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הַמִּזְרָחִי

HAMIZRACHI

PARSHA WEEKLY

YOUTH EDITION

A project of the Mizrachi Schools Department

PARSHAT SHEMOT 5785 • 2025

PARSHA SUMMARY

A new generation of Jews now lives in Egypt, Yosef and all of his brothers have passed away. The Jewish people grow in number in Egypt. Pharaoh becomes afraid of their increasing population, so he makes them his slaves. He orders the Hebrew midwives, Shifrah and Puah, to kill all baby boys. When they don't obey, Pharaoh tells his people to find Jewish babies and throw them into the River Nile.

A woman named Yocheved, from the tribe of Levi, gives birth to a baby boy. She hides him for 3 months, until she can't anymore. She places him in a basket on the river, and his sister Miriam watches from a distance. Pharaoh's daughter Batya finds the baby, takes him in, and names him Moshe.

As a young man, Moshe leaves the palace and sees how his people are suffering. He witnesses an Egyptian beating a Hebrew man, and in anger, Moshe kills the Egyptian. The next day, when he tries to stop two Hebrews from fighting, they tell him they know about his crime. Pharaoh finds out and Moshe runs away to a place called Midian. There, he marries Yitro's daughter, Tziporah, and becomes a shepherd.

One day, while Moshe is tending sheep near Har Sinai, Hashem appears to Moshe in a burning bush, instructing him to be His messenger to lead the Jewish people out of Egypt into the Promised Land – a land flowing with milk and honey (The Land of Israel). Moshe's brother, Aaron, becomes his spokesperson. Moshe and Aaron gather the leaders of Israel to tell them that their time of freedom has come. The people believe, but Pharaoh refuses to let them go and makes their work even harder.

Moshe goes back to Hashem, asking, "Why have You allowed this suffering?" but Hashem promises that their redemption is near.



MESSAGE FROM ISRAEL

Choosing to Be a Leader

Did you know Moshe Rabbeinu's name teaches us an important lesson about leadership? Pharaoh's daughter named him Moshe, which means "the one who brings out," even though she was the one who rescued him from the water.

Why give him a name that shows the action of someone else instead of the more obvious name – "the one who was brought out?" This teaches us that life is not about being passive or a victim of circumstances. Like Pharaoh's daughter, who defied her father to save Moshe, and like Moshe, who returned to Egypt to free the Jewish people, we can choose to act, even in hard situations.

No matter what challenges we face, we have a choice: to be a victim of our situation or to step up and take action. Let's be like Moshe – leaders who step and make a difference!

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 does the word "Shemot" mean?
2. Why is Pharaoh threatened by Bnei Yisrael?
3. What does Pharaoh command the midwives to do?
4. How long did Yocheved hide her baby for?
5. How does Yocheved save her baby?
6. Who rescues and names Moshe after finding him in the Nile river?
7. Where does Moshe grow up?
8. Why does Moshe flee from Egypt?
9. What is Pharaoh's response when Moshe asks him to free Bnei Yisrael?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When Obstacles Lead to Success

In this week's parsha, we learn about a new king in Egypt "who did not know Yosef." The Kli Yakar teaches that Pharaoh ignored a powerful lesson from the story of Yosef and his brothers: attempts to stop something decreed by Hashem often lead to its fulfillment. Yosef's brothers tried to prevent his rise to greatness by selling him into slavery, but their actions led directly to him becoming a ruler in Egypt. Similarly, Pharaoh's efforts to destroy the future leader of the Jewish people by throwing babies into the Nile ended up placing Moshe in his own palace, where he grew into the savior of Israel.

Dilemma of the Week: Dovi loved public speaking and dreamed of representing his school at the citywide Jewish schools' speech competition. However, his classmate Jake made practice sessions miserable by mocking him in front of others. "You'll never be good enough," Jake would say, causing Dovi to doubt himself. Determined not to give up, Dovi practiced relentlessly at home, recording his speeches and improving his delivery. When the competition was announced, Dovi hesitated. If he entered, he might finally achieve his dream – or he could face public humiliation, especially with Jake in the audience. Should he step forward and take the risk, or avoid the spotlight altogether?

Discussion Questions

Learning from Yosef: Why do you think efforts to block someone's success often lead to the opposite result?

Dovi's Dilemma: What are the risks and rewards of Dovi entering the competition?

Jake's Role: Do you think Jake's teasing could have indirectly helped Dovi improve? Why or why not?

Facing Fear: What advice would you give Dovi to overcome his fear of failure and mockery?

Your Experience: Have you ever been scared to try something because of what others might think? How did you handle it?

SOLVE IT AND SEND IT!

What is the diameter of the Machtesh Ramon (Ramon Crater)?

Send the answer to hamizrachiyouth@mizrachi.org to be entered into our monthly raffle!

PARSHA WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these parsha related words?

CEYEDOHV
TIROY
RHA INAIS
IRERV ILEN
EOMHS
ABYAT
ESKABT
DNIAMI
OPRZAHIT



Think of one challenge you're facing this week. What steps can you take to turn it into an opportunity for growth and success?



