

PARSHAS BO



PARSHAH OVERVIEW



The last 3 plagues occur - locusts, darkness, and death of the firstborn. Mitzvah of Rosh Chodesh and Pesach are given. The Jewish people begin to leave Egypt! We are told to always remember the departure from Egypt, as it is central to our religion.



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PARSHAH STATS

- Pesukim - 106
- Words - 1,655
- Letters - 6,149
- Mitzvos - 20



QUOTABLE QUOTE

“Jewish texts and times are not colour-coded but music-coded. The map of holy words is written in melodies and songs.”

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks zt"l

GEMATRIA



Check out Chapter 12, Verse 17. In the Dibur Hamaschil of ושמרתם Rashi says: אלא אם באה לידך עשה אותה מיד. The gematria of this phrase is 986, the exact same as ושמרתם!!!

QUICK VORT

On the words ושמרתם את המצות - and you shall guard the Matzos (12:17), Rashi brings the Mechilta which teaches us that the word Matzos can also refer to Mitzvos!

Just like Matzah must not be allowed to ferment, so too our Mitzvos should be performed right away.

This level of זריזות to perform Mitzvos right away stems from being happy and excited with one's yiddishkeit.

Accordingly, it's quite possible that the word שמר from the phrase ושמרתם את המצות can be understood as “excitement and anticipation” - just like by Yaakov Avinu where the Torah said: ואביו שמר את הדבר - and Yosef's father anticipated the matter.

By answering the call of the Mitzvos right away - on the first ring! - we are showing our excitement for our yiddishkeit.

Have a holy Shabbos!

THOUGHTS IN CHASSIDUS

The Lubavitcher Rebbe explains בא אל פרעה: the idea of “coming to Pharaoh” represents the importance in our Divine Service to approach and “come” to the root of the Yetzer Hara within us and eradicate the bad. We must crush the Yetzer Hara at its roots so it doesn't grow back!



DID YOU KNOW



The Sanhedrin - which would decide on the Rosh Chodesh, based on the witnesses seeing the new moon - sat in a חצי עגול - a semi circle, the same shape as the moon!