**2023 Parashah Reading #13 Name: Shemot Torah Reading: Shemot 1:1 – 6:1**

 **Haftarah Reading: Yeshayahu 27:6-28:13, 29:22-23 Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12**

**Torah Portion, Outline and Questions for Discussion Shemot 1:1 – 6:1**

**Chapter 1:1 - 7** “**Israel Increases Greatly in Egypt”** **Chapter 1:8 - 22** “**Pharaoh Oppresses Israel”**

**Chapter 2:1 - 10** “**The Birth of Moshe”** **Chapter 2:11 - 22** “**Moses Flees to Midian”**

**Chapter 2:23 - 25** **“Elohim Hears Israel's Groaning**” **Chapter 3:1 - 22 “The Burning Bush”**

**Chapter 4:1 – 17 “Moshe Given Powerful Signs” Chapter 4:18 – 31 “Moshe Returns to Egypt”**

**Chapter 5:1 – 23 “Making Bricks Without Straw” Chapter 6:1 “YHWH Promises Deliverance”**

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**Questions for Discussion**

1. **Scholar Review Questions**-In Chapter 1 we read where Pharaoh oppresses Israel.
2. What was the result of this oppression?
3. Regarding the “How is this relevant to us today?” question we ask for each Parashah, how do you see v. 12?
4. Regarding verses 16 and 22 with the order to kill the male Hebrews:
5. What other biblical and extra-biblical historical events do you see which parallel this?
6. Why do you think this happens, i.e., who, or what reasoning, is behind this?
7. How did the curse Pharaoh did in 1:16-22 turn into a blessing here in Chapter 2?
8. In reading Chapter 2, what stands out to you in this account, especially as it is applicable to us today?
9. In Chapter 3 we read the amazing story of the burning bush. Name similar biblical accounts where YHWH reveals Himself as fire.
10. In chapter 3 and 4 we see YHWH calling Moshe to a task, then equipping him to accomplish it. As an encouragement to others, share where YHWH has done this in your life.
11. 4:18-31 describes how Moshe was obedient to the calling he received. How did that go for him in Chapter 5? Can you relate this to your life?

**Haftarah and Gospel Portions, Outlines and Questions for Discussion**

**Haftarah Parashah Yeshayahu 27:6-28:13, 29:22-23**

**Chapter 27:6-13 “The Redemption of Israel” cont. Chapter 28:1- 13 “Judgment on Ephraim and Jerusalem”**

**Questions for Discussion**

The prophet Yeshayahu (Isaiah) lived during amazing times in the history of Israel, from the era of both houses living in peace and prosperity, to fifty years later when the northern kingdom Israel was conquered and exiled to Assyria, and the southern kingdom Judah in only slightly better shape. Both kingdoms had sinned and fallen short of YHWH, and it was Yeshayahu’s job to show this problem but more importantly, to share the solution: Israel to repent and come back to the Lord. Faithful to what YHWH gave him to say, Yeshayahu spoke many rebukes, but he spoke many more promises of hope and reconciliation between YHWH and His people. May we who are called by His name remember and apply this in our lives today during these troublesome times.

1. What stands out to you in this haftarah portion and why?
2. In this haftarah’s scriptures, show the verses which state the problem, why the problem exists, and the hope YHWH gives Israel during this situation.

**Gospel Parashah Matthew 2:1-12**

**Chapter 2:1 - 12 “The Visit of the Wise Men”**

**Questions for Discussion**

Here we read the famous account of the Magi or Wise men coming to pay homage to the new King of the Yehudim (Jews).

1. What stands out to you in this reading?
2. Compare and contrast the traditional stories passed down to us today with the actual facts of this story.
3. Who were the Magi, where did they come from and how did they know what they were doing?
4. In verse 1 the Magi use the title King, yet in verse 4 he is called Messiah. Who got it right, Herod or the Magi, and why?
5. In this account is a prophecy from the Tanach. Give the context of the prophecy and why it applied to this account in Matthew.

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