

Parshas Vaeirah

This week's parsha is Vaeirah, highlighting the first seven plagues brought upon Egypt. The first plague, blood, targeted the water resources and the Nile River, handicapping Egyptian society. In the second Posuk, Hashem tells Moshe that He only revealed Himself on one level to the forefathers, whereas to Moshe, it was with the holy name. This revelation is a precursor to the exodus and the Torah's giving, allowing the world to draw from spirituality from the physical world we live in.

This means that Mitzvos and our day-to-day life can be filled with G-dliness in all we do to make the world an ideal place for Hashem to manifest in a revealed way. That takes work and effort.

In 7:17, Hashem says to Moshe, כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה בְּזֹאת תֵּדַע כִּי אֲנִי יְהוָה הֵנָּה אֲנִי | בַּמַּטָּה אֲשֶׁר-בִּידִי עַל-הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר בַּיָּאֵר מִכָּה | וְנִהְפְּכוּ לְדָם:

The key here is the purpose of the plagues was to “know that I am Hashem.”

The mission and goal of the exodus had nothing to do with negotiations, biases, or ulterior motives by Moshe, which was rather apparent with Pharaoh. There is no other purpose than to ensure everyone knows that Hashem is the one true G-d.

Why does it take 10 plagues? First of all, compassion; Hashem wasn't going to punish the Egyptians; he gave the Pharaoh chances to let the Jews out because that was what was required, nothing else. There were no negotiations. Unfortunately, it took 10 plagues and

more to accomplish this goal. And during that time, the minds of the pharaoh and the Egyptians were turned to the point that the Jews were let out hastily.

In modern times, politicians may lead their countries into problematic situations due to their ulterior motives and personal agendas. Moshe, the ideal leader, had none of that. He was hellbent on a singular mission based on Hashem's word and nothing else.

May we learn from the Parsha how to lead and do what is right. May we do what we need to as Jews to serve Hashem unencumbered so we can welcome Mashiach speedily in our days!

Good Shabbos!