2:7-9 the baby's sister volunteered to get a Hebrew woman to nurse the child. She brought their mother to the daughter of Pharaoh. Pharaoh's daughter commanded her to care for the Hebrew baby and paid her a salary to do so.

In Exodus 2:10 we learn that this baby was given the name Moshe (Moses) by Pharaoh's daughter meaning, "I drew him out of the water." This Hebrew son was given a new beginning. He would be used in a mighty way by God to redeem and restore His people from bondage so that they could worship Him in the wilderness.

In today's focus passage of Scripture we learn many truths about God. In the garden of Eden after the sin of man, God spoke to the serpent, declaring that his seed would be crushed by the seed of the woman. God's will is perfect and does not change. As the world grew evil in opposition to God, Noah continued to have faith in God and submitted to His authority. God redeemed and restored Noah and his family from complete judgement and destruction as the flood waters rose above all the earth. This event marked a new beginning for humanity. Following the flood, God called and cut a covenant with Avraham. His descendants would inherit the land God gave them, and the entire world would be blessed through them. Even when Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya'kov failed to submit to God's authority in their lives, He was faithful to His covenant promises to them. God remains faithful to these same promises today!

God's timing is perfect. We should never mistake God's patience as His approval and continue to oppose Him. No matter how the majority of people behave, God will accomplish His will through a remnant who faithfully submit to Him at any cost. God will do this because His will is perfect and does not change. In today's focus passage of Scripture the remnant consisted of three women. Because of their submission to God and His promises, an ark was made. The life of Moshe was saved, and the process of redemption and restoration was begun for the people of Yisra'el.



God's Game Plan

When God's perfect timing arrived, He spoke to Moshe on Mount Horeb, also called Mount Sinai, from a bush that was on fire but was not consumed by the flames. Moshe obeyed God's voice and took off his sandals. God explained His plan to deliver His people out of the land of Egypt and bring them to the land of their inheritance - a good and large land that flowed with milk and honey. God told Moshe that He would send him to Pharaoh to accomplish His plan.

Moshe was reluctant to agree with God. He had learned that he did not have the power to deliver his brethren and that they did not recognize him as prince or judge over them. God assured Moshe that He would be with him, and He would accomplish these things through him despite Pharaoh's opposition or the people's disbelief. God told Moshe that after he had successfully brought the people out of Egypt, he would return to the very mountain he was currently standing on to serve and worship Him. Then God gave Moshe three miraculous signs to perform before the elders of Yisra'el and Pharaoh to prove that God had sent him.

Unscramble these three words to reveal the signs:

#1 Rod turns into a _____

aensk

#2 Hand turns _____

rleupso

#3 Water turns to _____

odlob

Now, match these signs with their meanings:

#3

Only God has total power over Satan and will destroy him.

#2

Only God has the power to forgive sin and cleanse His people.

#1

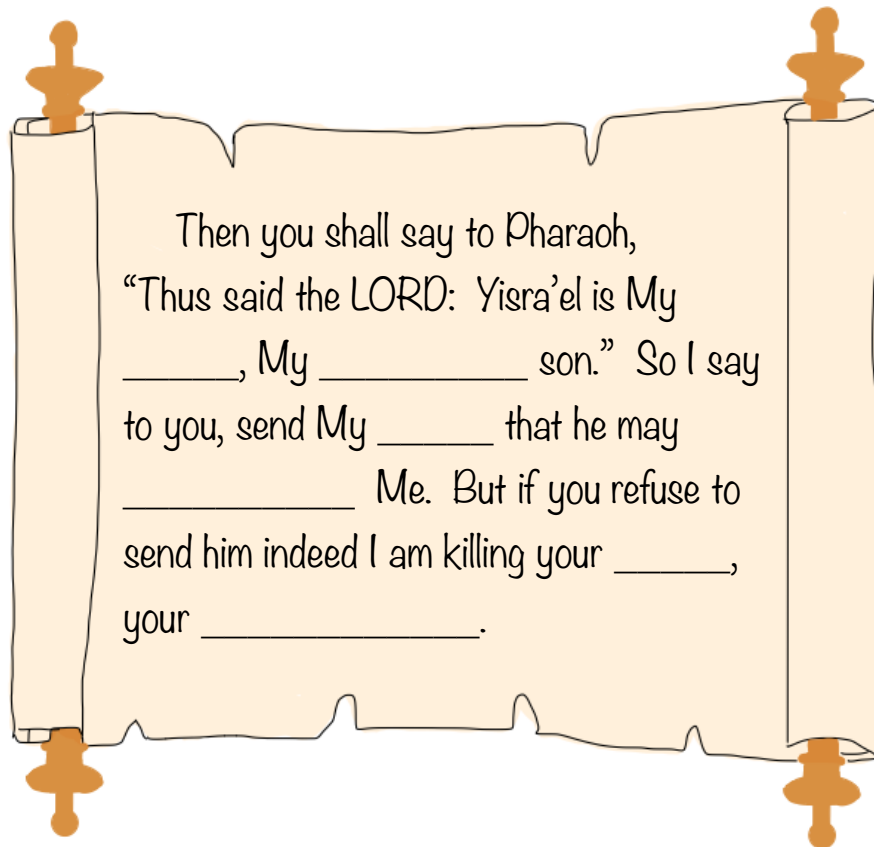
Only God has the power to give eternal life.