WORD OF THE WEEK

שְׁאֵלָה – She'elah – Question

(Shemot 3:22) שְׁאֵלָה אֶשְׁה מִשְׁכָּנְתָּהּ

The Hebrew word “שְׁאֵלָה” means question. The root of the word is ל-א-ש (Shin-Alef-Lamed). In Biblical Hebrew this same root (and spelling) means borrowing. Perhaps the connection is because when we borrow, we are really “asking” to use something temporarily.



THIS WEEK IN JEWISH HISTORY

20 Tevet 5746 (1986)

The shekel is retired and replaced by the new shekel

In the early 1980s, prices of things went up very fast, which is called inflation. By 1984, it became hyperinflation. At first, 4 shekels were worth 1 US dollar. But by September 1985, 1 dollar was worth about 1,500 shekels! To fix this, the government introduced a new kind of money called the “new shekel.” 1 new shekel was worth 1,000 old shekels, or about 1.5 shekels for 1 dollar. The new shekel replaced the old one and is still Israel's currency today.



MEET OUR READERS!

NAME: CROSBY TANKARD

GRADE: 3

LOCATION: PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KANSAS USA



WHERE I'D LIKE TO TRAVEL IN ISRAEL: The Dead Sea to see if you actually float.

IF I COULD HAVE DINNER WITH SOMEONE FROM THE TANACH IT WOULD BE: Adam, and I would ask him if he was lonely with only one other person.

SOMETHING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME: I play a year up in club soccer.

FAVORITE JEWISH FOOD: Sufganiyot

FAVORITE SHABBAT ACTIVITY: Playing with my baby brother.



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 or scan the QR code!



PARSHA ANSWERS

1. “Names”
2. Because the population of Bnei Yisrael is growing and he fears that they might rebel against his rule.
3. To kill all of the Jewish baby boys by throwing them into the River Nile
4. 3 months
5. Yocheved places her baby in a basket and sets it in the Nile River, where Moshe's sister, Miriam, watches over the basket from a distance.
6. Pharaoh's daughter, Batya, rescues and names Moshe after finding him in the Nile River.
7. In Pharaoh's palace
8. Moshe flees from Egypt after he was seen killing an Egyptian taskmaster who was beating a Jewish slave.
9. Pharaoh responds with harsh refusal and increases the workload of the Jews.

JOURNEY THROUGH ISRAEL



MITZPE RAMON (מצפה רמון)

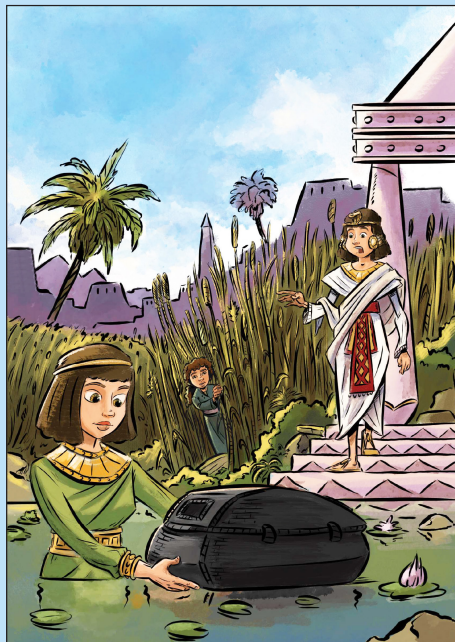
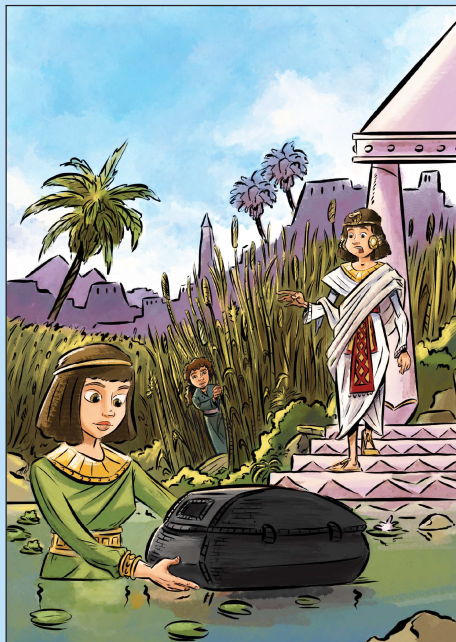
Mitzpe Ramon is a small town in the Negev desert of southern Israel, famous for its breathtaking location overlooking the Machtesh Ramon (Ramon Crater), the world's largest erosion crater. The crater is part of the Ramon Nature Reserve, which features unique geological formations, prehistoric artifacts, and diverse wildlife. Visitors to Mitzpe Ramon often explore the Visitor Center, which offers exhibits about the crater's formation, local flora and fauna, and the life of Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut. Mitzpe Ramon has become a center for desert tourism, offering hiking, stargazing, and eco-tourism experiences. The connection between Mitzpe Ramon and Ilan Ramon, whose family name was inspired by the region, adds a personal and national significance to the site.

The Wise Observatory in Mitzpe Ramon houses Israel's largest telescope, with a one-meter diameter mirror. Its location was specifically chosen because Mitzpe Ramon enjoys about 250 clear nights annually, making it an ideal spot for astronomical research and stargazing.

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.