

Shabbat Vaera

פרשת וארא

January 16, 2021 /3 Sh'vat, 5781

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B'nai Mitzvah: Benjamin & Zachary Kushman

[Torah Reading: Exodus 6:2 – 9:35 page 351](#)

[Haftarah Reading: Ezekiel 28:25 – 29:21 page 370](#)

Weekly Torah Reading – Parashat Vaera

Pshat – The Story

1. G-d promises Moses that He will deliver the Israelites from Egyptian slavery to freedom in Israel.
2. In a showdown before Pharaoh, the rod of Aaron becomes a snake and swallows those of Pharaoh's sorcerers.
3. The plagues begin: Moses, Aaron, and G-d produce blood and frogs, but the sorcerers match their feat.
4. The sorcerers cannot replicate the following plagues: lice, wild beasts, cattle disease, boils, and hail (three remain for the next Parsha).
5. Before each plague, Moses urges Pharaoh to let the Israelites go to worship G-d, but Pharaoh's heart hardens relentlessly.

Drash – A Closer Look

“G-d said to Moses, ‘Tell Aaron, “Take your staff and stretch out your arm over the waters of Egypt...and they shall become blood” (Ex. 7:19).

Rashi: “[Why didn't Moses do this himself?] Because the Nile protected Moses as a baby while he floated on the river. Therefore, Moses wouldn't trigger the plagues of blood and frogs [which emerged from the Nile;] Aaron did.”

The Torah can't envision Moses repaying a favor with contempt. His gratitude toward his protection as a vulnerable baby extends to the Nile itself and is carried with him throughout his entire life. For this same reason, Rashi later notes that Aaron triggers the next plague, lice, which sees him striking the dust. Moses is grateful for this dust, too, that covered up an Egyptian when Moses defended a fellow Israelite. Moses recognizes that though the plagues are necessary, he cannot be the agent of the plagues that directly affect the land that protected him in his moments of vulnerability.

VIRTUAL SERVICE TIMES:

Friday Eve 6:15pm, Shabbat Morning 9am

Sun 9am, Mon-Th 7pm, Wed 8:30 am

Yasher Koach to Rabbi Kirshner and Cantor Israel Singer for leading services. Benjamin and Zachary Kushman for reading Torah and chanting the Haftarah.

Announcements

Mazel Tov

To the Kushman family on Benjamin and Zachary becoming a B'nai Mitzvah.

Sponsors

Thank you to the Kushman family for sponsoring the Bima flowers.

Announcements

New Service! Havdalah, at 6:00 PM Join us weekly for a 15-minute Havdalah service which will include service, blessings, song & short teachings each Saturday evening. [Join us virtually by clicking here](#)

Dial-In Details: Phone (646) 558-8656 Meeting ID: 963 0913 5246 Passcode if prompted, Havdalah

Sunday Morning Minyan – Sunday, January 17th at 9:00 AM, Join us virtually [CLICK HERE TO CONNECT](#).

Bagels Brunch Book Series: SAVE THE DATES!

Sunday, January 17th at 10:00 AM, “A Call from the Hostage Takers”, discussion led by Rabbi Hirshel Jaffe.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH DOCUMENTARY.](#) [CLICK HERE TO CONNECT](#)

Sunday, February 7th at 10:00 AM, “The Wondering Jew” a discussion with Micah Goodman, PhD.

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Monday, January 18th at 6:00 PM - MLK 2021: Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security 2013-2017, "A Day of Reflection and Service in a Time of Uncertainty" -

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Minyan Monday, January 18th - Thursday, January 21st at 7:00 PM.

Join us virtually, [CLICK HERE TO CONNECT](#).

Pirkei Avot with Rabbi Fineberg – Tuesday, January 19th at 11:00 AM - [CLICK HERE TO CONNECT](#)

Morning Minyan – Wednesday, January 20th, at 8:30 AM –Join us virtually [CLICK HERE TO CONNECT](#).

Parsha for the Soul with Rabbi Fineberg – Thursday, January 21st at 11:00 AM - [CLICK HERE TO CONNECT](#)

Sisterhood Virtual Floral Arranging –Wednesday, February 3rd at 7:30 PM. RSVP by January 21st! [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Virtual Sisterhood Study Group with Rabbi Kirshner - Friday, January 29th at 10:30 AM - [CLICK HERE TO CONNECT](#) for more info and to register, [CLICK HERE](#) **Upcoming Dates:** 2/5; 3/5; 3/26; 4/16; 4/30