



**“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ and upon finding a single pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.
Mathew 13:45**

**BO (EXODUS) 10:1 -13:16
'Go'
20th January 2018/ 11th Sh'vat 5778**

Shabbat Shalom Talmadim, and welcome to this week's Parsha Pearl 'BO'.

Key Events:

The last three of the Ten Plagues are visited on Egypt: a swarm of locusts devours all the crops and greenery; darkness envelops the land; and all the firstborn of Egypt are killed.

Establishment of the first Mitzvah; Passover

Egyptians Leave Israel; the exodus begins.

Telling of the story of redemption.

The Parsha begins:

10 Adonai said to Moshe, “Go to Pharaoh, for I have made him and his servants hardhearted, so that I can demonstrate these signs of mine among them, 2 so that you can tell your son and grandson about what I did to Egypt and about my signs that I demonstrated among them, and so that you will all know that I am Adonai.” 3 Moshe and Aharon went in to Pharaoh and said to him, “Here is what Adonai, God of the Hebrews, says: ‘How much longer will you refuse to submit to me? Let my people go, so that they can worship me. 4 Otherwise, if you refuse to let my people go, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory. 5 One won’t be able to see the ground, so completely will the locusts cover it. They will eat anything you still have that escaped the hail, including every tree you have growing in the field. 6 They will fill your houses and those of your servants and of all the Egyptians. It will be like nothing your fathers or their fathers have ever seen since the day they were born until today.’” Then he turned his back and left.

In this week's study I want to look at the subject regarding the hardening of the heart of Pharaoh and also a glimpse into the plagues themselves which I hope will give us food for thought. We have already seen seven of the plagues descend upon Egypt that caused massive devastation in the land but still Pharaoh will not relent in letting the people go.

Pharaoh's heart condition remains right until the end of the plagues. We are told throughout out this story that it was YHVH himself that hardened Pharaoh's heart.

This gives us a conundrum.

YHVH has chosen to be directly involved throughout the whole of this affair. He does not allow things to take their course but is the orchestrator of every event including the hardening of Pharaoh's heart.

Why did not YHVH just let the plagues fall and see what the outcome would be? Maybe there may have been some revelation or enlightenment to Pharaoh regarding who this God of Moses was.

The answer is simple; YHVH already knew the outcome because of the already established nature of Pharaoh's heart. He used that condition against himself. Those same conditions are highlighted in Romans 1&2 regarding the judgement of YHVH.

1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

2:5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. 6 God "will repay each person according to what they have done." 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honour and immortality, he will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

Also, let us look at these passages in Deut 2:30 Ephesians 4:17

Deut. 2:24-34

24 "Get up, get moving, and cross the Arnon Valley! Here, I have put in your hands Sichon the Emori, king of Heshbon, and his land; commence the conquest, begin the battle! 25 Today I will start putting the fear and dread of you into all the peoples under heaven, so that the mere mention of your name will make them quake and tremble before you.' 26 "I sent envoys from the K'demot Desert to Sichon king of Heshbon with a peaceable message, 27 'Let me pass through your land. I will keep to the road, turning neither right nor left. 28 You will sell me food to eat for money and give me water to drink for money. I only want to pass through. 29 Do as the people of 'Esav living in Se'ir and the Mo'avim living in 'Ar did with me, until I cross the Yarden into the land Adonai our God is giving us.

Deut 2:30 "But Sichon king of Heshbon would not let us pass through his territory, because Adonai your God had hardened his spirit and made him stubborn, so that he could hand him over to you, as is the case today. (vi) 31 Adonai said to me, 'See, I have begun handing over Sichon and his territory before you; start taking possession of his land.' 32 Then Sichon came out against us, he and all his people, to fight at Yahatz; 33 and Adonai our God handed him over to us, so that we defeated him, his sons and all his

people. 34 At that time we captured all his cities and completely destroyed every city — men, women, little ones — we left none of them.

In this case we see that Israel must pass through the land of the Amorites as part of their wilderness journey. YHVH changes the circumstances and the prevailing outcome is that Israel defeats the King Sichon.

