

SHEMOT OVERVIEW

'These are the names'... Shemot

Today, we are starting the 2nd book of the Torah, called Shemot, which means 'names' because the parsha starts with listing the names of all the children of Yisra'el (Israel) who went to Mitsrayim (Egypt). In English, the 2nd book of the Torah is called Exodus, which has a different meaning from the Hebrew. Exodus means 'a mass departure of people' and is the main theme of the book of Shemot. The 1st book of the Torah, Bereishit (Genesis) ended with the 12 tribes of Yisra'el having moved to Mitsrayim with the help of their brother Yoseph to start a new life during the famine. Now we are going to continue our story a few generations later and learn about Mosheh (Moses) who is from the tribe of Lewi (Levi), and how he was called to lead the exodus of the 12 tribes of Yisra'el from Mitsrayim to Kena'an (Canaan).

Because each parsha is so rich in information, we will only be able to examine certain parts of each parsha per lesson. We do encourage parents and their children to do their own studies. In future years, we will fill in the pieces from each parsha that we did not cover previously.

Here is a breakdown of the 11 parashot in the book of Shemot:

- Shemot (Names) - Ch. 1-5
- Va'eira (I appeared) - Ch. 6-9
- Bo (Go in) - Ch. 10-13
- Beshalach (When He sent) - Ch. 13-17
- Yitro (Jethro - His Excellency) - Ch. 18-20
- Mishpatim (Right-rulings) - Ch. 21-24
- Terumah - (Contribution) - Ch. 25-27
- Tetzaveh - (You shall command) - Ch. 27-30
- Ki Tisa - (When you lift up, or take up) - Ch. 30-34
- Vayak'hel - (He assembled) - Ch. 35-38
- Pekudei - (Amounts or Accounts) - Ch. 38-40

We pray that you will be blessed as we begin our study in the 2nd book of the Torah. Let's dig in!

SHALOM FROM YMTOI/MTOI