



*It has been told to you, what is good, and what Adonai requires of you
Only to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)*

Exodus 6 שמות 6

- 2** God spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am the Eternal.
ב וַיְדַבֵּר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲנִי יְהוָה:
- 3** I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as El Shaddai, but I did not make Myself known to them by My name.
ג וַאֲרָא אֶל־אַבְרָהָם אֶל־יִצְחָק וְאֶל־יַעֲקֹב בְּאֵל שַׁדַּי וְשְׁמִי יְהוָה לֹא נִודַעְתִּי לָהֶם יְהוָה:
- 4** I also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners.
ד וְגַם הִקְמַתִּי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי אִתָּם לָתֵת לָהֶם אֶת־אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן אֶת אֶרֶץ מְגֻרֵיהֶם אֲשֶׁר־גָּרוּ בָּהּ:
- 5** I have now heard the moaning of the Israelites because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant.
ה וְגַם אֲנִי שָׁמַעְתִּי אֶת־נַאֲקַת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר מִצְרַיִם מַעֲבֹדִים אִתָּם וְאָזְכֹּר אֶת־בְּרִיתִי:
- 6** Say, therefore, to the Israelite people: I am the Eternal. I will free you from the labors of the Egyptians and deliver you from their bondage. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and through extraordinary chastisements.
ו לָכֵן אָמַר לְבְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲנִי יְהוָה וְהוֹצֵאתִי אֶתְכֶם מִתַּחַת סִבְלַת מִצְרַיִם וְהִצַּלְתִּי אֶתְכֶם מִעַבְדֹתָם וְגִאֲלְתִּי אֶתְכֶם בְּזְרוּעַ נְטוּיָה וּבְשִׁפְטִים גְּדֹלִים:
- 7** And I will take you to be My people, and I will be your God. And you shall know that I, the Eternal, am your God who freed you from the labors of the Egyptians.
ז וְלָקַחְתִּי אֶתְכֶם לִי לְעָם וְהָיִיתִי לָכֶם לֵאלֹהִים וַיְדַעְתֶּם כִּי אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הַמּוֹצִיא אֶתְכֶם מִתַּחַת סִבְלֹת מִצְרַיִם:
- 8** I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession, I the Eternal.”
ח וְהִבֵּאתִי אֶתְכֶם אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁאַתִּי אֶת־יְדֵי לָתֵת אֹתָהּ לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק וְלַיַּעֲקֹב וְנָתַתִּי אֹתָהּ לָכֶם מוֹרְשָׁה אֲנִי יְהוָה:
- 9** But when Moses told this to the Israelites, they would not listen to Moses, their spirits crushed by cruel bondage.
ט וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה בֶּן אֶלְפִנֵּי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלֹא שָׁמְעוּ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה מִקְצָר רוּחַ וּמִעֲבֹדָה קָשָׁה:

Haftarah for Va'era: Job 38:1-21

In parashat Va'era, Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh and ask that he free the Israelites. Pharaoh says no, and we read in the Torah multiple times that God hardens Pharaoh's heart. To the modern reader, this is confusing: why would God participate in the story in such a way that will bring harm not only to Pharaoh but to so many Egyptians? Of course, many adult Egyptians participate actively in oppressing the Israelites. But the harm brought upon them by the plagues affects them all, including innocent children. How do we understand God's role in this story?

The Biblical text Job offers one answer. Job, despite commitment to worshipping God and to performing mitzvot, falls ill, loses his children, and loses many of his animals. He demands a day in court with God, convinced that he has done nothing wrong. In chapter 38, God finally responds. To be clear, God is not sympathetic. Rather, this poetry invites us out of ourselves, and reminds us that the world is too vast and fearsome for us to comprehend. Perhaps our task is not to comprehend or make sense of it, but simply to marvel at the beauty and tragedy of it all.

- א 1 Then the Eternal replied to Job out of the tempest and said:
ב מי זה | מחשיף עצה במליון בלידעת:
ג אָזְרָנָא כְּגִבֹר חֲלָצִיף וְאַשְׁאֲלֶךָ וְהוֹדִיעַנִי:
ד אֵיפֹה הָיִיתָ בְּיַסְדֵי אֲרֶזְחָה הֲגִד אִם יִדְעֶתָ בְּיָנָה:
ה מִי־שָׂם מְמֵדֶיהָ כִּי תִדַּע אֹז מִי־נָטָה עָלֶיהָ קוֹ:
ו עַל־מָה אֲדַנְיָהּ הִטְבַּעוּ אֹז מִי־צָרָה אָבֹן פְּנִתָהּ:
ז בְּרוֹחַ־חַד כְּוֹכְבֵי בֹקֶר וְיָרִיעוּ כָּל־בְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים:
ח וַיִּסָּף בְּדִלְתַיִם יָם בְּגִיחוֹ מִרְחֹם יָצָא:
ט בְּשׂוּמֵי עֵנָן לְבָשׂוּ וְעֶרְפָּל חֲתָלְתָנוּ:
י וְאַשְׁבַּר עָלָיו חֲקֵי וְאַשְׁמִים בְּרִיחַ וּדְלָתַיִם:
יא וְאָמַר עַד־פֹּה תָבֹוא וְלֹא תִסְיֹף וּפֹאֲזִשִׁית בְּגֹאוֹן גְּלִיף:
יב הֲמִמְּיָף צִנִּיתָ בֹקֶר יִדְעֶתָ הַשְּׁחַר מִקְמוֹ:

