

While Praying:

- * Don't be weak; be pure.
- * Learn how to be connected to God properly. Lack of understanding will not lead us to God.
- * Work hard to put on proper thoughts and do things God's ways.
- * God brings life; not doing what is right brings death.

Bo means, "enter." Moshe and Aharon are told by God to ask Pharaoh how much longer will he not submit to God and not let His people go? If someone said, "How much longer will you not submit to God" to me, it would sure get my attention. Will you submit to God or keep doing things your own way?

God made locusts to cover the land and Pharaoh's servants told Pharaoh that he should let Israel go. Pharaoh briefly considers letting Israel go, but he relented and didn't let them go. Then God told Moshe to raise his hand toward the sky and there was darkness over the land for three days. There was light in the homes of the Israelites though. Then Pharaoh said they could go, but they had to leave their flocks. Moshe said they needed them and Pharaoh changed his mind and told Moshe that they couldn't go and if he saw Moshe's face again, he would die.

Next is the death of the first born. The Israelites were to ask for their neighbors for gold and silver and it says the people were favorably disposed toward Israel and considered Moshe a great man. They were to begin their year on the month of Nisan every year and on the tenth of the month they were to select a lamb without defect in its first year. They were to kill it at dusk on the 14th of Nisan and observe Pesach (Passover) from the evening of the 14th to the evening of the 21st and also eat no chametz (leavened bread). On the first and last days, they were to have a holy assembly and they were not work except to prepare food. "No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat—that only may be prepared by you;" It is okay to prepare food for our families on Shabbat, but we shouldn't do any cumbersome laborious celebrations on Shabbat – that would be work. They were to explain to their children that God spared their houses from the death of the first born.

They observed what Moshe told them to do and they were to put the lamb or goats' blood on the doorposts and lintels. They were to roast it and eat it in a hurry with matza. The blood on their homes was to mark the houses that God passes over and their first born would not die. That's why it is called the Passover.

In the middle of the night God killed all the first born of Egypt and Pharaoh tells Moshe, Aharon, and the people of Israel to leave along with their herds. The people of Egypt gave the Israelites silver and gold jewelry and clothing and gave them whatever they requested. Israel went up from Ra'amses to Sukkot with 600,000 men. It was a mixed crowd and they baked matza from the dough they brought from Egypt. They had lived in Canaan and Egypt for 430 years to the day. No foreigner was to eat the Pesach lamb, but a circumcised servant could or a circumcised foreigner that lived in the land could. They also were not to break any bones of the lamb. When they get to their land, they were to set aside the firstborn men and animals and redeem the men; they could also redeem a donkey with a lamb. It would be a sign on their hand and frontlets between their eyes that God brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

The Egyptians and Pharaoh were trusting in their false gods – the river god, the frog god etcetera. God brings the last three plagues on the Egyptians; locusts, darkness for three days, and death of the first born. In order for Israel to avoid their first born dying, they had to take a lamb or goat, kill it, put its blood on the lintel and door posts, and roast it and eat it. They were to remember Pesach (the Passover) every year on the 14th of Nisan at twilight and eat unleavened bread for 7 days.

A mixed group (Ex. 12:38) with the men numbering 600,000 left Egypt (perhaps about 2 million people including women and children), so they could be set free from the sinful idolatry of the Egyptians and serve God. They spent 430 years in Canaan and Egypt (215 in Canaan and 215 in Egypt – some say it is 210 and 220) to the day before they returned to Canaan. God was giving them the land of Canaan because of the terrible sinful activities in that land. Believers in Messiah are also a mixed group. It seems the giving of the Holy Spirit returned the Jews to their own roots where all who accept the true God can be part of the believing community.

The Lord set Israel free to live for Him by a mighty hand. A mixed group of Jews and Gentiles left Egypt and the Gentiles were assimilated into Israel. It had to be both Jews and Egyptians because of the number of people who left Egypt. It would have been impossible for the Jews to have had that many offspring in only 215 years. Also, the Bible tells us Caleb was not Jewish but was assimilated into the tribe of Judah and represented Judah as one of the twelve spies. The rabbis say "mixed group" means it was people who had different jobs. This obviously is not true.

The believers in Messiah too are a mixed group of Jews and Gentiles who are set free from sin by the Messiah. We who are set free by the Messiah should remember it is through God's hand and sacrifice we become heirs of salvation through Yeshua. Just as Israel was set free from sin to serve God, we are also set free to live for Yehovah. Yeshua's sacrificial act of humility resulted in God giving the the Holy Spirit so that the power of God would work in us through the Holy Spirit and help us live right. The Pesach meal foreshadows the time when the Messiah Yeshua gave up His life sacrificially for us so that we can be forgiven of our sins, live by the power of God, and obtain eternal life through the Messiah.

Don't be weak; be pure and be strong. Shaul (Paul) tells us to demolish¹ arguments (cast down) and thoughts that are contrary to what God teaches. "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ;" 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 NKJV. In very certain terms, Shaul tells us to absolutely get rid of those thoughts that are against what God teaches.

The Bible says that those who don't and are greedy will lose their life. "But they lie in wait for their own blood, they lurk secretly for their own lives. So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; it takes away the life of its owners;" Proverbs 1:18-19 NKJV. Whether it is greed for things, or money, or sin; you will lose dignity, blessings, and people that seek what is wrong even die because they are being foolish. God says that we will receive the consequences of our actions. " Because you disdained all my counsel, and would have none of my rebuke, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes;" Proverbs 1:25-26 NKJV.

