

TORAH TIME

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PARASHA

Shemot

- Exodus 1:1-6:1
- Isaiah 27:6-28:13, 29:22-23, and Jeremiah 1:1-2:3
- 1 Corinthians 14:13-25

TORAH TIME

The children of Israel have lots of babies in Egypt. Threatened by their growing numbers, Pharaoh makes the Israelites slaves. He then orders that all Hebrew male babies are to die when they are born. When some Hebrews do not listen to Pharaoh he commands his people to cast the Hebrew babies into the Nile.

A child is born to Yocheved, the daughter of Levi, and her husband, Amram. The baby is placed in a basket on the river, while the baby's sister, Miriam, stands watch. Pharaoh's daughter discovers the boy, raises him as her son, and names him Moses or "Moshe" in Hebrew.

As a young man, Moses leaves the palace and discovers the hardship of his Hebrew brothers and sisters. He sees an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. Moses kills the Egyptian. The next day he sees two Hebrews fighting; when he talks to them, they reveal his deed of the previous day. Moses is forced to flee to Midian. There he rescues Jethro's daughters. He soon marries one of them - Zipporah - and becomes a shepherd of his father-in-law's flocks.

YHWH appears to Moses in a burning bush at Mount Sinai. YHWH instructs him to go to Pharaoh and demand: "Let my people go, so that they may serve Me." The sacred name "YHWH" is given to Moses as a sign of the Almighty's power and presence. Moses' brother, Aaron, is appointed to serve as his spokesman. In Egypt, Moses and Aaron assemble the elders of Israel to tell them that the time of their rescue has come. The people believe; but Pharaoh refuses to let them go, and even intensifies the suffering of Israel.

Moses returns to YHWH to protest: "Why have You done evil to this people?" YHWH promises that the rescue is close at hand.

(This is an easy explanation of the Torah portion taken from the book "The Open Bible" available at www.emetministries.com)

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever who calls upon the name of YHWH will be saved," Romans 10:13.

LEARNING ACTIVITY

This Torah portion introduces us to Moses. In Hebrew his name is "Moshe." The story of Moshe is very important for us to know as we learn about YHWH and the Torah.

After Ya'acov and Yosef died a Pharaoh came to power in Egypt who did not have a relationship with the Hebrew people. He was scared of the Israelites and put them into slavery. He also was concerned about the power of the Hebrew men. To stop the Hebrews from becoming too great he gave an order to have all of the Hebrew boys who were born to be thrown into the Nile River. Pharaoh was trying to kill all the Hebrew baby boys. Can you imagine this horrible tragedy? Fear makes you do horrible and bad things. It made Pharaoh kill many babies and can influence you to disobey YHWH too.

There was one brave couple from the Hebrew tribe of Levi that was not afraid of Pharaoh. They had a baby boy. He was beautiful and special. The mother and father did something very brave. They hid their baby. For three months they kept the child quiet and away from the Egyptians. Finally, the time came that the mother and father couldn't hide the child any more. So, the mother made a basket of grass, painted it with tar, and prayed that it would hold her son. She placed the baby in the basket and sent her daughter to watch the baby in the river. About that same time, Pharaoh's daughter was at the Nile taking a bath. As she was in the water she saw a basket floating in the water. She was very surprised to find a Hebrew baby in the basket. Pharaoh's daughter then chose the very baby's mother to nurse and take care of him. She named the baby "Moshe," which means "from the water" in Hebrew. The Nile crocodiles or the raging waters didn't kill the baby. YHWH protected him.

his is an amazing and true story about how YHWH shielded Moshe, even as a baby. YHWH worked to have all things in place so that Moses would be safe. We wear helmets, coats, and

safety belts to protect us and it was YHWH who miraculously guarded the baby Moshe. YHWH's covering is always for us and will help us through the hardest of times. Our memory verse tells us that "if YHWH is for us then no one can be against us."

After being saved from sure death in the Nile River, Moshe was raised as an Egyptian in Pharaoh's palace. But, he wasn't an Egyptian. Moshe was really a Hebrew. Later he would leave the comforts of Egypt to become a shepherd in a place called Midian. All throughout this time, YHWH watched over Moses.

