



Beth Tephila Messianic Jewish Congregation
(Under same management for over 5784 years)



Shabbat Service

Lolo Community "Synagogue"

January 6th – 10:30AM Service

12:30 PM Oneg Shabbat & In-depth Torah Study

Tuesdays 7PM-8PM, Eat This Book pages 88-97, Zoom

"Blessed are those whose way of life is blameless;
who live by the Torah of Adonai.

Blessed are those who observe His instruction;
who seek Him with all their heart." Psalm 119



Shemot -- Names

Exodus 1:1 -- 6:1

"And these are the names of the children of Israel, who came to Egypt with Jacob; they came each one with his household."

וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הַבָּאִים מִצְרָיִמָּה אֶת יַעֲקֹב אִישׁ וּבֵיתוֹ בָּאוּ:

**V'eleh shemot b'ney Yisra'el haba'im Mitsraymah et Ya'akov
ish uveyto ba'u.**

רְאוּבֵן שִׁמְעוֹן לֵוִי וְיְהוּדָה: יִשָּׁשְׁכָר זְבֻלוֹן וּבִנְיָמִן: בֶּן וּנְפֹתָלִי גָד וְאַשֶׁר:

Re'uben Shim'on Levi viYehudah. Isachar Zvulun uVinyamin.

Dan v'Naftali Gad v'Asher.

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin,
Dan, Naphtali, Gad and Asher.

Haftarah (Genesis 15:13-14)

And God said to Abram, "Know for certain that our descendants
will be strangers in a land that is not theirs,

where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years.

But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve;
and afterwards, they will come out with many possessions."

Psalm 80:1-3,8-9,14-15,18-19

1) Oh give ear, Shepherd of Israel, Thou who dost lead Joseph like a flock;
Thou who

art enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth! 2) Before Ephraim
and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Thy power and come to save us! 3) Oh
God, restore us and cause Thy face to shine upon us, and we will be saved!

8) Thou didst remove a vine from Egypt; Thou didst drive out he nations, and didst plant it. 9) Thou didst clear the ground before it, and it took deep root and filled the land. 14) Oh God of hosts, turn again now, we beseech Thee. Look down from heaven and see, and take care of this vine; 15) even the Shoot which Thy right hand has planted, and on the son whom Thou hast strengthened for Thyself. 18) Then we shall not turn back from Thee. Revive us, and we will call upon Thy name! 19) Oh Lord God of hosts, restore us. Cause They face to shine upon us, and we will be saved!

B'rit Chadashah, Acts 7:22 – 38

“It was then that Moses was born.... Pharaoh’s daughter took him.... So Moses was trained in all the wisdom of the Egyptians.... This is the Moses who said to the people of Israel, ‘God will raise up a Prophet like me from among your brothers.’”



Continuity from Genesis to Exodus

"And these are the names of the sons of Israel...." connects **Genesis 46:8** with **Exodus 1:1**. **"Nachmanides"** ("Ramban," Rabbi Moshe Ben Nahman, 1894-1270) suggests that while b'Reisheet and Sh'mot are two separate books within the Torah, Exodus is the sequel to the text of Genesis. Genesis begins with God intimately walking with his people in the Garden; Exodus concludes with the Divine Presence, once again, literally dwelling with his people in the Mishkan. **Where Genesis is God's book of creation, Exodus is God's book of redemption.**

