



Carnegie Shul Chatter

January 19, 2022

Shabbat
Shalom

Light candles 5:05pm

Shabbat Services 9:30am

Shabbat Services

The Carnegie Shul continues to offer hybrid Shabbat services. Please join us in the sanctuary, providing you have been vaccinated for Covid 19. Masks are optional. To attend virtually, watch for a Zoom link in your email. If you don't receive it, contact Rosalyn Hoffman at rjlynman@yahoo.com. The complete Torah reading, in Hebrew and English, can be found on line at https://www.chabad.org/parshah/torahreading_cdo/aid/2492610/jewish/Vaera-Torah-Reading.htm

Israel and Egypt

What a strange relationship Israel and the Jewish people have had over the centuries with Egypt.

Joseph went down to Egypt and saved its people from famine. A new pharaoh came into power and did not know the Jews, and the Jews were forced into terrible bondage.

Egypt, at the time of the pharaohs, was a super power, but Egypt defied God and has never been the same.

Egypt became a bitter enemy of Israel, but Israel vanquished Egypt when the nation attacked Israel during the Yom Kippur War in 1973. In 1979, Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty, but the two nations can hardly be called friends. Some refer to the relationship between Israel and Egypt as the "Cold Peace," as opposed to the Cold War, but Egypt, probably based upon its own fear of Hamas, has helped Israel by acting as a diplomatic go-between during periods of heightened tensions between Israel and Gaza.

It's a shame these two neighbors cannot find a way to have a real peace. I'd love to visit Egypt to see the pyramids and the Sphinx, but I doubt that a Jew can go there and truly feel safe. Maybe someday that will change. But until Moshiach comes, I doubt that will happen.

Va'era in a Nutshell

Exodus 6:2–9:35

From Chabad.org

The name of the Parshah, “Va’era,” means “and I appeared” and it is found in Exodus 6:3.

G-d reveals Himself to Moses. Employing the “four expressions of redemption,” take out the Children of Israel from Egypt, deliver them from their enslavement, redeem them, and acquire them as His own chosen people at “Mount Sinai”; He will then bring them to the land He promised to the Patriarchs as their eternal heritage.

Moses and Aaron repeatedly come before Pharaoh to demand in the name of G-d, “Let My people go, so that they may serve Me in the wilderness.”

Pharaoh repeatedly refuses. Aaron’s staff turns into a snake and swallows the magic sticks of the Egyptian sorcerers. G-d then sends a series of plagues upon the Egyptians.

The waters of the Nile turn to blood; swarms of frogs overrun the land; lice infest all men and beasts. Hordes of wild animals invade the cities; a pestilence kills the domestic animals; painful boils afflict the Egyptians. For the seventh plague, fire and ice combine to descend from the skies as a devastating hail. Still, “the heart of Pharaoh was hardened and he would not let the children of Israel go, as G-d had said to Moses.”

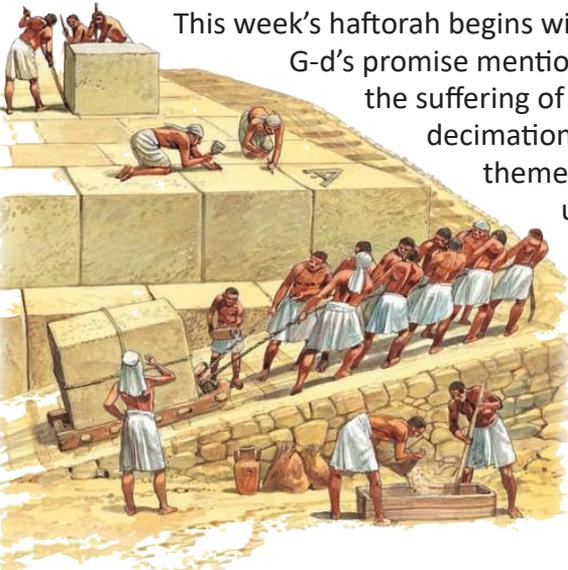


Haftorah in a Nutshell

Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

This week’s haftorah begins with a mention of the ingathering of the exiles, echoing G-d’s promise mentioned in the Torah portion: “I will take you out of the suffering of Egypt.” The prophet then goes on to discuss the decimation of Pharaoh and Egypt, reminiscent of the primary theme of the Torah portion—the devastation G-d wrought upon Egypt.

