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GOLDBERG

PARSHA NOTES

BO 5783

Shemos 11:2

דְּבַר־נָא בְּאָזְנֵי הָעָם וְיִשְׁאַלְוּ אִישׁ מֵאֵת רֵעֵהוּ וְאִשָּׁה מֵאֵת רֵעוּתָהּ כְּלִי־כֶסֶף וְכְלִי זָהָב:

Tell the people to borrow, each man from his neighbor and each woman from hers, objects of silver and gold."

*Why does it say רֵעֵהוּ, which can be interpreted as a fellow Jew?
Why does it say נָא, which means please?*

Gra

The Jews were being asked to borrow from one another.

Notes:

Shemos 11:4

וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה כֹּה אָמַר ה' כַּחֲצֹת הַלַּיְלָה אֲנִי יוֹצֵא בְּתוֹךְ מִצְרַיִם:

Moses said, "Thus says the LORD: Toward midnight I will go forth among the Egyptians,

Why does it say כַּחֲצֹת?

Rashi

But our Rabbis took it in this sense and explained it as meaning "about the middle of the night", and they asserted that Moses said כַּחֲצֹת "about midnight", which implies near to it — either just before it or just after it, and he did not say בַּחֲצֹת "at midnight" (as God had bidden him say) because he feared lest Pharaoh's astrologers might make a mistake as regards the time when the slaughter of the firstborn actually took place, thinking that it was a little earlier or later than midnight, and would say, in consequence of this error, "Moses is a liar!"

R. Chaim Dov Altusky

This plague comes after 9 plagues have come! How is there still room for skepticism.

This is human nature: if we can find any way to not bare responsibility, we will do so.

Notes:

Shemos 11:7-8

וּלְכָל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יִחְרֹץ כָּלֵב לְשׁוֹנוֹ לְמַאִישׁ וְעַד-בְּהֵמָה לְמַעַן תִּדְעוּן אֲשֶׁר יַפְלֶה ה' בֵּין מִצְרַיִם וּבֵין יִשְׂרָאֵל: וְיָרְדוּ כָל-עַבְדֵיךָ אֵלַי וְהִשְׁתַּחֲווּ-לִי לֵאמֹר צֵא אֶתָּה וְכָל-הָעָם אֲשֶׁר-בְּרַגְלֶיךָ וְאַחֲרֵי-כֵן אֵצֶא מִמֶּעַם-פְּרָעֹה בְּחֵרֶץ-אָף: {0}

but not a dog shall snarl at any of the Israelites, at man or beast—in order that you may know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. Then all these courtiers of yours shall come down to me and bow low to me, saying, ‘Depart, you and all the people who follow you!’ After that I will depart.” And he left Pharaoh’s presence in hot anger.

What is the significance of the dogs?

Imrei Pinchas

You can read it as saying that the heart (לב) should not be split in two. Do not be duplicitous.

Otzar Peleos HaTorah

Dogs had every reason to bark, but they did not this night.

Dogs like dead bodies, but they didn’t now.

Dogs bark at people at night typically, but not now.

The Chizkuni notes that dogs, especially watchdogs would be barking at midnight, but they did not this night.

What is the reward for the dogs?

Otzar Peleos HaTorah

The Ben Ish Chai says we cannot hit a dog on Pesach.

R. Yehudah HeChasid says not hit a sleeping dog.

Midrash Tehillim said everyone had a dog when they left Egypt.

What can we learn about Moshe?

R. Zeidel Epstein

Moshe was disappointed as he hoped that Pharaoh would repent.

Notes:

Shemos 12:2-3

הַחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה לָכֶם רִאשׁ חֳדָשִׁים רִאשׁוֹן הוּא לָכֶם לַחֲדָשֵׁי הַשָּׁנָה: דַּבְּרוּ אֶל-כָּל-עֵדֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר בְּעָשֶׂר לַחֲדָשׁ הַזֶּה יִקְחוּ לָהֶם אִישׁ שְׂה לְבֵית-אָבֹתָ שְׂה לְבֵיתוֹ:

This month shall mark for you the beginning of the months; it shall be the first of the months of the year for you. Speak to the whole community of Israel and say that on the tenth of this month each of them shall take a lamb to a family, a lamb to a household.

What is the meaning of the first of the month?

Seforno

This is the first mitzvah as controlling our time is a sign of freedom.

R. Chaim Volozhiner

It can be read as **החידוש הזה לכם**. Freshness and renewal are a gift we can use to always renew and redefine ourselves.

What is the meaning of the home in connection to Pesach?

Chizkuni

You can't be sharing leftovers with neighbors when you are in a rush.

Abarbanel

You can't leave the house as it is not safe.

Meshech Chochmah

We emphasize the importance of the family unit.

Our religion is not only for the rabbis and some elite class.

The central place of Judaism is the home.

Notes:
