



What Our Stories Tell About Us

Parshat Bo, Shemot /Exodus ch. 10

<p>And God said to Moshe, "BO - Come to Pharo, for I have made heavy his heart and the heart of his servants, in order to place these signs of mine in his midst.</p> <p>And in order that you will tell the story, in the ears of your child and your grandchild... about how I messed with / created a plot in Egypt, and about my signs which I have placed among them, by which you will know that I am God.</p>	<p>א וַיֹּאמֶר יְ-הוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה, בֹּא אֶל-פַּרְעֹה: כִּי-אֲנִי הִכְבַּדְתִּי אֶת-לְבוֹ, וְאֶת-לֵב עֲבָדָיו, לְמַעַן שְׁתִּי אֶתְתִּי אֵלָה, בְּקִרְבּוֹ. ב וּלְמַעַן תִּסְפֹּר בְּאָזְנֵי בְנֶךָ וּבֶן-בְּנֶךָ, אֵת אֲשֶׁר הִתְעַלְלֹתִי בְּמִצְרַיִם, וְאֶת-אֶתְתִּי, אֲשֶׁר-שְׁמַתִּי בָם; וַיִּדְעֹתֶם, כִּי-אֲנִי יְ-הוָה.</p>
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Ibn Ezra:

<p>Messed with - this word is an intentional shifting of the laws of nature, in order to take revenge on Pharo</p>	<p>— הִתְעַלְלֹתִי כאדם משנה התולדות להנקם מאחר</p>
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The plagues were sent to give 3 symbolic messages:

<p>1. THAT GOD EXISTS (Shemot 7:17, 10:2,)</p>	<p>וַיִּדְעֹתֶם, כִּי-אֲנִי יְ-הוָה</p>
<p>2. THAT GOD IS MORE POWERFUL than any other power in nature including human beings. Including Pharo. (Shemot 9:14; 9:29)</p>	<p>בעבור תדע כי אין כמוני בכל הארץ</p>
<p>3. THAT GOD CARES and is involved in the human sphere of life (Shemot 8:18;)</p>	<p>למען תדע כי אני ה' בקרב הארץ</p>

Zecharia 8:4-5

<p>says the Almighty God: Once again men and women elders will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each of them with cane in hand... y streets will be filled with young boys and girls playing there.</p>	<p>ד כֹּה אָמַר, יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת, עַד יָשְׁבוּ זְקֵנִים וְזָקֵנוֹת, בְּרִחְבוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם; וְאִישׁ מִשְׁעֲנִיתוֹ בְּיָדוֹ, מֵרֵב יָמִים. הַ וְרִחְבוֹת הָעִיר יִמְלְאוּ, יְלָדִים וְיִלְדוֹת, מְשַׁחֲקִים, בְּרִחְבֹּתֶיהָ.</p>
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Sanhedrin 98a

<p>Rabi Aba said, there is no clearer sign than this of the redemption as it says (Ezekiel 36:8) [mountains of] Israel: your branches grow and will give fruit for my people Israel when they are close to arriving...</p>	<p>ואמר רבי אבא אין לך קץ מגולה מזה שנאמר (יחזקאל לו. ח) ואתם הרי ישראל ענפכם תתנו ופריכם תשאו לעמי ישראל כי 'קרבו לבוא</p>
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