YHWH watches over you too. YHWH says that he has plans for your life and these are plans to prosper you and not harm you. He wants you to experience the best life. This will include some scary times, like when Moshe was placed in the river, but always remember that YHWH is with you and will watch over you.

WALK THE TALK

Read Exodus 3-4:1-17 from your Bible. Are you surprised about the burning bush?

That was a neat reading wasn't it! In this section of scripture, the Creator calls to Moshe from a burning bush. The voice from the bush gives the personal name of the Almighty. The name is YHWH or spelled "yod - hey- vav- hey" in Hebrew. This is the creator's name and was meant to be used by all believers. We are to call Him YHWH. Moshe called him YHWH. David called upon the name YHWH. Even Y'shua the Messiah used the name YHWH.

This special name of YHWH includes a hidden message for us today. Let's talk about the wonderful name of YHWH and what each letter means.

Today, the name YHWH is found hidden behind the capitalized terms "LORD" or "GOD" in most English Bibles. However, YHWH's name was not intended to be hidden by translators. Why would people want to hide the name of YHWH?

We should know that YHWH יהוה Himself gave us His name a sign of His existence and as a means of personal relationship. This is similar to how a you wear a name tag so you can tell others your name. יהוה gave us His personal name so we could approach Him with intimacy. The Name יהוה is spelled from right to left, using four Hebrew letters - yod, hey, vav, hey. Put together, these letters can be pronounced "Yah - way." These four letters reveal much about the Creator and His plan for man.

The Hebrew language has special meaning. It is like an ancient secret code. In English an "a" is an "a" and nothing more. Yet in Hebrew each letter is associated with a certain word picture based upon ancient scripts. Hidden secrets within Hebrew words can be found by comparing how Hebrew letters relate to each other. It is no surprise then that the name of the Almighty is highly symbolic. The plan for man to experience a meaningful life is found in the name of YHWH / יהוה.



The first letter used in YHWH's name is the "yod" or

The yod resembles a coma suspended in the air. The actual Hebrew word "yod" means "arm or hand." The "arm" or "hand" of יהוה is often spoken of in the Bible as being a source of strength and deliverance. It was the arm of יהוה that conquered Pharaoh when the Hebrews left the bondage of Egypt. "You scattered Your enemies with your mighty arm," Psalm 89:10. The 'yod' is also symbolic of YHWH's essence. יהוה is love. יהוה loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. The hand of יהוה is upon you to lead you towards blessing, healing, prosperity, and peace.



The next letter of the Sacred Name is the "hey" or

This letter is found twice in YHWH's name and means to "behold." In ancient Hebrew, the "hey" was a picture of a man with his hands raised. This word picture resembled someone waving to get attention. To "behold" is to really pay attention, like an artist that beholds every crack and crevice of his masterpiece statue. We need to see - to hey - that selfish desires separate mankind from יהוה. After Adam sinned in the garden, He "saw that he was naked." Years have passed, but not much has changed. Because of sin we are still naked before יהוה and without protection. "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of YHWH," Romans 6:23.



The "vav" or is the last letter in YHWH's name.

This letter resembles a hook and actually means "nail." In Israel today, a nail is called a "vav." The Psalmist prophesied of the Savior when he wrote that the Messiah's hands (yod) would be pierced by a nail (vav). Psalm 22:16, "The assembly of the wicked have enclosed me. They

have pierced my hands and my feet." The letter "vav" symbolizes how יהוה has provided salvation through His son. The Messiah died to pay the price for sin. "The wages of sin is death but the gift of YHWH is eternal life," Romans 3:23.

Together, the letters of YHWH's name unlock the mystery of salvation. The word picture found in the name of YHWH reveals the only path to life eternal. Yod ך - the hands, Hey ך - behold, Vav ך - the nail, Hey ך - behold !

By examining the name of יהוה we see the message to "Behold the nail scarred hands. Behold!"

The Bible says in Romans 10:13 that, "whoever who calls upon the name of יהוה will be saved," Romans 10:13.

YHWH is our heavenly father. He loves you very much and sent his son to die so that we could live with Him forever. His name shows us how much he loves us.

You can use the name of YHWH.

TORAH TALK

What does the name of this portion mean?

