



Parshas Bo 2020, the next generation

This week's Parsha Perspective is dedicated in honor of Yud Shevat & 70 years of the Lubavitcher Rebbe's leadership.

Our Parsha begins with Moshe, and Aaron warns Pharaoh about the upcoming plague of locusts. After Moshe and Aaron left, Pharaoh's ministers begged him to set the Jewish nation free; they argued that the Egyptian people suffered excessive pain.

Pharaoh then called back Moshe and Aaron and told them he would allow them to serve G-d in the desert; however, they must leave their children behind as collateral. Moshe and Aaron refused his offer, and Pharaoh stubbornly refused to allow the Jewish people to go without prior conditions.

When the plague of locusts and darkness concluded, Pharaoh called Moshe back and offered to let the Jewish nation leave without their animals.

When Moshe refused, Pharaoh sent him away and warned him never to appear in his presence again (10:28) *"You shall no longer see my face, for the day you see my face, you shall die!* The last plague, the passing of all firstborns, began at midnight.

As the death toll rose, Pharaoh, who was a firstborn himself, ran to Moshe and told him to lead the Jewish people out of Egypt immediately.

The Jewish nation gathered their belongings and the Egyptian's valuables and left Egypt midday on the fifteenth of Nissan. G-d then gave the Jewish people several Mitzvahs, including eating **Matzah** on Pesach, recounting this story by the **Seder**, the Mitzvah of **Tefillin**, and the **sacrificing all firstborn** kosher animals.

A question comes to mind: The Mitzvah of recounting the story of the Exodus to your children is repeated three separate times. The first time is in Perek 12 Pasuk 26-27, *“When your children ask you, “What do you mean by this Mitzvah?” You shall say, “It is the Pesach sacrifice to the G-d because He passed over the houses of the Jewish people in Egypt when He afflicted the Egyptians.”*

The second time is in Perek 13 Pasuk 8, *“You shall explain to your child on that day, “It is because of what G-d did for me when I was freed from Egypt.”*

The third and final time is in the same Perek, Pasuk 14, *“When your child asks you, What does this mean?” you shall tell him, “It was with a mighty hand that the G-d brought us out from Egypt, the house of slavery.”* Why does the Torah emphasize this specific Mitzvah three separate times?!

One of the many answers that are given is that Moshe reiterated this specific Mitzvah three times to teach the Jewish nation the value of education.

Since Moshe was a true leader, he focused on his generation's education and the education of the Jewish people for all of time.

Moshe knew that the differentiating factor of the Jewish people would be their constant pursuit of education, as we are known for being people of the book.

Similarly, Ya'akov Avinu, when he heard that his beloved son, Yosef was still alive, he sent his son, Yehuda, to Egypt to create a school wherein his family could study Torah.

Furthermore, Moshe understood that the Jewish nation would retain their faith during difficult times through their belief in G-d. A conviction would be built by studying how G-d freed us from slavery and chose us to be His people from amongst the world nations.

This is why we mention the Exodus from Egypt every day. From the Shema and the six daily remembrances to Kiddush on Friday night, we remind ourselves of G-d's love and compassion for us and hopefully inspire us to yearn and long for His revelation in this physical world.

In our daily life, it is imperative that we understand that we must seek continual advancement in our education, for even the most successful people in the world study and learn constantly.

Whether they attend class or read a book, they strive for consistent growth. Because continued learning opens the mind and allows us to adapt and overcome any obstacles in our path toward success and prosperity.

***“Education is the passport to the future,
for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”***

*Have a meaningful Shabbos,
Rabbi Sholom Yemini*