



Project: Sermon Resource for Shluchim
 Distribution Date: January 16, 2007 / כ"ו טבת תשס"ז
 Parsha: Vaera / וארא

בי"ה

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1. I have a colleague in Russia whose father-in-law will never visit him!

This is understandable. No one wants to go places which give them bad memories.



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2. By the Exodus, the people complain that they *miss Egypt!*

- When the spies returned from Canaan.
- When *Korach* started his uprising

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3. G-d had to decree that Jews were forbidden to return to Egypt.



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4. Some credit this to human nature. People tend to remember only the good things.

But this can't be it, for even in Egypt they said, "*It's good for us to serve Egypt.*"



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5. We must therefore conclude that not everyone suffered in Egypt.

The tribes of...

- Levi -never agreed to work for Pharaoh in the first place.
- Reuben and Simeon - these tribes were influential.
(Mid. Rab.).



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6. There must have been different social "echelons" among the Jews.

- The poor Jews; they were the slaves.
- The wealthy Jews; they were men of influence-

They suffered from Pharaoh's decrees, but they were not slaves.

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7. We can take this a step further.

Moses was to teach the Jewish people the laws of freeing slaves
(Tal. Yer.). Why?

It must be that Jews owned Jewish slaves!



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8. The point is that not everyone suffered in Egypt.

Many Jews were so comfortable that they didn't want to leave!

But Moses knew that every Jew had to go with him- **not like Ezra.**

This was very difficult!



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9. This also explains why G-d performed so many plagues.

G-d had to made the Egyptians *chase the Jews* out, 'cause many didn't want to go!

"The Egyptians did not permit them to tarry long enough for it to rise." (*Rashi*)



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10. This is the most amazing thing about the Exodus; non-Jews forced the Jews out of exile.

Since then non-Jews have forced Jews to remain Jewish through the ghettos etc.

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11. But we are approaching the final redemption about which Isaiah says, "With tranquility... shall you be redeemed."

We taste this as numerous Jews are returning on their own.



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12. This is the greatness of our generation.

Jews are searching for G-d simply because they want to get closer to him!

Listen! Can't you just hear the footsteps of Moshiach?



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