Rabbi David Friedman, a UMJC Rabbi, who lived in Jerusalem, saw a vital connection between Genesis and Exodus. "First and foremost I would bring to your attention that God’s word in scripture is not truncated but continues, as do his promises." Friedman saw the connection in aspects of the continuing story, although separated by many

years. In Genesis, Joseph asked his brothers to take his bones to be buried in Canaan, which is fulfilled in Exodus. Friedman also points out, “The (Hebrew word) word “**ve**” connects the books of Genesis and Exodus. The phrase, “And these...” (1:1) begins unfolding the family genealogy, leading into the story of the redemption from Egypt, as relayed by the first five verses of Exodus 1...” Friedman quotes from the **JPS Commentary on Exodus**: “Scholar **Nahum Sarna**, in his commentary to the Book of Exodus, noted that the two books are also connected through the promises given in (Genesis, i.e. **Gen. 15:13–14**, **Gen. 35:23–26** and **Gen. 46:8, 26–27**), which come to pass in the narratives of Exodus. **Sarna** also noted, in agreement with the perspective given above, “The initial **vav** (the name of the letter of the word “**ve**” in Ex. 1:1) acts as a connective with Genesis, thereby suggesting continuity with the preceding narrative.” Friedman noted that **Genesis scripture is fulfilled in Exodus, showing the continuity of the two books.**

Genesis 15:13–14: Then He said to Avram, “Understand that your descendants will definitely live in a foreign land that is not theirs, and they will be enslaved and tortured for four hundred years. Yet I will judge the nation that enslaves them. Immediately afterward, they (Avram’s descendants) will leave there with many possessions” (Friedman translation).

Exodus 1:11–14: “So they appointed tax officials for them (for Israel), to **oppress** them with **backbreaking work**; thus they (Israel) built the store cities of Pitom and Ramses for Pharaoh. But when they (the Egyptians) **oppressed** them . . . Then Egypt **enslaved** Israel. So they made their lives **bitter** through **hard labor** with bricks and mortar, as well as in all types of agricultural work in the field; this was the **harshly imposed slave labor.**” (Friedman translation, emphasis mine).

Exodus 12:33, 35–36: “So **Egypt supplied the people** (of Israel), and hurried them out of that land, because they said, ‘All of us will be dead!’ And the people of Israel did just as Moshe had said, and asked the Egyptians for their **vessels of silver, gold and clothing**. So God caused Egypt to have great favor on the people, and they requested from them, and they complied. And they took advantage of the Egyptians.” (Friedman translation, emphasis mine).

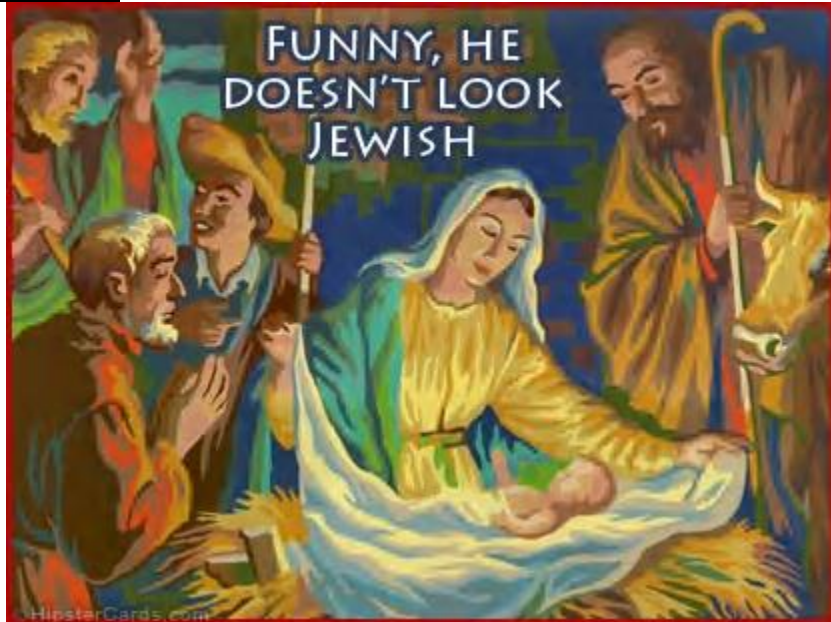
“The three sets of verses above clearly show us that **these promises and warnings given in Genesis find their fulfillment through the events recorded in Exodus.** The two books complement each other, and our “**ve** bridge” paints a picture of the relationship between them.”