Why is this portion special?

What is the main subject of this portion?

How can you live this portion?

What commandments are in this portion?

Did you read about the Messiah in this portion? Where?

How did YHWH show His love to man in this portion?

What did you learn from the Torah?

HEBREW LESSON



MEET THE MEM:

MAYIM = WATER

MOSHIACH = MESSIAH

MITZRAYIM = EGYPT

MITZVOT = COMMANDMENTS

WRITE THE LETTER

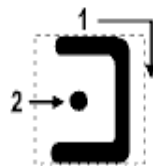


Note that there is a gap at the bottom left of the letter.

REVIEW THE LETTERS



Note that the first stroke extends above the line and inclines from left to right.



A single stroke, like a backwards "c" is used to form this letter.

Activity Ideas

For many years Moshe was a shepherd over his father in law's sheep. Use the internet to look up how shepherds keep their flocks today and how they did it during ancient times.

YHWH delivered his message to Moses with a bush. Can you deliver a message with an airplane? Write this week's memory verse on a piece of paper. Then make a paper airplane out of the paper. Fly the paper message around the house. When it goes near your family ask them to open and read it.



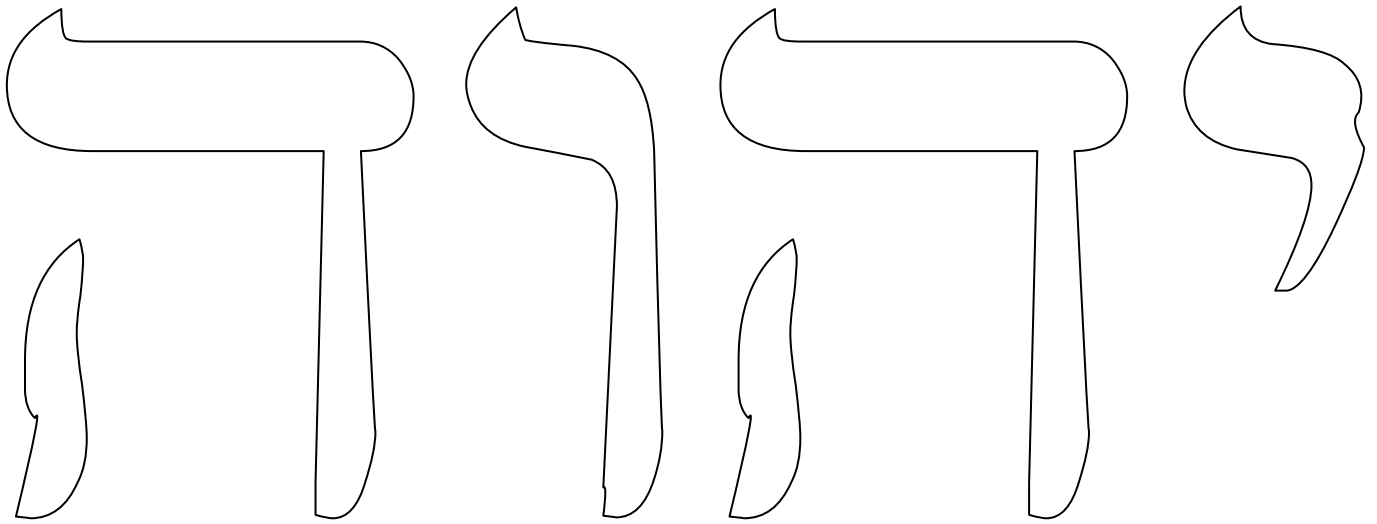
Do a google search on paper weaving. You can make paper baskets out of construction paper or just cut an oval shape and cut strips of paper to do some paper weaving and then add a picture of baby Moses.

Make a burning bush with your hand being the trunk and branches and then color the leaves. Take tissue paper (red, orange, and yellow) to glue in between or you can use the same color paints to dip in a straw and blow over the picture. You can also add the name of YHWH.