I've seen it with my own eyes. I used to do delivery at night and no words can describe what I saw sometimes as a result of those who took their lives so lightly by getting high and suffering great calamity and even death. They wanted to do things their own way instead of God's ways. God says that His ways give us safety. "For the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil" Proverbs 1:32-33 NKJV. Those who are simple in mind instead of thinking about doing what is right often hurt themselves because of their foolish thoughts.

¹ g2507. καθαίρω kathaireō; from 2596 and 138 (including its alternate); to lower (or with violence) demolish.

It is so important that we learn how to live and how to be connected to God properly. Years ago, I took my reading and study of the Bible seriously. I wanted to listen to God and do what is right. That should be our attitude. Shaul said we need to smash those bad thoughts to nothing. Get rid of those thoughts. I wanted to learn and grow up spiritually. I didn't want to be a spiritual baby, but a real man. We should all want to be grown up men and women of God.

A lack of understanding of what God expects will not lead us to God. It's like saying I am going to Dallas without knowing where you are going. You could end up in Montana instead of Dallas. I remember seeing this commercial on TV where a man got a flat tire and he was totally exasperated at the thought of how to change his flat tire. That poor man was stranded and had no idea what to do about it.

Most of us that drive know how to change a flat if we would have to. It's actually much more serious with God. We know someone will come along and help us eventually with our car, but we are each responsible to God to do what He says. People that reject God and His instruction often suffer consequences for their wrong actions, even death! In the case of Pharaoh, He brought death and devastation over all of Egypt.

So, we need to work hard to put on proper thinking and do things God's ways. Psalm 1:1-4 NKJV says,
 "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
 Nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.

He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season,
 Whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away."

Chaff is the outer covering of seed that after being removed can blow away after being removed. If we pick up the chaff and throw it, it flies away in the wind aimlessly because it is very light. The scripture implies that people who don't follow God are blown around and will land almost anywhere. Shaul talks about this in Ephesians 4:14 NKJV, "That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men." Don't listen to these people who say it is okay to just do anything you want. You could end up anywhere in life.

In our day and time, we know how people are easily led to believe in lies. Our commercials are intended to give us messages of enjoyment and pleasure, but can a box of cereal really give us pleasure? I was recently watching a show about the universe and the scientists were saying we have a new theory about how the planets in our solar system came to be. They give us theory after theory and they keep on saying over and over they were wrong. How can people keep on believing them?

They call it a theory and then the people who teach us call it fact. As I was watching the show, the scientific gave the theory and then after they gave it, someone would repeat what they just said as though it was fact. It's kind of a brain washing. I was an amateur astronomer at one time. I was **not** into astrology; I used to look at the stars through a telescope. I used to go to astronomy seminars and people would talk about their theories and there were some crazy theories. Sci-fi writers then write books using these theories and that's how we come up with all these crazy ideas. They are just that; they are crazy unfounded ideas that change all the time and these ideas blow us around like chaff.

There are probably thousands of ideas on how to live life. I find it remarkable that the commandments that God gives us, still apply well to life even though they were written thousands of years ago. Since God is eternal, we could say they have applied to life for millions and billions of years. Science spiritualizes what they say by saying things like, "Billions of years ago." How do they know? Were they around back then? They keep changing their mind all the time and they expect us to believe them; they are just guessing. There is nothing wrong with good science, but they should keep their theories to themselves.

Proverbs 14:27 NKJV says, "The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death." We need to have deep respect for God. It's a fountain of life. You could be in the driest and most desolate of places, but if there is a fountain, a supply of water there; you'll probably be okay. Those who don't respect God are taking chances with their life; most certainly with their eternal life. Shaul said we need to hold onto God and His truths in Philippians 2:16 NKJV, "Holding fast the word of life." God's ways bring life. When Pharaoh resisted God, he brought death and destruction. We need to take hold of God's words and His commandments and they give us life instead of destruction. We are not to leave them behind us, but keep them and hold onto them.

The Bible says that God brings life. Wouldn't that be enough for people to decide they were going to follow God? What kind of insane person doesn't want what is good and to be blessed?

I don't know about you, but I'm not going to the lake of fire that is reserved for those who are disobedient to God. "And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire; Revelation 20:15 NKJV. I am going to follow God and do what He says and I hope you will too. I am not going to eat the foods He calls an abomination (disgusting). I am not going to have improper sexual relations that God calls an abomination (disgusting).

People like Pharaoh who bring evil into the world will end up in the lake of fire. I am not going to do things that God says is disgusting. The Bible says that those who do these things will not be in the future kingdom of God. "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God;" 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV.

Pharaoh trusted in his false god's, but we trust in the true God of the heavens and the earth. God set Israel free so they could follow the true God. The Messiah Yeshua came to set us free so that we could follow the true God. Don't be weak; be strong. Get rid of the thoughts that are against what God teaches. Don't be foolish with your life. God wants to help us, but mankind keeps coming up with ideas all the time and then when that doesn't work, they give us another idea. Learn how God says we should live. The Bible says that things go better with God. Soda may quench your thirst, but God knows what's best for us and the right way we should live.

Don't be driven around like the wind or you might not be happy with where you end up. You could end up in the middle of a lake of fire if you don't watch out. God's commandments have stood the test of time. Science and their theories change all the time. Hold tightly onto God and His ways because He brings goodness and life. Do we want what is good? I do; how about you?