

R. EFREM

GOLDBERG

PARSHA NOTES

YISRO 5783

Shemos 18:10-12

וַיֹּאמֶר יִתְרוֹ בְרוּךְ ה' אֲשֶׁר הִצִּיל אֶתְכֶם מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם וּמִיַּד פַּרְעֹה אֲשֶׁר הִצִּיל אֶת־הָעָם מִתַּחַת יַד־מִצְרַיִם:
עַתָּה יִדְעֵתִי כִי־גָדוֹל ה' מִכָּל־הָאֱלֹהִים כִּי בִדְבַר אֲשֶׁר זָדוּ עֲלֵיהֶם:
וַיִּשָּׁח יִתְרוֹ חֲתָן מֹשֶׁה עִלָּה וּזְבָחִים לָאֱלֹהִים וַיָּבֵא אֶהָרֶן וְכָל זִקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֶאֱכֹל־לֶחֶם עִם־חֲתָן מֹשֶׁה לִפְנֵי הָאֵל:

“Blessed be the LORD,” Jethro said, “who delivered you from the Egyptians and from Pharaoh, and who delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods, yes, by the result of their very schemes against [the people].” And Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices for God; and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to partake of the meal before God with Moses’ father-in-law.

What can we learn from Yisro's blessing?

Tiferes Shlomo

Yisro was the first one who said thank you to Hashem for the good which was done for someone else.

Beis Yisrael

Yisro should have been happy for himself since he was saved, since he was (according to the Midrash) an advisor of Pharaoh.

Who was in Moshe's entourage?

Otzar Peleos HaTorah

Maybe he even brought out a sefer torah.

One source teaches us that one can bring out a torah to greet a non-Jewish leader, even a priest.

What was the food for?

Otzar Peleos HaTorah

The Ramban says it is for Yisro's bris.

The Chasam Sofer asks: where is the shalom zachor?

Some have a custom to have Seudas Yisro on the Thursday of this week's parsha.

- 1) to commemorate this meal
 - 2) to commemorate Maamad Har Sinai
 - 3) to remember a pandemic in Tunisia
-
-

Shemos 18:17

וַיֹּאמֶר חִתָּן מֹשֶׁה אֵלָיו לֹא־טוֹב הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה עוֹשֶׂה:

But Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing you are doing is not right;

What can we learn from Yisro's words to Moshe?

R. Moshe Sternbuch

One of Yisro's names is Yeser, as a parsha is added due to Yisro's words.

Yisro's words which are highlighted ('You shall also seek out from among all the people capable men who fear God'), as Rashi notes, are his solution. Everyone can point out a problem. He provided a solution.

Shemos 19:4–6

אַתֶּם רְאִיתֶם אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי לְמִצְרַיִם וְאֲשָׂא אֶתְכֶם עַל־כַּנְּפֵי נְשָׁרִים וְאָבֵא אֶתְכֶם אֵלָי: וְעַתָּה אִם־שָׁמוֹעַ תִּשְׁמְעוּ בְּקוֹלִי וְשָׁמַרְתֶּם אֶת־בְּרִיתִי וְהִיְתֶם לִי סִגְלָה מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים כִּי־לִי כָל־הָאָרֶץ: וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיוּ־לִי מִמְּלֶכֶת כֹּהֲנִים וְגוֹי קָדוֹשׁ אֵלֶּה הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר תִּדְבֹּר אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Me. Now then, if you will obey Me faithfully and keep My covenant, you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples. Indeed, all the earth is Mine, but you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel."

Why does this metaphor mean?

Rashi

UPON EAGLES' WINGS — as an eagle which bears its fledglings upon its wings. Scripture uses this metaphor because all other birds place their young between their feet since they are afraid of another bird that flies above them, but the eagle fears none except man — apprehending that perhaps he may cast an arrow at it — since no bird can fly above it.

Targum Yonasan

We will be transported with miraculous speed to Yerushalayim.

R. Shaul Alter

According to the Yerushalmi, Alexander the Great saw the whole earth when he traveled to space on an Eagle. He thought the world was nothing and insignificant. We should look at this world and be amazed. We should realize that Hashem is in charge.

Shemos 19:10

וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵךְ אֶל-הָעָם וְקִדְשָׁתֶם הַיּוֹם וּמָחָר וּכְבִּסוּ שִׁמְלֹתֵיכֶם:

and the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and warn them to stay pure today and tomorrow. Let them wash their clothes.

What is holiness?

R. Soloveitchik

There is no holiness without preparation. You need to prepare, as Onkelos translates this verse.

Shemos 19:16

וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי בִּהְיוֹת הַבֹּקֶר וַיְהִי קוֹלֵת וּבְרָקִים וַעֲגֹן כְּבֹד עַל-הַהָר וְקוֹל שֹׁפָר חֲזָק מְאֹד וַיִּחַרַד כָּל-הָעָם אֲשֶׁר בַּמַּחֲנֶה:

On the third day, as morning dawned, there was thunder, and lightning, and a dense cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud blast of the horn; and all the people who were in the camp trembled.

What were the sounds?

Otzar Peleos HaTorah

When the Baal Shem Tov taught, the sounds of Har Sinai could be heard.

How long did Har Sinai last for?

Rabbenu Bahye

It lasted for a year.