

Ideas from the Rav's shiur from jail.

This is not a direct translation; rather various ideas mentioned in the Rav's shiur

[The last plague against the Egyptians was the plague of the firstborn; every Egyptian firstborn died.] The verse says; "To the One who strikes Egypt's firstborn (Psalms)." [Rashi] explains that "their firstborns" is in plural tense. This teaches us that there were Egyptians with more than one firstborn in their family. How is this possible? Rather, there were ten types of firstborns; a captured firstborn, a firstborn of an animal, a firstborn of a foreign country, a firstborn who was born between the first and last night of Peisach, the oldest child in the household If there was no firstborn etc.

[Rashi suggests a different explanation as to why "firstborns" is in plural tense. The Egyptian women would have relations with many men. If the men they had relations with did not previously have a firstborn, it is possible for one woman to give birth to multiple firstborns. There could therefore be multiple firstborns in one household.] It was possible for the young children of an Egyptian household to die as well. One could ask; why is he at fault; he's not a firstborn?! Rather, If an Egyptian woman were to begin sinning and have relations with various men from the age of ten, by the time she would be ninety years old, she could potentially give birth to eighty firstborns if she were to give birth every year. [Yocheved and Miriam told Pharaoh that] "The Jewish women are not like the Egyptians." [Simply this means that Yocheved and Miriam told Pharaoh that they are unable to kill the Jewish male newborns because Jewish women give birth without the use of a midwife. However, the Rav explains an alternative explanation. The Jewish hardly had firstborns; in contrast to the Egyptians where there's not problem; who may have twenty, thirty, or forty firstborns; it all depends on her alacrity. The Jewish women hardly had firstborns; I asked [one of them] why do you not have a firstborn?! She didn't give me a [sufficient] answer until today. She said; what can I do, I don't have a firstborn; I didn't have the merit to a firstborn. All of the idols of the firstborn melted.

Even females died; during the plague of the firstborn, girls died as well. Only Basya, the daughter of Pharaoh didn't die even though she was a firstborn. The actual plague of the firstborns was divided into ten categories [as explained earlier]. On Shabbos Hagadol, (the Shabbos before Peisach), on the tenth of Nissan, all of the firstborn died.¹ All of the firstborn who came to Pharaoh's house died. The firstborn went to Pharaoh and told him; enough we have already suffered ten (nine) plagues; death plague, boils, hale, locus, darkness etc.

On the seventh night which was the night of the splitting of the sea, the Clouds of Honor caused another plague of darkness to the Egyptians. In addition, when the Egyptians fired at the Jews, it backfired on them. The Clouds of Honor received the arrows and backfired them at the Egyptians. Similarly, all of the arrows of "the opposers" [people who claim to be Breslover Chasidim who chase and slander the Rav] will be backfired on them. All of their arrows will be backfired against them. Now are all of the miracles of Egypt; all of the explosives that they fire, backfire on them; the Cloud[s of Honor] backfires it].

The Haftorah of Torah Portion Lech Lecha, Yeshaya 42, says "He will make his sword like dirt." [The Rav explains the verse] that dirt will turn into swords. Also in regards to Devorah the Prophetess; there was no shield or sword. Nevertheless, the Jews threw dirt, stones, sand, straw and thatch [at their enemies] and it turned into arrows.

¹ Perhaps, the ten categories of firstborns correspond to the *tenth* of Nissan.

Sisra was capable of knocking down a wall with one blow; he was huge. Sisra was a true Tzadik at the end of the day [being said rhetorically]. He came to Yael so that she will convert him. [also being said rhetorically]. She gave him a ton of milk and he fell asleep, and then she stabbed him with a peg [of her tent]; poor guy. [How does a person not wake up when having a peg stabbed into him?!] It's impossible not to wake up? Rather it was a miracle; had he woken up, in one second it would have been over [He would have killed Yael].

Rabbi Levi Yitzchak, the father of Rabbi Menachem Mendel [the Lubavitcher Rebbe] writes that it [Sisra's downfall] was on Rosh Hashanah [if I heard correctly]. However, the verse says regarding Yael's killing Sisra that it was "in the middle of the night". The "middle of the night" is the night of the seder. During the Seder night, Haman was hung, Daniel was saved from the lion's den; everything happened on the Seder night.

And Daryavesh as well. Belshazzar drank a thousand barrels of wine and became drunk; so he had to run to the bathroom. There was no bathroom in the palace; in the hall; not like today where you have [a bathroom] in every corner. So, he had to leave [his party to go to the bathroom]. It was impossible to enter the party after it began. He commanded that even if a person claims to be the king; cut off his head! When he tried to return, he told the guard that he's the king; let me in! The guard immediately beheaded him. The Yalkut Shimoni on Megillahs Ester says that they beheaded him. Immediately Daryavesh wore his cloak and sat on his throne. All of the waiters were Persians; the people participating in the party were Kasdim but the waiters were Persians. The person who killed Belshazzar was a Persian; immediately a command was ordered to kill all of the Persians. Vashti [the daughter of Belshazzar] saw that they are killing all of the Persians. So, she thought that it was simply wildness. In every party, one guy kills someone else. In every party there are some people who die. So, she thought it's simply because of drunkenness. So, she ran to her father [who was really Daryavesh]. He [Daryavesh] wore the crown and cloak of [Belshazzar]; so she hid herself beneath his cloak. After killing everyone [present in the party] Daryavesh took her out from the cloak. He sees that she's Belshazzar's daughter. He then married her off to Achashverosh who [if I heard correctly] was also the son of Daryavesh. All of this occurred on the Seder night. Now, we accomplish the most amazing things in the world.

Miriam the Prophetess told her father that you're worse than Pharaoh!² Rather, even if a person comes to this world for an hour, a second, a day [it's worthwhile]. Adam foresaw that David was destined to only live for three hours. It is forbidden to live more than three hours. One who lives more than three hours, oy vay voy to him! So, he decided to donate seventy years to David. He made a contract and a Heavenly Voice was heard. When he reached the age of 930, he regretted his agreement. He said that he wants to live another seventy years! They said, here is your signature! So, a person's entire mission [in this world] is even within four hours. A person even in three hours can flip around the entire world; the entire creation! This is the idea that Purim should really be during Peisach. However, it is impossible to make Purim on Peisach. So, it's done on the fourteenth,

² Pharaoh decreed that every male son born should be thrown into the Nile. Amram, Miriam's father immediately divorced his wife; what's the point of having children who will be immediately killed? The rest of the Jewish Nation followed suit and everyone got divorced. Miriam the Prophetess told her father that your decree is worse than Pharaoh's! Pharaoh only decreed that the male children should be killed. You, on the other hand decreed that also the female children should not come to existence. In addition, Pharaoh only decreed that the male children should die in this world. You, on the other hand decreed for them to die in the World to Come as well. Seemingly, it is difficult to understand; if the male children were to be killed immediately, how could they within this short lifespan merit to the World to Come? The Rav now answers this question.

fifteenth and sixteenth. [Meaning] next year, Purim will be on the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth. Next year is a triple Purim.³

Succos should have been during Peisach. The Clouds of Honor were on the fifteenth of Nissan. Why is Succos celebrated during Tishrei? Rather, it is forbidden to enter the succah with any sin. Only after Yom Kippur that all of our sins have been atoned for is it possible to enter the succah.

³ On special years, Purim in walled city's is celebrated for three days; Friday, Shabbos, and Sunday.