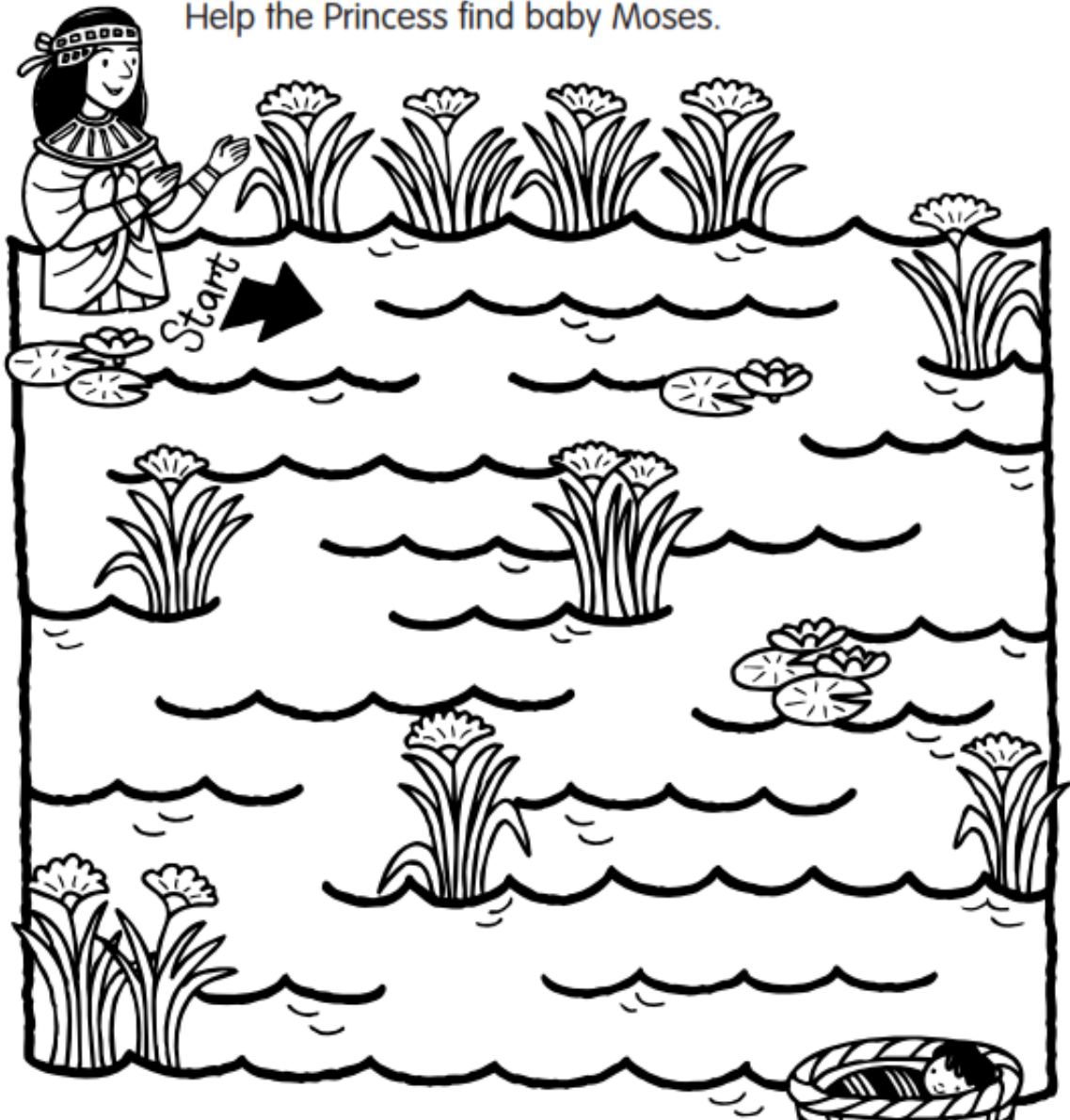
Do a map search of where Midian is. Ask yourself how did the Midianites shepherd? What is a shepherd?

Collect food boxes of all shapes and sizes. Cover them with brown paper or spray paint them. Play a game by seeing how many shapes/boxes you can stack in 60 seconds.

Watch a cartoon or movie about Moses and the 10 Commandments. Compare what you have learned to what the movie shows. How is the movie different than the Torah? How are the two similar?



Help the Princess find baby Moses.



"Whoever who calls upon the name of YHWH will be saved," Romans 10:13.

