
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

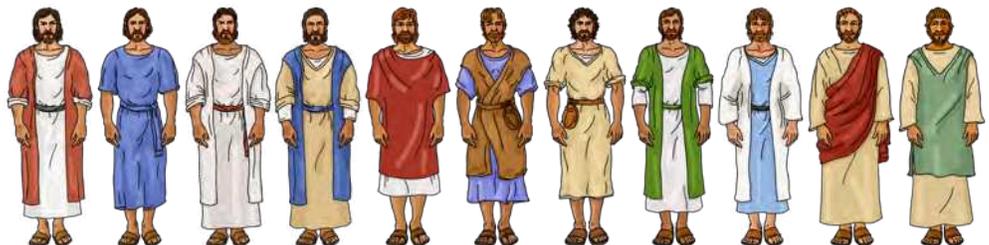
Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Ex. 1	The Yisra'elites are enslaved and afflicted
Tuesday:	Ex. 2	Baby Mosheh is saved by Pharaoh's daughter; Mosheh kills a Mitsrite and flees to Midyan, Mosheh marries and has a son
Wednesday:	Ex. 3	Mosheh at the burning bush; Yahweh reveals His name to Mosheh
Thursday:	Ex. 4	Yahweh gives Mosheh signs for proof; Mosheh is given Aharon his brother as a helper; Mosheh returns to Mitsrayim; He and Aharon go before the elders
Friday:	Ex. 5:1 - 6:1	Mosheh and Aharon go before Pharaoh; Pharaoh tells them to make bricks without straw; Mosheh is given grief from his fellow Hebrews; Mosheh questions Yahweh

As we start the book of Shemot, more than 300 years have passed since the story of Yoseph. The Yisra'elites are now slaves in Mitsrayim (Egypt) and are forced to do hard labor under a new Pharaoh who did not remember Yoseph. Now, let's read Ex. 1.

PARSHA POINTS

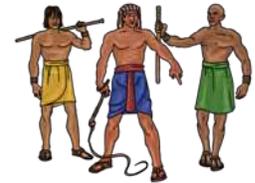
- These are the children of Ya'aqob who went to Mitsrayim: (1:1-4)
 - Re'uben
 - Shim'on
 - Lewi
 - Yehudah
 - Yissaskar
 - Zebulun
 - Binyamin
 - Dan
 - Naphtali
 - Gad
 - Asher



- There were 70 (**shivim**) beings total not including Yoseph who was already living in Mitsrayim - 1:5
- The first generation had passed on - 1:6
- The Yisra'elites were fruitful and increased very much and grew very strong in the land of Mitsrayim - 1:7
- After a while a new sovereign (Pharaoh) arose over Mitsrayim who did not know who Yoseph was - 1:8
- This new sovereign noticed that the children of Yisra'el had become very strong and mighty. Fearing that they would join his enemies, he made a plan to control them - 1:9
- He assigned slave task masters (**missim**) over them to increase their burdens and make supply cities. They were: (1:11)



- Pithom
- Ra'amses



- As the work and burdens increased, so did the children of Yisra'el also - 1:12
- The Mitsrites became fearful of the Yisra'elites - 1:12
- The Mitsrites ruled with harshness (**perek**) and made the Yisra'elites' lives bitter - 1:13-14
- The Yisra'elites worked in: (1:14)

- mortar
- brick (**levenah**)
- all kinds of work in the field (**sadeh**)
- harshness



- Pharaoh then called for the Hebrew midwives: (1:15)
- Shiphrah
- Pu'ah



- He told them if a male child was born to a Hebrew woman that they should put the baby to death - 1:16
- If a female child was born to a Hebrew woman, then that baby would live - 1:16
- The Hebrew midwives feared Elohim and disobeyed the instruction of Pharaoh - 1:17
- They allowed the male children to live - 1:17
- The sovereign questioned the midwives regarding this - 1:18
- The midwives replied that the Hebrew women had already given birth by the time they arrived to assist them - 1:19
- Because of their actions, Elohim blessed the midwives and increased them and provided households for them - 1:20-21
- Pharaoh came up with a new plan commanding that all Hebrew sons be thrown into the river, but every Hebrew daughter was allowed to live - 1:22



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- How many years have passed between *Genesis* and the 1st Chapter of *Exodus*?
- What is the significance of the number 70 stated in Ex. 1:5? Does this number include the women and children?
- We know that the children of Ya'aqob moved to Mitsrayim to escape the famine. However, their children and children's children continued to live there even after the famine was long gone. Why do you think they stayed in Mitsrayim?
- When the rulership was under the Hyskos dynasty, everything seemed to go very well for the children of Yisra'el and they were allowed to prosper. However, when the new Pharaoh arose, a Mitsrite, treatment toward the Yisra'elites changed. Research the history of the different ethnic groups and why animosity and hatred would have occurred.
- Discuss the illogic of killing the newborn baby boys as related to the workforce the Mitsrites needed to build their cities and infrastructures.
- In this chapter we see our very first female heroines - Shiphrah and Puah. These women lied to Pharaoh and were blessed and even rewarded by Yahweh (1:20-21). Discuss the difference between lying and bearing false witness. What is Commandment 9 against?
- This parsha delves into the oppression and enslavement of the Yisra'elites. Research the times in history when this happened again to them. Why do you think it happened? Discuss.

