

Torah: Sh'mot (Exodus) 1:1-6:1

- Aliyah 1 - 1:1 - 17 Isra'el grows in Egypt; a new pharaoh enslaves them, orders death of male
Aliyah 2 - 1:18 - 2:10 Moshe born, saved from death, adopted by pharaoh's daughter
Aliyah 3 - 2:11 - 25 Attempt to save Isra'el fails-Moshe flees to Midyan; God hears the cries of Isra'el
Aliyah 4 - 3:1 - 15 Moshe meets God at the burning bush; called to lead Isra'el out of Egypt
Aliyah 5 - 3:16 - 4:17 Moshe voices his self doubts, God reveals His power and plans
Aliyah 6 - 4:18 - 31 Moshe leaves Yitro in peace; circumcision of son, meets Aharon and the leaders
Aliyah 7 - 5:1 - 6:1 Request to leave causes more hardship for Isra'el, but God's promise remains

Haftarah: Yesha'yahu (Isaiah) 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

B'rit Hadashah: Acts 7:17-29

1. (1:12) Why did the Isra'elites multiply and expand as the Egyptians oppressed them? What brought them to Egypt and why are they still there? What does Egypt represent in this story?
2. (2:1-10) How many people are mentioned in the first ten verses of chapter 2? How many of these people are named in these verses? Whose names have been revealed up until now in this portion? What can be said about the behavior of the women in this portion?
3. (2:11) How old was Moshe when he re-connected with his fellow kinsmen? What was his intention? What was his plan? How was it received?
4. (3:1) Moshe spends 40 years as a shepherd. The patriarchs were shepherds. Can you think of other leaders who were shepherds? Why do you think Israel's greatest leaders were shepherds?
5. (3:2) How is the burning bush similar to Messiah?
6. (3:3-5) Where does the "burning bush" take place? Why does God tell Moshe to remove his sandals?
7. (3:14) How does God identify himself to Moshe? Does "the name" function as a normal part of Hebrew speech? How do we sanctify the name of God? What does His name mean to you?
8. (3:11, 13, 4:1, 10, 13) Moshe raises five objections to God's request. Do you think they were appropriate? How does God respond? How do you relate to these objections?

9. (4:18-16) Why does Moshe almost lose his life on the way back to Egypt? Who is responsible for saving him?

10. (4:22) Moshe is to tell Pharaoh that "Isra'el is my firstborn son." What does this mean?

11. What is Isra'el's reaction to God's plan presented by Moshe and Aharon? What is Pharaoh's reaction?

Questions for reflection and application:

1. (1:1) God gave Avraham a promise, and then brought his people to Egypt for a purpose - each one accounted for. Are you counted in God's plan? (Gen 15:5, Isa 40:26, Rom 8:28, 2Pe 3:9, Psa 139)

2. (1:18) The midwives did not carry out the king's orders. Who do you obey? (1Sa 13:8-14, 1Sa 15:3-22, Act 16:23-34, Act 4:19-20)

3. (2:11) Have you grown up to know who you are and who you serve? (Amos 1:1, 7:14-15, Jer 1:4-10, Phil 3:4-9, 1Pe 2:9)

4. (3:1) Do you see your daily activities as God's training ground for what lies ahead? (1Sa 17:34:35-37, 2Sa 7:8-9, Phil 3:4-5, Act 22:3, Luk 2:52, Luk 5:1-11, 1Co 1:26-30)

5. (3:16) Has God sent you to share His plans with others? (Isa 42:9, Amo 3:7, Jer 7:2,11:6, 21:11, 28:5, 1Co 14:26, 29, Eph 15:19, Isa 48:3-7, Col 3:16-17)

6. (4:18) Do you find confirmation of God's plans in the circumstances of your life? Compare Exo 4:18 with Gen 31:19-27. (Psa 24:3-4, Heb 13:17, 1Ti 6:1, 1Th 5:12)

7. (5:2) Are you overwhelmed by this decaying world, or anticipating Yeshua's return? (Col 1:15-17, Jud 21:25, Job 21:7-16, Jer 44:15-19, Rom 8:19-23)