Ezekiel begins with a description of what will occur during the ingathering of the exiles. “When I gather in the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they have been scattered, and I have been sanctified through them in the eyes of the nations, then shall they dwell on their land that I gave to My servant, to Jacob. And they shall dwell upon it securely...”



The prophet then proceeds to convey a prophecy regarding Pharaoh and Egypt, foretelling the fall of the Egyptian empire. Egypt merited this punishment for two reasons: a) They had reneged on their promise to come to Israel's aid against the attacking Babylonians. b) They had incredible arrogance, considering themselves un-reliant on G-d, instead attributing their success to the bounty their deified Nile afforded them. Therefore, Ezekiel warns: "And the land of Egypt shall be desolate and in ruins, and they shall know that I am the Lord! Because he [Pharaoh] said, 'The river is mine, and I have made it.'" G-d warns that the land of Egypt will be empty and desolate for forty years, after which G-d will return the people to the land to reinhabit it, but it will no longer be an important nation to be reckoned with.

The haftarah ends with another prophecy wherein G-d informs Ezekiel that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, will be the one to conquer Egypt and take its spoils. This as a reward for his effort in defeating the wicked nation of Tyre.

Haftarah Commentary

This week's haftarah commentary is a short commentary written by Natalie Barkan on kol-kore.org.



In this haftarah, Ezekiel delivers a tirade against Egypt. The oracle has been dated to the time of the last siege of Babylon on Jerusalem, in the year 586 BCE. In vain, Israel attempted to forge an alliance with Egypt against the Babylonians. Ezekiel prophesies that Egypt will be devastated and its inhabitants dispersed. He proclaims that God will return the Egyptians to their land after forty years, but Egypt will never return to the greatness she had known. The imagery used by Ezekiel is

taken from the first judgment of Egypt, found in parashat Va-era. The parashah describes the waters of the Nile turning to blood, the stench of dying fish, and the search for water to drink. (Ex. 7:20-24) Ezekiel describes how God will hook the Egyptians like fish from the Nile, flinging them to the desert where they will die. (Ez. 29:4-5) Through these signs, the plagues in the time of the exodus from Egypt, and the devastation of the Nile and of the land of Egypt in the time of Ezekiel, the people will come to "know" God. (Ex.6:7; 7:5 & Ez. 28:26, 29:6,16,21) In both the parashah and the haftarah, historical events are portrayed as divinely decreed and as a symbol of God's power.

Yahrtzeits

This week the Carnegie Shul acknowledges the yahrtzeits of:

Goldie Sherman
Ruth Fogel Parker
Kenneth H. Peresman

Harry Levitt
Melvin Allen Weiss
Bessie Krasik Raskin

May their memories be for a blessing.

Donations

The Carnegie Shul is most grateful for the following recent donation:

Heather Gilmer

General Donation

Frances Merenstein

In Memory Of Melvin A Weiss

Roger and Ronnie Wilk

General Donation

Roger Wilk

In Memory of Leona Wilk

WESTERN PA SMALL CONGREGATION 2022-2023 PROGRAMMING
with assistance from the Jewish Community Legacy Project

**COMING
LATER THIS
MONTH!**

TWO JEWISH FEMALE JUSTICES: RUTH BADER GINSBURG & ELENA KAGAN

Presented by: Dr. Rose Feinberg

**Thursday, January 26, 2023
at 7:00 pm**



Discover how each woman's life and Jewish heritage related to steps taken to becoming a Supreme Court Justice. Other Jewish Justices will be mentioned at the end of the program. Pictures and video clips via PowerPoint enhance this presentation.



Dr. Rose Feinberg is a popular presenter and Lifelong Learning Instructor for Florida Atlantic University and Nova University. Rose earned her Doctor of Education degree from Boston University and was a school principal in Massachusetts. She was an Adjunct Professor at several universities, including Florida Atlantic University. Her prior careers in education, as well as her theater training, have enabled her to research and create twenty-six informative and entertaining programs, using PowerPoint and video clips.