Ephesians 4:17

17 So this I say, and solemnly affirm together with the Lord [as in His presence], that you must no longer live as the [unbelieving] Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds [and in the foolishness and emptiness of their souls],AMP

The word used for hardened is 'Qashah' Strongs 7185 became stubborn, cruel, defied, hard, hard thing, hard-pressed, harden, hardened, hardens, harsher, made our hard, seem hard, severe, stiffen, stiffened, stubborn, suffered severe.

In this context, it tells us that those who do not walk with or who are alienated from YHVH have their understanding darkened. Their focus is upon themselves and do not have the ability to have sympathy with others. In Pharaoh's mind, he only cared about himself. Despite seeing his people dying because of the plagues he refused to accept the power of YHVH over his own.

But behind the scenes, something a little more sublime is happening. How is YHVH dealing with Moses? Moses is now being called specifically as a prophet to declare judgement on the nation. How is he going to react to this new commission and how will he act when faced with Pharaoh himself? The judgements that are declared and Moses role are equally as important.

let us look now at what YHVH is doing here.

Pharaoh is complicit with the will of YHVH because he has been placed in a condition where the prophecy or the commands given to him by Moses are being treated lightly. He is almost taunting YHVH saying "Come on then! Show me what you've got".

Despite already witnessing the first seven judgements his resolve is to contend with the God of Israel. Now remember that to the Egyptians, Pharaoh is a god. In his position, he cannot be seen to be weaker than this newly emerging deity that Moses once an Egyptian prince now believes in. Is Pharaoh also contending with the emissary and God?

On the surface it seems this:

YHVH is going to judge Egypt because of the oppression Egypt put upon the Israelites.

He also needed a condition to occur – Pharaoh's hardheartedness.

In other words, YHVH needs the reason and I ask this with a question: does YHVH need a reason and is Pharaoh the one to blame?

Is there, in fact, a game being played here between the power in this world and power of the creator of the world? Most certainly yes!

On a number of occasions, Pharaoh had already promised to let the Israelites go but changed his mind because of the hardness of his heart. Despite the show of YHVH's power he still refuses to acknowledge it. One plague and one warning were not enough. Even Seven Plagues and seven warnings were not enough. On each occasion, Pharaoh has reneged on his promise to let the people go.

One of his solutions is in some way to compromise the deal. He agrees to a degree by stipulating that only the men be allowed to leave V11. In leaving the women and children behind the plan is to see the demise of the population. With the authority of the men and the leaders no longer active among the community Pharaoh can now begin to change the spirit of the youth among the remaining people and make the women believe that they now have freedom among the society.

In reflection, we can see that today that same spirit is aggressively at work. The spirit in this world is changing the hearts of the young and policies within the UN and UNESCO are gathering pace. Policies have been written to be implemented to indoctrinate the human from the earliest age possible. Implementation of these policies affects us all because the young are being educated to believe in the ethos of inclusion. Nothing and no one is out of bounds. The sexual gender revolution is resolved to change thought patterns in orientation and persuasion. Fundamentally what the word of God says cannot be adhered to and anyone who believes or propagates it cannot be tolerated in a modern society. In essence, YHVH's word and the teachings of the bible do not count any longer. Within the policies of the UN, we also see the push to empower women. We are seeing issues now being raised by women's groups to raise women's issues of sexuality, leadership, and feminism. So, if we return to Pharaoh's plan of eradicating the men among Israel society that is what ultimately will happen. I'll leave the link to the policies below. Maybe you can discuss this.

Was Pharaoh a pawn and was he being used to show the power of YHVH to the whole of Egypt and specifically Israel?

What I have pointed out is of course only the surface of this conundrum. Going a little deeper raises more problems. One is the issue of free will and choice, another is of repentance and another is the loss of the opportunity to repent.

The issue is complex and there seem to be several areas of thought. But will understanding the issue bring us to a conclusion?

The issue of choice and free will brings us to a point of decision; is Pharaoh going to relent and go along with the request from YHVH? Will he after seeing the destruction of Egypt and the death of so many realise his condition and ask what he must do stop the destruction or has YHVH prevented Pharaoh from repenting anyway so that the full force of YHVH's wrath can be dispensed?

It seems that the hardening of one's heart transpires when the person through choice and free will does not accept the unique and divine sovereignty of YHVH Elohim.