Lastly, Friedman noted **the continuity of the names of the sons of Israel at the end of Genesis and also at the beginning of Exodus...the same names.**

God’s Promise

In Genesis, God chose one man, Abraham, who exhibited active faith in God by leaving behind his comfortable, idolatrous life and following God to parts unknown. Because of Abraham's faith, God made an everlasting covenant with him and his descendants to give them "the land I will show you." God promised to make Abraham into a great nation. God also promised to bless Abraham and his descendants. To illustrate His promise of blessing, God said He would bless those who blessed Abraham

and his descendants and curse those who cursed Abraham and his descendants. Throughout recorded history we can observe that God has kept his promises. Nations and individuals who have blessed Jews have been blessed themselves, while they continued to bless Jews. Furthermore, God promised Abraham that through Him (Messiah, son of David) ..."all the nations (people-groups) of the earth shall be blessed" (12:3). Incidentally, "all" the nations of the earth includes both Jews and Gentiles.



Abraham transmitted his faith to his chosen son, Isaac, and Isaac to his chosen son, Jacob. Jacob would produce 12 sons through whom God would make a nation, fulfilling his promise to Abraham. However, at the end of Genesis it became apparent to God that Canaanite influence was corrupting His people. In order to prevent the assimilation of His chosen people into the idolatrous, Canaanite culture, God worked through His faithful servant Joseph, to remove them from Canaan and bring them into Egypt. There God provided them the fertile land of Goshen, where they could prosper into a mighty nation, while remaining separate from the influence of the gods of Egypt, Egyptian culture, and Egyptian assimilation...at least in the beginning. **Ezekiel 20:6-8** states, "On that day I swore to them, to bring them out from the land of Egypt into a land that I had selected for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands. And I said to them, Cast away, each of you, the detestable things of his eyes and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I am the lord your God. But they rebelled against Me and were not willing to listen to Me. They did not cast away the detestable things of their eyes nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt." It would appear that similar to the idolatrous influences of Canaan, there were also similar idolatries in Egypt with which God's people would eventually seek out to corrupt themselves.

Exodus as PASSOVER Preparation

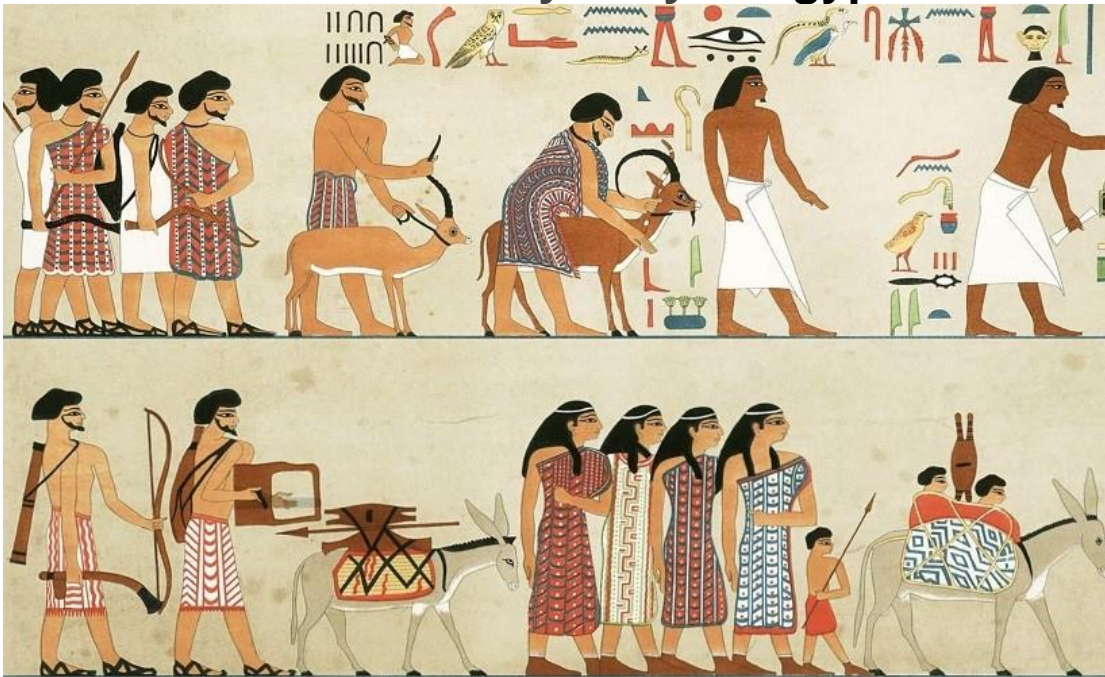
This Shabbat observant Jews around the world will begin to read the second book of the Torah, the book of Exodus in preparation for observing Passover. Exodus contains 40 chapters, which we will read in 11 weeks of Torah portions. After completing Exodus, we will celebrate Passover on Monday evening, April

