

PARSHAS SHMOS OVERVIEW

- *These are the names of the Children of Israel who came [lit. are coming] to Egypt with Yaakov, each individual and his household. (Shmos 1:1)*
- *These are the names of the Children of Israel who came [lit. are coming] to Egypt – Yaakov and his children: Jacob’s first born, Reuven. (Bereishis 46:8)*

Themes:

- Centrality / Eternality of the Jewish People to History
- Assimilation is the greatest cause of Anti- Semitism/Exile
- Egyptian Exile is the prototype for the 4 Exiles of Jewish History
- The “Crucible” of Egypt / The first “Holocaust”/ Trust in G-d
- In the merit of righteous women we were redeemed from Egypt
- Qualities of Leadership as seen in Moshe / What determines his success
- Even Moshe could not understand G-d’s ways
- G-d redeems the Jewish people only when they sincerely wish to be redeemed

1. The generation of Yosef and the brothers pass on / Jews begin to assimilate
{2238 – Yaakov descends to Egypt with 70 souls; 2309 – Yosef Dies; Levi dies in 2331;
2332 – Egyptian bondage begins}
2. Pharaoh’s “Final Solution” [Yisro, Iyov, & Bilaam] {2361}
First Decree: Slavery (Challenge of Idolatry)
Second Decree: Kill the boys during delivery [Shifra & Puah] (Challenge of Immorality)
Third Decree: Throw the boys into the Nile (Challenge of Murder)
3. The birth of Moshe [Amram, Yocheved, Miriam, & Aharon] {2368}
4. Moshe identifies with his people / Flees Egypt {2380} / leaves for Midian {2420}
 - a) Kills Egyptian who is striking a Jew
 - b) Tells two Jews to not fight with each other [Dasan & Aviram]
5. Moshe marries Tziporah {2430} / Gives birth to Gershom
6. Jews cry out to G-d / G-d heeds their cries {2444}
7. Burning bush episode {2447}
 - a) The names of G-d
 - b) 3 signs to reassure the Jews
 - c) Moshe is reluctant to lead
 - d) Moshe’s objections are overridden - Aharon will be his spokesman
8. Moshe leaves for Egypt / Circumcision of his son
9. Moshe and Aharon gather the Jews and they believe the message
10. Moshe and Aharon come before Paroah
11. Fourth Decree: Fulfill the brick quota without receiving straw / took away Shabbat (Challenge of staying focused, unity, Loshon Hora)
12. Moshe Returns to Pharaoh (6 months later) / The Jews complain to Moshe and Aharon / Moshe complains to G-d