- יג** לָאָחוּז בְּכַנְפוֹת הָאָרֶץ וַיִּנְעָרוּ רַשָׁעִים מִמֶּנָּה: **13** So that it seizes the corners of the earth and shakes the wicked out of it?
- יד** תִּתְהַפֵּף כְּחֹמֶר חוֹתָם וַיִּתְיַצְּבוּ כְּמוֹ לְבוּשׁ: **14** It changes like clay under the seal till [its hues] are fixed like those of a garment.
- טו** וַיִּמְנַע מִרְשָׁעִים אוֹרָם וַיִּזְרַע רָמָה תִּשְׁבֵּר: **15** Their light is withheld from the wicked, and the upraised arm is broken.
- טז** הֲבָאתָ עַד־נְבְכִיִּים וּבַחֲקֹר תִּהְיוֹם הַתְּהַלְכָתָּ: **16** Have you penetrated to the sources of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep?
- יז** הֲנִגְלוּ לָךְ שַׁעֲרֵי־מָוֶת וְשַׁעֲרֵי צְלָמוֹת תִּרְאֶה: **17** Have the gates of death been disclosed to you? Have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
- יח** הֲתִבְנִינָתָּ עַד־רְחִיבֵי־אָרֶץ הֲגִיד אִם־יָדַעְתָּ כְּלָהּ: **18** Have you surveyed the expanses of the earth? If you know of these—tell me.
- יט** אֵיזָה הַדֶּרֶךְ? יִשְׁכַּרְאֹר וְחֹשֶׁךְ אֵיזָה מְקוֹמוֹ: **19** Which path leads to where light dwells, and where is the place of darkness,
- כ** כִּי תִקְחֶנּוּ אֶל־גְּבוּלוֹ וְכִי־תָבִין נְתִיבוֹת בֵּיתוֹ: **20** That you may take it to its domain and know the way to its home?
- כא** יָדַעְתָּ כִּי־אַזְּ תִגְלֹד וּמִסְפַּר יָמֶיךָ רַבִּים: **21** Surely you know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is many!

Refuah Shleimah

Emily Alpern-Fisch, Alan Appel, Ronni Behar, Ira Berlin, Daniel Booth, Michael Brenner, Ellen Buckley, Judith Chisholm, Barbara Cleveland, Netanel Felber, Chelo Fournier, Golda bat Yaakova uVelvel, Richard Greenfield, Ezra Mac Grossman, David Hahn, Andrea Hamos, Judy Hurvitz, Jennifer Jaye, Josh Ketroser, Joan Kupferberg, Wasu Lawal, Philip Levine, Stu Levine, Sam Levinson, Ken Liberstein, Dan Lutenegger, Mitch Karas, Mildred Marin, Pam Marks, Stephanie Mendez, Sophie Meyers, Lynda Mulhauser, Robin Parry, Rachel bat Chava, Rivkah Emet Miriam bat Daniel v'Taejin, Lois Rosen, Eric Rosenberg, Rabbi Steve Sager, Sarah Golde bat Shifrah, David Scheever, Charles Schussheim, Cynthia Seymour, Sam Sinkler, Sarah Swatzburg, Betty Ustun, Heather Weisman, Mimi Wolf, Ze'ev Chaim ben Golda v'Brian

We Remember a Few of Far Too Many Lives Lost to COVID-19

Yanti Hadinoto, “spent her life serving her community through food,” Jakarta, Indonesia
William Zev Good, 96, Holocaust survivor, doctor, aspiring cowboy, Pasadena, California
Ronaldo Sitjar, 50, restaurateur, immigrant, and grandparent, Norfolk, Virginia

We Remember Those Lost to Violence in Washington, DC

Kevin Mayberry, 19, SE DC; Marcus Thomas, 37, SE DC;
Dion Thompson-Moore, 43, no fixed address; Parris Thurman, 24, NE DC;
Russell Williams, 28, SE DC

Shloshim

Bill Stephens, husband of Barbara Stephens; Hartley Zamore, father of Joanne Zamore

Yahrzeit

Gary Arthur, Celia Berman, Genie Blechman, Adolph Braude, Eugene Cogan, Stephanie Cohen,
Lee Cron, Mina Green Duncan, Sol Friedman, Jeanette Gilberg, Carol Rockower Goldstein,
Sam Gordon, Myron Grusin, Erich Heydt, Charles Koppelman, Rae Rosenstein Lasner,
Pearl Lazar, Leah Lazere, Julius Lessman, Richard Levi, Edna Levine, Eva Maier,
Eileen Morgan, Ethel Morgenstein, Bernie Myers, Cynthia Powell, Manuel Roda,
Judy Rosenblatt, Manya Russakoff, Marion Koenig Salkind, Jerome B. Sewell,
Lorraine Berner Sher, Margaret Siebel, Elson Spangler, Judith Sweet, Walter Tritell,
Semih Ustun, David H. White, Ruth Wolf

Temple Micah acknowledges our synagogue stands on the traditional territory of the Piscataway and Nacotchtank (Anacostan) peoples. We pay respect to their elders past and present and recognize their stewardship of this land and the vital contribution of indigenous peoples to this nation we share.

DANIEL G. ZEMEL, Rabbi

JOSHUA BERAHA, Associate Rabbi | **STEPHANIE CRAWLEY**, Associate Rabbi

BETH WERLIN, Executive Director | **DEBRA WINTER**, Director of Spiritual Arts

SHARON TASH, Education Director

2829 Wisconsin Ave., NW Washington, DC 20007 | (202) 342-9175 | www.templemicah.org