YHVH, therefore, turns over the depraved to themselves and the sin within takes over and is used as the agent of judgement. Romans 1:24

YHVH, fundamentally, is turning evil upon itself. He already knew that Pharaoh would not let the people go without a fight.

Exodus 3:19 I know that the king of Egypt will not let you leave unless he is forced to do so. 20 But I will reach out my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders that I will do there. After that, he will let you go.

We do know that YHVH causes destruction and calamity but these agents are used to draw our attention.

Isaiah 45:7

The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these.

Amos 3:6

If a trumpet is blown in a city will not the people tremble? If a calamity occurs in a city has not the LORD done it?

Psalms 34:21

Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

The Hebrews would soon be setting off on a journey where they will be witness to more of the divine hand of YHVH at work. Despite seeing all of this in Egypt they themselves were to take some convincing.

From Moses position, we see a man who is also contending with a number of issues. He does not have confidence in completing the task and having once grown up in the royal courts of Egypt he understands the power of Pharaoh clearly. How would he contend with the fallout and the evil that would unfold? How can it be that men would play with the divine judgement of the supreme God of all heaven? Could Pharaoh and Egypt hold out?

The situation as I have said raises a number questions. Could there have been another way? Maybe you can discuss this.

However, we know that in the end times as throughout human history men have contended with YHVH and remain unconvinced and rebellious to divine intervention.

They have rejected him.

YHVH calls these people 'incorrigibles'. In theology, the doctrine of doubt is at work. It says that no matter what evidence is put in front of someone if that person is so disposed (incorrigible) they will never believe it.

The Oxford dictionary defines one as thus:

incorrigible, Not corrigible; incapable of being corrected or amended; bad beyond correction; irreclaimable; as, incorrigible error. Dryden. [1913 Webster]
incorrigible, n.

One who is incorrigible; a person whose persistent bad behaviour cannot be changed; especially, a hardened criminal; as the perpetual imprisonment of incorrigibles; incorrigible and disruptive children need to be placed in a separate classroom. [1913 Webster]

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 King James Version (KJV)

18 If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: 19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; 20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. 21 And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

Proverbs 29 Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)

29 He who remains stiffnecked after much rebuke will be suddenly and incurably broken.

Friends, we are all part of a great war. It's incomprehensible and unfathomable to us. Of course, we can be audacious enough to think that we could have thought of another way, but we are not YHVH and neither should we presume to understand His ways or thoughts. He is the Potter and a Sovereign one at that. Who are we to presume and argue with Him?

Look at YHVH's rebuke of Job;

Job 38 Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)

38 Then Adonai answered Iyov out of the storm:

2 "Who is this, darkening my plans with his ignorant words?

3 Stand up like a man, and brace yourself; I will ask questions; and you, give the answers!

4 "Where were you when I founded the earth? Tell me, if you know so much.

5 Do you know who determined its dimensions or who stretched the measuring line across it?

6 On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone,

7 when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

In these passages, we are once again introduced to the incorrigible spirit.

"Then I saw the beast gathering the kings of the earth and their armies in order to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army." Revelation 19:19 (NLT)

and

"Why do the nations rage? Why do the people waste their time with futile plans? The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the Lord and against His Anointed One. 'Let us break their chains,' they cry. 'And free ourselves from this slavery.' But the one who rules in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them." Psalm 2:1-4

Notice these are ones who raise their hands and conspire against YHVH. That's why the battle is His.

But in the last days, mankind will display unprecedented hostility toward God.

" 3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way.

For the Day will not come until after the Apostasy has come and the man who separates himself from Torah has been revealed, the one destined for doom. 4 He will oppose himself to everything that people call a god or make an object of worship; he will put himself above them all, so that he will sit in the Temple of God and proclaim that he himself is God 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 CJB

A great deception.

11 This is why God is causing them to go astray, so that they will believe the Lie. 12 The result will be that all who have not believed the truth, but have taken their pleasure in wickedness, will be condemned.2 Thessalonians 2:11 CJB

Friends, today, many hearts are being hardened against YHVH but that is what the word says. Don't be disturbed or perplexed by it. There is a great evil at work and it is unfolding in the world. Our constant prayer must be for those who will believe and the mercy of YHVH on those that don't. It is all in his hands.

