



MIZRACHI

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# הַמִּזְרָחִי HAMIZRACHI

PARSHA WEEKLY YOUTH EDITION

PARSHAT BO 5785 • 2025

## PARSHA SUMMARY

The final three plagues unfold. First, swarms of locusts destroy all the crops and plants. Then, a thick darkness covers the land for days. Finally, at midnight on the 15th of Nisan, all the firstborns in Egypt die.

Hashem gives Bnei Yisrael their first mitzvah: to create a calendar based on the moon, also known as Rosh Chodesh. He also tells them to bring the Korban Pesach—a lamb or young goat. They must put its blood on their doorposts so that Hashem will pass over their homes when He strikes the Egyptian firstborn.

The death of the firstborn causes Pharaoh's resistance to finally break and He orders Bnei Yisrael to leave Egypt immediately. They leave so quickly that their dough doesn't have time to rise, so they only have unleavened bread. Before leaving, they ask their Egyptian neighbors for gold, silver, and clothes, fulfilling Hashem's promise to Avraham that his descendants would leave Egypt with great wealth.

Hashem commands Bnei Yisrael to dedicate their firstborn to Him, a mitzvah known as Pidyon Haben, and to celebrate the redemption from Egypt every year. For seven days, they must eat matzah, avoid any chametz, and tell their children the story of how Hashem freed them. They are also commanded to wear tefillin on their arm and head as a reminder of their freedom and commitment to Hashem.



## MESSAGE FROM ISRAEL

### If You Aren't Moving Forward, You Are Moving Backward

In this week's parsha, we learn the very first mitzvah Hashem gave the Jewish people: setting up the Jewish calendar. The Torah says, "This month will be for you the beginning of months" (Hachodesh hazeh lachem). The mitzvah reminds us of renewal – just like the moon renews itself every month, we can always start fresh and grow!

We also learn a lesson from Rabbi Elazar ben Arach, one of the greatest sages of the Mishnah. Although he was a brilliant Torah scholar, he chose to live in a relaxing Roman city instead of joining the other sages in Yavneh. Over time, he forgot how to learn Torah properly! This shows us that if we're not growing, we risk falling behind.

Let's always try to grow spiritually, learning Torah and improving ourselves every day.

Shabbat Shalom

Rabbi Doron Perez  
Executive Chairman,  
World Mizrachi



Dedicated by the Moshal family to the life and legacy of our family patriarch John Moshal –  
יוחנן הלל בן מרדכי ז"ל – a generous lifelong supporter of Jewish education.

## QUESTIONS ON THE PARSHA

1. What is the first mitzvah that Hashem gives Bnei Yisrael?
2. What is the purpose of the Korban Pesach?
3. How do Bnei Yisrael protect themselves from the final plague?
4. What do Bnei Yisrael do before they leave Egypt?
5. How does Pharaoh react to Makat Bechorot?
6. How many Jews left Egypt?
7. How long did the plague of darkness last?
8. What date on the Hebrew calendar did Bnei Yisrael leave Egypt?

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### How Families Build the Jewish Nation

In this week's parsha we learn about the Korban Pesach (The Pesach Offering). When the Jewish people left Egypt, they did something really special with the Korban Pesach. There of course was no Beit Mikdash yet, so instead, each family offered it in their own home. They used their doorposts like a mini-altar! Even though each family stayed in their own house, they were all connected because they did the exact same mitzvah at the exact same time. This teaches us something amazing – that strong Jewish families are the building blocks of the Jewish people.

**Dilemma of the Week – Family Time vs. Friend Time:** Dina can't wait for her best friend Racheli's bat mitzvah party next month. But then her parents tell her some big news: on the same night, they're having a special family dinner for her Bubby's 70th birthday. All her aunts, uncles, and cousins are coming – something that rarely happens because everyone is so busy. Now Dina is stuck. She really wants to be there for Racheli, who she hangs out with every day at school. But she also knows how special it would be to have her whole family together for her Bubby's birthday. What should she do?

### Discussion Questions

**Looking Back in Time:** What can we learn from how families celebrated the first Pesach in their own homes? How is this similar to how we spend time with our families today?

**Making Tough Choices:** How do you decide what to do when you have to choose between family time and friend time?

**Staying Connected:** What are some good ways to be there for your friends while still making your family a priority?

**Growing Together:** What special things do you learn about being Jewish when spending time with your family?

## SOLVE IT AND SEND IT!

What is the name of the famous Israeli water source that begins near Mount Hermon?

Send the answer to [hamizrachiyouth@mizrachi.org](mailto:hamizrachiyouth@mizrachi.org) to be entered into our monthly raffle!

## PARSHA WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these parsha related words?

COSTUSL  
ARKENSSD  
SBAML  
CPEHAS  
TAHAZM  
HAZUEMZ  
FLTINEIL  
NSBORIFRT  
NOTEMPDERI



What's one nice thing you could do this week to make family time more special in your house?