22nd, as a remembrance and celebration of God's delivering His people from Egyptian bondage into freedom in their "promised land." **Remember to attend services these next Shabbats for an interactive discussion of each Torah portion, so you will be better prepared to really appreciate the Passover experience.**

God's Promises of Land to Isaac & Jacob and to Ishmael & Esau

God called Abraham and his descendants to become His people and to follow Him to a land that He promised them would be theirs forever. In faith, Abraham followed God's leadership and journeyed to Canaan. We followed their family as Abraham and Sarah had Ishmael and Isaac. **Ishmael was given his inheritance AWAY** from the "promised land," so that **Isaac alone** remained in the land as **God's chosen inheritor of the land of Israel** and God's promises. Isaac and Rebecca also had two children, Esau and Jacob. Jacob inherited the birth right and God's blessing, while **Esau was given his land inheritance AWAY from Jacob in Edom.** Jacob had twelve children by two wives and their two hand maids. **These twelve children would** become the leaders of the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel and **inhabit the land of Israel that God promised to them and to their descendants.**

The Semitic Dynasty in Egypt



A Semitic population that had migrated from Canaan into the northern Egyptian Delta as a powerful ruling class. These people of Semitic, "Canaanite" origin were known to the Egyptians as the *Hyksos*—a unique people known for their *shepherding* and *multicolored garments*.

As long as the Pharaohs of the **Semitic** Hyksos dynasties (approx. 1720 - 1570 BCE), the 16th and 17th dynasties prevailed, the sons of Jacob prospered in the land. Then a **Hamite**, Egyptian leader, Acnose (approx. 1570 -1546 BCE), led a revolt which overthrew the Semite Hyksos dynasty. Acnose established the Egyptian 18th dynasty, which was totally against any Semite harbinger from the past. One could say they were

"anti-Semitic." Those from the conquered Semitic dynasty were either killed, enslaved, or driven from Egypt. Their statues were defaced. Their records were destroyed. All traces of them were removed. **Acnose was the "new king, who did not know Joseph"** in Exodus 1:8, who enslaved the Hebrews. Yet the Hebrews remained such a numerous people that the next Pharaoh, Amenhotep (approx. 1546 - 1526), the son of Acnose, thought they might be populous enough to revolt. He was the Pharaoh who decreed that the Hebrew midwives should kill all the male children, while allowing the female children to live. He figured that the females would grow up and, having no Hebrew males to marry, would marry Egyptian males and thus assimilate the Hebrew population, while still providing the numbers necessary for his workforce. Amenhotep died childless. During this time Moses was born to a couple from the tribe of Levi, Amram and Jochebed. His mother first hid him from Pharaoh's men and then hid him in a water proof basket among some dense reeds alongside the bank of the Nile River, instructing her daughter Miriam to watch over him.