God's Sovereign Choice

Romans 9:14What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Absolutely not! 15For He says to Moses: "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." 16So then, it does not depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy...

Exodus 33:19

And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you, and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.

Before I leave it is worth considering this. Israel went into slavery because of their heart condition toward the God of Israel. YHVH allowed that sin to rise for 430 years before He acted toward their rescue. Pharaoh suffered and the people of Egypt suffered and even though Israel was still in sin YHVH sought to save them. Maybe also that those in the mixed

multitude could see the might of our great God and were allowed to see their own wickedness and repent?

The plagues are often considered the act of YHVH against the gods of Egypt. It is true that among the deities of the ancient Egyptians, animal gods played a great part in their belief system.

The goddess Heqet, for instance, was a frog, and the wife of the great god Khnum. She was the symbol of resurrection and the emblem of fertility and assisted in childbirth. Heqet was one of the four primeval gods who personified the primeval water, infinity, darkness, and that which is hidden. At that time nothing evil existed and everywhere abundance reigned.

The Fly is the manifestation of the god Uatchit. Many other insects may have been revered in the same way. It is also known that the fly, in Egyptian mythology, gave protection against disease or misfortune and stone amulets in the form of flies were being made in Egypt as early as 3500 BC

The death of domestic animals and cattle occurred in the fifth plague: Hathor—the goddess of love, beauty, and joy—was represented by a cow, and was often depicted as a cow suckling the Pharaoh. In addition, this plague would have been a direct insult to Khnum, the ram-god, and to Bast, the cat goddess of love.

Mnevis, a sacred bull, was also worshiped and was associated with the god Ra.

Plague Seven: Hail and Fire (9:13-35)

Since this event originated from the sky, it would have been seen as an attack against Nut, the sky goddess.

Nut was also considered by the Egyptians to be the mother of five other gods: Osiris, Hathor, Set, Isis, and Nephthys.

Other gods were Shu, the wind god, and Horus, the hawk-headed sky god of Upper Egypt. The plague would have also been directed towards those gods who protected the crops, such as Isis and Seth.

Imagine the effects of giant hailstones raining down. Considerable damage must have been done to buildings and monuments.

Other god's include:

Khepri and Benhu (Sun gods or creation or rebirth – associated this with the period of darkness. He was seen as an aspect of Ra and was depicted as a scarab beetle.

Kek - The God of Chaos and Darkness, as well as being the concept of primordial darkness

Hatmehit – Fish god & Sobek the Crocodile god – associate these with the Nile turning to blood.

Neper – god of grain – associate this with the plague of locust.

Serqet - is the goddess of fertility, nature, animals, medicine, magic, and healing venomous stings and bite – associate this the plague of boils.

Werethekau – serpent or lion personification who protected the king

There are countless deities but how were the Egyptians to reconcile that none of them could protect them against the Israelite God who made Himself known to Pharaoh as

'I AM'?

As we look closer into the events that have just transpired we can see that a pattern will emerge. In times to come, we will once again see the deliverance or extraction of Israel from the world system. Prior to the time of this second exodus, we will witness a period of unprecedented events. The time of Jacobs's trouble in Mathew 24 tells us about such a time and we can also see a reflection of the plagues that will be released upon the earth at the opening of the seals and the blowing of the trumpets in Revelation 8 and 9.

As in the day of the first exodus, we find that YHVH will save His people. In those days when all will seem too much to bear, we must put our trust and belief in Him like never before. When all seems impossible He will make a way.

When will that time be? When we look at the plagues we can see that the devastation destroyed the economy and infrastructure of a great nation. One that Israel helped to build. We are told that the return of our Messiah will come at such a time. Yeshua calls it the 'day of Lot.'

Luke 17:28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

Is there indeed a clue to the time within YHVH's calendar for all this to occur?

Well, remember the Israelites left at the time of Passover and furthermore, a little study into agricultural practices in ancient Egypt shows that it occurred after the flood season of the Nile which meant harvest took place during March-May which is the time when Passover occurs.