Did you know that a firstborn son has the unique responsibility to serve his father?



God told Moshe to make sure he performed all the wonders, which He had put in his hand, before Pharaoh. God told Moshe that Pharaoh would refuse to send the people forth because of his strong heart. God told Moshe to tell Pharaoh that if he refused to agree with God and command His people to go forth, God would kill Pharaoh's firstborn son! Why would God do this?

Directions: Refer to Exodus 4:22-23 in Scripture to find the correct word to complete the sentences below.



Pharaoh was mistreating and detaining God's firstborn son, Yisra'el. If Pharaoh refused to send Yisra'el out of Egypt in order to serve God the Father, his firstborn son would die by the powerful hand of God.

"Far Away from the Mountain of God"

After Moshe had begun his journey back to Egypt as God had commanded, God met him with the intent of killing him. Why? What had Moshe done? Moshe had neglected to circumcise his son. Circumcision of every male was the sign of the covenant God made with Avraham (Genesis 17:7-14).

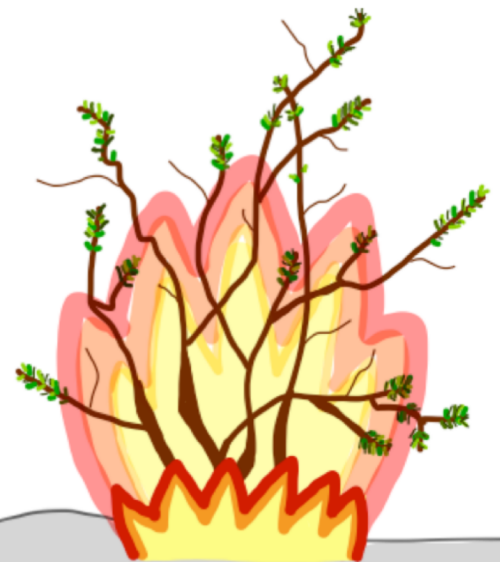
Circumcision signifies one's understanding that the flesh or the sinful nature must be judged or put to death before new life or the kingdom life can begin. Another way to express this would be to say God's judgement always comes before His Kingdom.

In Leviticus 17:11 we learn that the life of the flesh is in the blood. This is easy to understand through human reasoning. The heart pumps blood throughout our bodies, making them function properly. If for any reason the heart stops delivering blood to our bodies, the result is death. Spiritually, blood was given to humanity on the altar of sacrifice to make atonement, or a covering, for the soul. It was first the blood of innocent animals that God accepted on the altar to cover the sins of man. Later, in His perfect timing it was the innocent Blood of God's Only Begotten Son, Yeshua (Jesus), that was given as a sacrifice to **redeem** the soul from sin. Yeshua's Blood has power that the blood of animals does not have. Yeshua's Blood has the power to **redeem**, or totally pay the price owed for the sin of man.

You might ask, "What was the price owed for sin?" The answer to this question can be found in Genesis 2:17. "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely **die**." Death is the price humanity owes for sin.

Moshe's wife, Zipporah, understood the importance of circumcision. Under the covenant of marriage she and Moshe had become one in the flesh. She was willing to do what Moshe neglected to do and this action saved his life. Zipporah understood that her husband could not serve God until he put the flesh to death. When we attempt to serve God by our own power and understanding, we are a servant of death and not a servant of life.

When we walk, we step with our feet. Zipporah understood that one cannot walk with God to serve Him in the flesh. She performed the circumcision of her son and cast the dead flesh at the feet of Moshe. This clearly demonstrated that Moshe was to be a servant of life to God's people. * Now, we can add Zipporah to the list of women who believed in God's word and acted accordingly. This time Moshe's life was saved, not by his mother's faith, but through the faith of his wife.



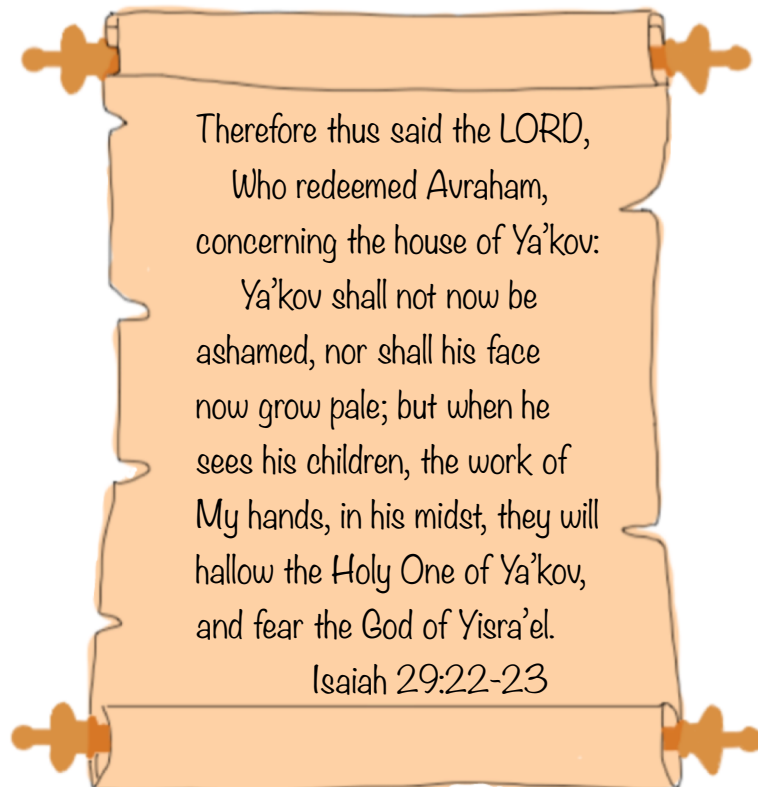
“From Rags to Riches”