"When she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket (tevah, which is the same Hebrew word for the ark of Noah) and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it, and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile" (2:3). It was there that Hatshepsut, the daughter of the next Pharaoh, Tutmose I (1526 - 1512), found Moses. Moses was adopted around 1525 BCE. Tutmose I had two marriages. From the first marriage he produced a daughter, Hatshepsut. From the second marriage he produced a son, Tutmose II.



Hatshepsut decided to rear Moses herself. She gave him an Egyptian name, including the name of their dynasty, "mose." He probably also had the name of one of the Egyptian gods attached before "mose" (pronounced Mois-she) like the other Egyptian males. Hatshepsut looked for a wet nurse for her new-found baby and through Miriam "found" the mother of Moses to nurse him for her until he was weaned. Then Hatshepsut reared him in the Egyptian court. Tutmose I as mentioned had a son, who would become Tutmose II (1512 - 1504) upon the death of his father. Remembering that Tutmose II's half sister was Hatshepsut accounts for Moses being raised at court. **Acts 7:22**, "And Moses was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians, and he was a man of power in words and deeds." Tutmose II also had a son, Tutmose III (1504 - 1447), who was very young at the time of his father's death, but would become the Pharaoh of the oppression of the Jews. Being so young, Hatshepsut, ruled as queen for him, and Moses remained in court. As he grew up, the young Pharaoh resented Hatshepsut. After the death of Hatshepsut in approx. 1883 BCE, Tutmose III removed all vestiges of Hatshepsut and anyone connected with her. All statues of her were smashed; all inscriptions mentioning her name were plastered over to remove her name. So when she died, he looked for an excuse to remove her "son," Moses. When the Pharaoh heard that Moses had seen an Egyptian overseer beating a Hebrew (which of course was allowable) and had killed the Egyptian (also allowable for someone in court), Pharaoh tried to kill Moses. However, Moses, now forty years old, escaped and fled into Midian, where he became a shepherd for the next forty years during the reign of Tutmose III, taking a wife, Zipporah, and having two sons, Gershom and Eliezer.



A Personal encounter with God

In Midian, present-day Saudi Arabia, while pasturing his flock, Moses saw an amazing occurrence. A desert bush was aflame and kept on burning, but was not burned up. A Rabbinic Midrash from **Shemot Rabba 2:5** says that this illustrates for us that "no place is devoid of the Divine Presence." As Moses investigated, God's voice came out of the burning bush. God was calling Moses to return to Egypt to liberate His people from Pharaoh, Amenhotep II (1447 – 1425 BCE), the son of Tutmose III. Amenhotep II was the Pharaoh of the Exodus. It was before Amenhotep II that Moses said, "Let my people go...." It was Amenhotep II who experienced the 10 plagues and the death of his own first-born son. Briefly continuing on with the 18th Egyptian Dynasty, Tutmose IV (1425-1417), was the second son of Amenhotep II. In order to make his ascent to the throne sound legitimate, he told the court that he had a dream, where an Egyptian god told him that if he cleared the sand which at that time had obscured the Sphinx, he would become Pharaoh. He was the Pharaoh during Israel's wilderness wanderings. Then Amenhotep III (1417 – 1379 BCE), the son of Tutmose IV became Pharaoh. He was a weak king, which enabled Joshua to begin to control the land of Canaan. Amenhotep IV (1379 -- 1361 BCE) was another son of Amenhotep II. He changed his name to Achnaton (Sun Disk) trying to change the worship of the Egyptians to only one god, the Sun Disk. This caused religious turmoil over which a civil war broke out, causing Egypt to become even weaker, losing all of the land of Canaan. This was the period of the Book of Judges in Canaan.

Moses, who answered God's gracious call with the Hebrew words "**hineni**," meaning "**here I am, I'm willing to do whatever you ask**," was actually quite reluctant, when he heard what God wanted him to do. He made several excuses why he could not go. Here is an example for us today. We should willingly submit to God's leading with "**hineni**," knowing that God's will is His best for us. So follow your "**hineni**" with positive action to begin to follow God's leading.