We are told that the thunder and hail event Ex 9:13-35 destroyed much of the landscape and that the plague of locust would consume what was left. This points to an agricultural season. As a ministry, we have spoken on the second or greater exodus for some time now, and we believe that when we study the pattern the signs for the times are quite apparent. YHVH has set times and seasons for all things. We must not be ignorant of them but prepare by watching and praying and making ourselves ready.

Before I finish I would also like to present another side to the conflict we find in this narrative. We can conclude on one hand that YHVH attacked every major belief system of the Egyptians. Their hierarchy of gods was shot to pieces at and every authority raised against YHVH did not stand. We will see this happen again and it's something we need to pray for. But there is also another side which some scholars see. It is this: during the time of their exile Israel caused their captors to prosper. They built the economy and established structures within society that helped increase wealth and growth. Many prospered themselves. YHVH had nothing against this. It was their blessing. But what we might also see within the judgement upon Egypt is that YHVH destroyed all that the Israelites had built before they left, in fact, it even says that the Israelites took silver and gold with them. They did not leave the land poor. Egypt was to be left desolate. YHVH would not allow the Egyptians to benefit from the 430 years of Israel's captivity.

I hope in this study that I have given you a little to think about. When the time comes to move we can be assured that YHVH will provide and shelter His people. YHVH is preparing the hearts of His people to receive the command to 'Go'. Where to? To the Land He has already prepared, of course!

Haftarah BO: Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 46:13-28
B'rit Hadashah suggested readings for Parsha 'Bo': Luke 22-24 John 19:31-37
Revelation 8:6-9:12; 16:1-21

Until next time.

Shabbat Shalom

Grant Marshall: Co-founder Arrows of Ephrayim Ministries.

Links: you can follow the stream through these links

<https://www.thenewamerican.com/culture/faith-and-morals/item/25742-un-pushing-homosexuality-gender-confusion-on-children>

<http://freedomproject.com/the-newman-report/473-study-more-than-25-of-california-kids-are-gender-nonconforming>

<http://freedomproject.com/the-newman-report/465-students-banned-from-opt-out-of-lgbt-education>

Midrash: In Judaism, the **Midrash** is the genre of rabbinic literature which contains early interpretations and commentaries on the Written Torah and Oral Torah (spoken law and sermons), as well as non-legalistic rabbinic literature (*Aggadah*) and occasionally the Jewish religious laws (*halakha*), which usually form a running commentary on specific passages in the Hebrew Scripture (*Tanakh*)

Targum: **Targum Onkelos** (or **Onqelos**), is the official eastern (Babylonian) Targum (Aramaic translation) to the Torah. However, its early origins may have been western, in Israel. Its authorship is attributed to Onkelos, a famous convert to Judaism in Tannaic times (c. 35–120 CE)

Targum Jonathan: **Targum Jonathan**, otherwise referred to as **Targum Yonasan/Yonatan**, is the official eastern (Babylonian) Targum to the Nevi'im/Prophets. Its early origins, however, are western (i.e. from the Land of Israel), and the Talmudic tradition attributes its authorship to Jonathan ben Uzziel of Jerusalem in the time of King Herod

Tannaim: Tannaim were the Rabbinic sages whose views are recorded in the Mishnah, from approximately 10-220 CE. The period of the Tannaim, also referred to as the Mishnaic period, lasted about 210 years.

Talmud: The **Talmud** means "instruction, learning", "teach, study") is a central text of Rabbinic Judaism. The term "Talmud" normally refers to the collection of writings named specifically the **Babylonian Talmud** (*Talmud Bavli*), although there is also an earlier collection known as the Jerusalem Talmud (*Talmud Yerushalmi*) or Palestinian

Jubilees: The Book of Jubilees claims to present "the history of the division of the days of the Law, of the events of the years, the year-weeks, and the jubilees of the world" as revealed to Moses (in addition to the Torah or "Instruction") by angels while he was on Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights. The chronology given in Jubilees is based on multiples of seven; the jubilees are periods of 49 years, seven "year-weeks", into which all of time has been divided

Vulgate: This is the Latin Bible. Translated from the Hebrew and Aramaic by Jerome between 382 and 405 CE, this text became known as the 'versio vulgata', which means 'common translation'.