Isaiah 27:6-28 & 29:22-23

These passages of Scripture are spoken from God through the prophet Isaiah. Here, we can clearly see that God has a future plan of the land and people of Yisra'el. Due to His covenant promises to Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya'kov, God will bring the descendants of Avraham back to the land of Yisra'el and cause the land to bloom, providing fruit to the world.

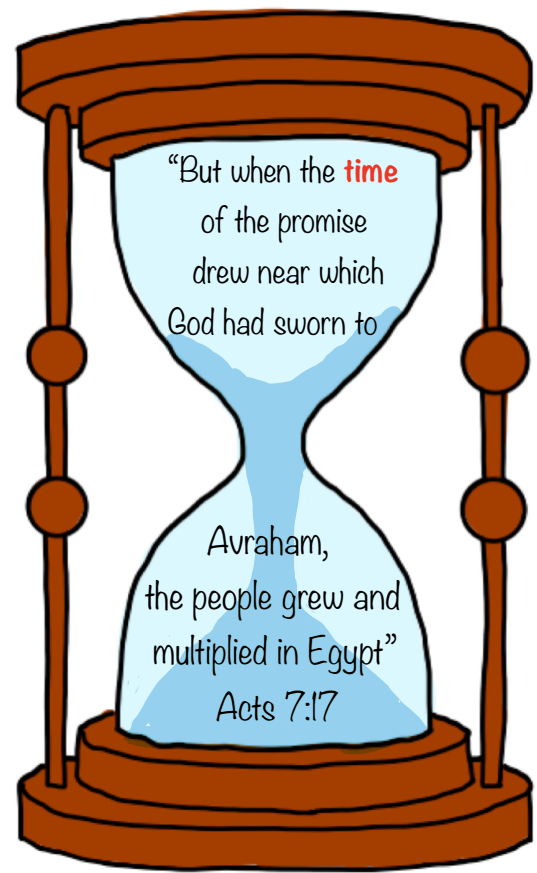
God continually disciplines Yisra'el for her sins but not as He judges other nations. God always reserves a remnant in Yisra'el for the purposes of His will. From days of past, present and future persecution, life in Yisra'el continues. Following the days of total corruption of all the leaders of Yisra'el, God will teach the next generation “precept upon precept,” meaning command after command. They will learn “line upon line”, meaning slowly and simply. They will walk “there a little, there a little”, meaning one step at a time.

God will judge the world before Yeshua returns to establish the Kingdom of God on earth. Yisa'el will no longer be ashamed but will worship Yeshua and fear God. God will cause all these things to occur with His mighty, outstretched hand just as He did in the days of Moshe.



New Testament

Acts 7:17-29



In this week's New Testament passage we can clearly understand that God's timing is superior to ours. God does not act until it is the perfect time to do so. God is patient and does not want anyone to perish. He often allow hardship to lead those opposing Him into submission to Him and His perfect plan for redemption and restoration.

Moshe understood and submitted to God's purpose for his life, but he relied on his own wisdom, words and deeds in regard to the timing and execution of God's plan. When Moshe was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit the children of Yisra'el. As he acted to save a fellow Hebrew from death, Moshe assumed his brethren would understand that God would deliver them by his hand. They did not understand. Due to Moshe's failure to rely completely upon God's perfect timing, he had to flee for his life into the wilderness. Moshe settled in the land of Midian. In Midian Moshe got married and had two sons.

The wilderness is a place of total dependence on God. God often leads us to the wilderness, so we can depend fully on Him. The number forty in the Bible relates to transition or change. Mose was going to a place of total dependence on God to be transformed into a servant of God. This process would occur slowly over the next forty years as Moshe simply obeyed each command from God one step at a time.

Recap Review Fun

Directions: Match these words with their meanings.

Famine	Person who demands a harsh workload from another
Midwife	Transition or change
Taskmaster	Lack of food due to no blessing of rain from God
Covenant	Woman who helps a mother give birth to her baby
Forty	Binding agreement
Ark	Out of the water
Circumcision	Type of boat
Moshe	Full payment of debt owed
Redeem	Death to the flesh allowing new life to begin
Atone	Small part
Remnant	Cover