

Connecting Pesach to Shavuos:

דם	Dam	Blood
צפרדע	Tz'fardya	Frogs,
כנים	Kinim	Lice,
ערוב	Arov	Beasts,
דבר	Dever	Cattle Pestilence,
שחין	Sh'chin	Boils,
ברד	Barad	Hail,
ארבה	Arbeh	Locusts,
חשך	Chosheh	Darkness,
בכורות מכת	Makat B'chorot	Death of the Firstborn.

ד	דם	Blood,
צ	צפרדע	Frogs,
ך (כ)	כנים	Lice,
ע	ערוב	Beasts,
ד	דבר	Cattle Pestilence,
ש	שחין	Boils,
ב	ברד	Hail,
א	ארבה	Locusts,
ה	חשך	Darkness,
ב	בכורות מכת	Death of the Firstborn.

- Rabbi Yehudah would make an acronym from the Hebrew words for the ten plagues: “D'TZ'CH - דצ"ך, A'D'SH - עד"ש, B'A'CH'V - באח"ב “. (usually pronounced “DeTZaCH ADaSH B'ACHaV”). (Passover Haggadah; Sifri Parashat Ki Tavo)
- A mnemonic is necessary to help us recall a matter which is not recorded somewhere readily accessible -- such as the opinion of a Sage in the Mishna or Gemara, which did not originally exist in written form. The ten plagues, on the other hand, are written clearly in the Torah, and every child can recite them by heart. What need did Rabbi Yehudah see to create a mnemonic to help us recall the ten plagues?

- **Exodus 5,2:** Pharaoh said, “Who is HaShem, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know HaShem and I will not let Israel go.”

1. Pharaoh denied the existence of Hashem - a Creator.
2. Pharaoh denied that God supervises and is concerned about the world.
3. Pharaoh denied the invincibility of God. Hashem can not force him to free the Jews.

Each set of plagues responded to the denials of Pharaoh

1. **Exodus 7,17:** “Thus said the Lord, In this YOU SHALL KNOW THAT *I AM HaShem*; behold, I will strike with the rod that is in my hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.”
2. **Exodus 8, 18:** in order that you know that I am the Lord *in the midst of* the earth.
3. **Exodus 9,14:** in order that you know that there is *none like Me* in the entire earth.

The results after each set of plagues:

1. **Exodus 8:15:** “This is the finger of HaShem.” They acknowledge HaShem’s power, but this does not obligate them to believe. Nevertheless, they must agree in actuality and philosophically that HaShem’s power indeed exists.
2. **Exodus 9,11:** “And the advisors could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for boils were on the advisors, and on all the Egyptians.” Not only does HaShem separate between the Jews and the Egyptians (Wild Animals) and between the cattle of the Jews and the cattle of the Egyptians (Cattle Disease), but this time HaShem also separates between those whom Pharaoh once claimed were the ones with power “on his side” opposing HaShem, and between Moses and Aaron. Thus, Pharaoh is convinced that there is a G-d and that this HaShem is “in the land.”
3. Pharaoh and the Egyptians actually escort the Jewish people out of Egypt.

Each set of plagues was meant to effect the way we think about God & the world

1. Chochma - Information of God’s existence and creation of the world, which leads to....
2. Bina - If He created the world for a purpose, He must be involved to see the fruition of it, which leads to.....
3. Da’as - Live in the reality that nothing can stop God from accomplishing His goals.

The Zohar calls Matzah the “bread of faith” or the “bread of healing”

1. Top Matza
2. Middle Matzah
3. Bottom Matzah

**The first day of Pesach and the Seder is meant to repair our higher 3 Sefiros
Now we are ready to repair the 7 lower Sefiros during the 7 weeks between Pesach &
Shavuos**

“Derech Eretz Kadma LaTorah” Good character is a pre-requisite to Torah study