God, in His graciousness to Moses, made allowances that overcame the excuses of Moses, even providing Moses with supernatural signs to show the people and Pharaoh that he was sent by God. One of the allowances was that the brother of Moses, Aaron, would accompany him to speak to Pharaoh God's words through Moses. Just before leaving for Egypt, God mentioned to the reluctant Moses that God would harden Pharaoh's heart, so that Pharaoh would not listen to him. "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hands of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes." **Proverbs 21:1.**



Pharaoh's Hardened Heart

We will see that numerous times Pharaoh will harden his heart toward what he knows is God's will. Finally, **God will harden Pharaoh's heart.**

Study Questions: 1) **We may ask ourselves, why does God harden someone's heart?** Is that fair? We find our answer to these questions by examining Pharaoh's heart throughout Exodus, rather than waiting until God finally hardens his heart.

2) **What are the intermediate steps that Pharaoh takes that get him to the point that he no longer is capable of listening to God's voice through Moses?** It is important that we understand that **hardening one's heart is a process**, rather than something that occurs suddenly and without warning. This concept is important for us to understand, so that we do not find ourselves in the position of Pharaoh, who hardened his heart in opposition to God's plans for His people. **It was and is God's plan, through His chosen people, to send to man His redeemer, Messiah, Yeshua, so that His people can appropriate the redemption that only He can provide and be reconciled to God.** Pharaoh hardened his heart to God's plan. **We must learn from Shemot to open our hearts to the redemption He has provided!**

When Moses initially approached the people with God's plan, they believed him. However, when he delivered the same message to Pharaoh, Pharaoh replied, **"Who is the lord that I should obey His voice to let Israel go: I do not know the Lord..."** (5:2). So the Pharaoh not only did not let the people leave, he increased their workload. The people blamed Moses for their travail, and Moses complained to the Lord that he (Moses) had done harm to the people...by doing what God had told him to do. However, God replied that Moses would see Pharaoh acquiesce to God's wishes and let the people go. **Sometimes, we, too, cannot understand God's workings but have to patiently wait to watch His will unfold.**

3) **How do we accomplish patient endurance (sometimes in less than satisfactory situations)?**

Ironically, enduring prison confinement, **God had prepared** Joseph to tell an earlier Pharaoh what the Hebrew God was about to do (**Gen. 41:25**) to Pharaoh and to Pharaoh's country. That **Semitic Pharaoh listened** to God's voice through Joseph and **experienced redemption** from harsh circumstances. **This anti-Semitic Pharaoh did not listen** to Moses and therefore had to be shown the power of the God of the Hebrews. **Even today, God's promises to His people will be fulfilled! No country (including the United States) nor king had better stand in the way of God's fulfilling His promises to His people. And even today, God's desire is for each of His people to experience the redemption provided by Messiah, Yeshua! Redemption begins for us, as it did for Moses, with a personal encounter with God.** Just as Moses did not earn (merit) the blessings of his encounter with God through **Mitzvot** (doing some good deeds, keeping some commandments), we too, must rely on the grace (gift) of God. **God had prepared Moses** through his life experiences in the court of Egypt and in his years of shepherding sheep, providing sometimes rough and difficult lessons. **It is only after we, too, have a personal, life-changing encounter with God that we can hear His voice through the Ruach (Holy Spirit) and respond "hineni" to his calling for our life's work.** Moses was eighty years old before he had his personal encounter with God. My prayer for each of you is that you do not wait that long for your encounter with God. **Look to the atonement/removal of sin provided by Messiah, Yeshua, and pray for God's response.** He will not disappoint you. **Just like Moses and Joseph, prepare your life, making yourself ready to say "hineni" to God.**

SHABBAT SHALOM

Announcements:

1. UMJC Winter Leaders Conference, January 28-31, New Orleans
2. Regional Conference July 5-7 with Jeffrey Seif, Warm Beach Camp & Conference Center
3. UMJC International Summer Conference, Orlando, Florida, July 17-21