## WORD OF THE WEEK

### חֹשֶׁךְ – Choshech – Darkness

(Shemot 10:22) וַיְהִי חֹשֶׁךְ אֲפָלָה

The Hebrew word חֹשֶׁךְ (pronounced “choshech”) means “darkness.” Its root is ח-ש-כ (Chet-Shin-Kaf). The related word חָשׁוּךְ (chashuch) also stems from this root and means “dark,” similar to מְחַשֵּׁיךְ (machshich), which means “becoming dark.” Interestingly, חָשׁוּךְ can also describe someone who is considered inferior or lesser, highlighting a figurative use of the concept of darkness to imply lowliness.



## THIS WEEK IN JEWISH HISTORY

### 5 Shevat

#### The beginning of the Fifth Aliyah (5690/1930)

The Fifth Aliyah was the largest wave of Jewish immigration to Israel after the Fourth Aliyah. Between 1930 and 1939, over 200,000 Jews moved to Israel from Europe, North Africa, and Asia. The fifth Aliyah is sometimes called the “Immigration of the Yakim” because about a quarter of the immigrants (about 60 thousand people) came to the country from Germany.



## MEET OUR READERS!

**NAME:** JONATHAN KRATZ-LIEBER

**AGE:** 12

**LOCATION:** VIENNA, AUSTRIA



**FAVORITE PARSHA:** Devarim, because it will be my Bar Mitzvah.

**IF I COULD HAVE DINNER WITH SOMEONE FROM THE TANACH IT WOULD BE:** Yehoshua Bin Nun, and I would ask him what it was like to learn Torah personally from Moshe Rabbeinu.

**WHERE I'D LIKE TO TRAVEL IN ISRAEL:** The Kotel, because I can pray in a place where Jews have been praying for thousands of years.



## WANT TO BE FEATURED IN A FUTURE EDITION?

If you'd like to be featured in an upcoming Youth Edition, and have a chance to win a prize, fill out the form at [mizrachi.org/youthfeature](http://mizrachi.org/youthfeature) or scan the QR code!



## PARSHA ANSWERS

1. The mitzvah of Rosh Chodesh, which marks the beginning of the Jewish calendar.
2. The Korban Pesach is a thanksgiving offering to Hashem for taking Bnei Yisrael out of Egypt.
3. By painting their doorposts with blood from the Korban Pesach.
4. Bnei Yisrael borrowed gold and silver items from the Egyptians.
5. Pharaoh finally lets Bnei Yisrael go.
6. 600,000 adult males, plus women and children.
7. 3 days.
8. Bnei Yisrael left Egypt on the 15th day of Nissan.

## JOURNEY THROUGH ISRAEL



PHOTO: MUSSI KATZ/ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Did you know? The solar tower's light is so powerful that it can be seen from 60 kilometers (37 miles) away, even during the day!

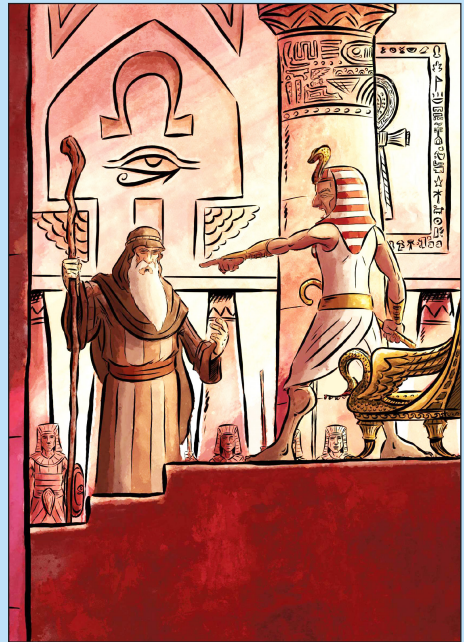
### Ashalim Power Station

Located in the Negev Desert near Be'er Sheva, the Ashalim Power Station (Tachan-at HaKoach BeAshalim) is a remarkable example of Israel's innovation in renewable energy. Spanning 10,000 dunams, it includes four different power plants that combine cutting-edge solar and natural gas technologies. One of its features is the towering solar power station, once the tallest of its kind in the world when it was opened in 2019, at 260 meters (853 feet). Beyond its impressive technology, Ashalim reflects Israel's commitment to protecting the environment while reducing dependence on imported energy. The site also holds historical significance, as archaeological excavations took place before construction, uncovering remnants of ancient settlements.

קום התהלך בארץ

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you find 10 differences between these two parsha pictures?



This illustration was taken from the book 'בדרכה של תורה' on the Parsha.

Special thanks to Ori Lerman (illustrations), Rabbi Weitz, and the Har Bracha Institution for their permission.



HaMizrachi Parsha Weekly Youth Edition is a project of the Mizrahi Schools Department headed by Rabbi Bentzi Mann. Please email [ravbentzi@mizrachi.org](mailto:ravbentzi@mizrachi.org) with any questions or comments.