

Torah: Sh'mot (Exodus) 10:1 – 13:16
Haftarah: Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 46:13–28
B'rit Hadashah: Yochanan (John) 19:31-37

	<i>year 1</i> 10:1-11:3	<i>year 2</i> 11:4-12:28	<i>year 3</i> 12:29-13:16
1	10:1 – 3	11:4 – 10	12:29 – 32
2	10:4 – 6	12:1 – 10	12:33 – 36
3	10:7 – 11	12:11 – 13	12:37 – 42
4	10:12 – 15	12:14 – 16	12:43 – 51
5	10:16 – 23	12:17 – 20	13:1 – 4
6	10:24 – 29	12:21 – 24	13:5 – 10
7	11:1 – 3	12:25 – 28	13:11 – 16

and HaShem said to Moses
 go to Pharaoh for I have hardened
 his heart and the heart of his servants
 so that I might show these my signs
 in their midst

*va'yómer ADONÁI el Móshe
 bo el Paroh ki ani hikh'bádeti et-
 libo ve'et-lev avadav
 le'má'an shiti ototai éle bekirbo*

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה
 בֹּא אֶל-פַּרְעֹה כִּי-אֲנִי הִקְבַּדְתִּי
 אֶת-לִבּוֹ וְאֶת-לֵב עֲבָדָיו
 לְמַעַן שִׁתִּי אֹתָם בְּקִרְבּוֹ:

The Plagues in Egypt continue and worsen: Locusts, Darkness. The rules of Passover are given where the people are told to put blood from a sacrificed lamb on their doorposts and HaShem will protect those houses from the final plague, the Death of the Firstborn. Laws for future Passovers are given. The plagues play out. Egypt sends out the people of Israel and they leave after the Egyptians bestow them with valuable parting gifts.

The haftarah describes a future where the king of Bavel will successfully attack and subdue Egypt, but the House of Israel will be saved.

Year 1 Aliyah Highlights

1. **Ex. 10:1-3** God makes Pharaoh's and his servant's hearts heavy (*kavod* – קָבֵד) to demonstrate his power. These events are to become a permanent part of a multi-generational collective memory (Ps. 78 / 105). The purpose of sending the people Israel to freedom is so that they may serve HaShem.
2. **Ex. 10:4-6** The humbling plague of locusts is described. In contrast to the future of Israel, generations of the past are recalled for Egypt in the present.
3. **Ex. 10:7-11** The previous plague of hail has demoralized Pharaoh's court. Pharaoh will allow just the men to go, holding the women and children hostage to guarantee that the men return.
4. **Ex. 10:12-15** Moses obeys HaShem, reaches out with his staff, and the locust come on the east wind (Ge. 41:6) leaving not one green thing in Egypt.
5. **Ex. 10:16-23** Pharaoh recalls Moses and Aaron, asking forgiveness, and a strong west wind drives the locust into the sea. But HaShem strengthens (*khazaq* – קָזַק) Pharaoh's heart and he doesn't send the people out. Moses reaches out his hand, and the plague of darkness comes for three days. This is a powerful message of impending doom to all of Egypt, for whom the sun was their supreme god. Meanwhile Isra'el has light in their homes.
6. **Ex. 10:24-29** Pharaoh now says that the women and children can go, but not their animals. Moses lays down the all-or-nothing. HaShem again strengthens Pharaoh's heart, who will not send the people away. Pharaoh threatens Moses with death.
7. **Ex. 11:1-3** The tenth and final plague is foretold, with the result that Pharaoh will most certainly send the people out as Moses demanded – completely, one and all (*kalah* – בָּלָה). The children of Israel plunder the Egyptians, who willingly part with their possessions.

Theme

Participation in Deliverance: HaShem tells Moses to “reach out your hand.” (Ex. 10:21) Why? He could have delivered Israel with one plague, or even no plagues. It was the hand of Eve that picked the fruit, exiling man from the garden, and now it is the hand of man that activates the power of HaShem to save. The message has always been: his power, our participation. He told Cain, “sin is crouching at the door; *you* must master it.” But How? What if it begins with reaching out our hand? The first Passover lambs were slain by hands in partnership with HaShem to bring freedom, even as Abraham, by his hand, slaughtered The Ram in place of his firstborn. Surely we cannot redeem ourselves, but we must *engage* and *commit* to partner with HaShem as he has empowered us. Read Psalm 8 - especially vs. 6(5)!

Thought Focus

Hard Heartedness – The state of Pharaoh’s heart appears exactly 20 times. Half of these refer to the attribute of his character (Ex. 7:13, 14, 22, 8:11, 15, 28, 9:7, 34, 35, 13:15), the other half are how HaShem affects his heart (Ex. 4:21, 7:3, 9:12, 10:1, 20, 27, 11:10, 14:4, 8, 17). In the first five plagues, it is Pharaoh himself who controls his heart. After that, it is HaShem who adds weight/strength to what is already there. This biblical pattern shows how Pharaoh’s persistent unresponsiveness to HaShem degenerates into stubbornness and then into an irreversible destiny of doom. This stands in stark contrast to a previous Pharaoh who “knew” Josef, recognizing his God and his gift, elevating him to a position of leadership that saved nations. He also cared for Josef’s family, giving them land, and granting them to leave and bury Jacob in the Promised Land. We will never know what might have happened had this new Pharaoh recognized HaShem through Moses’ and Aaron’s leadership, allowing the children of Israel to go out and serve HaShem. How individuals and nations treat God’s people will always show what is in their hearts.

Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

1. (10:1) Are you, or anyone around you, resisting God’s purpose in and for your life? (2Pe 3:9-10, 2Co 6:1-2, Luk 12:16-21)
2. (10:12) Is God directing you to “stretch out your arm” so that you can see Him stretch out His? (Mar 3:3-5, Eze 20:33-34, Jer 32:16-22, Act 4:23-31)
3. (10:24) Are you serving God with everything you are and have, or have you left something in the enemy’s hand? (Luk 9:62, Deu 6:4-9, Luk 9:57-62)
4. (11:4) God Himself works directly in our lives. Are you responding to both His blessing and His discipline so that you become more like Yeshua? (Heb 12:6-7, Mat 10:29, Mic 2:12-13, Joh 10:14-18)
5. (12:22) Blood on the doorposts was a “sign” to the “Destroyer” (12:13, 23). What sign do you display? (Eze 9:4-6, Rev 13:16-17, Mat 5:14, Jos 2:17-21, Eph 4:30)
6. (12:30) Do you trust that God’s promises are sure? Are you living in a “ready” state for his “midnight” timing? (Isa 64:1-4, Rut 3:8, 1Th 5:2, 2Pe 3:10, Mat 24: 37-40, Mat 24:50, Zec 12:10-11, Hab 2:3-6)
7. (13:2) Yeshua is the firstborn and rightful high priest. Have you found peace through Him? (Num 3:12, 8:16, Rom 8:29-32, Col 1:18, 1Co 15:20, Psa 110:4, Heb 5:4-6, 7:1-10, Joh 14:6)