

Parshat Bo

Exodus Chapter 13:1-16

First Aliyah

¹The Eternal spoke further to Moses, saying,

² “Consecrate to Me every first-born; man and beast, the first issue of every womb among the Israelites is Mine.”

³ And Moses said to the people, “Remember this day, on which you went free from Egypt, the house of bondage, how the Eternal freed you from it with a mighty hand: no leavened bread shall be eaten. ⁴ You go free on this day, in the month of Abib.

Second Aliyah

⁵So, when the Eternal has brought you into the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which God swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you shall observe in this month the following practice: ⁶“Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a festival of the Eternal.

⁷Throughout the seven days unleavened bread shall be eaten; no leavened bread shall be found with you, and no leaven shall be found in all your territory. ⁸And you shall explain to your child on that day, ‘It is because of what the Eternal did for me when I went free from Egypt.’

⁹“And this shall serve you as a sign on your hand and as a reminder on your forehead--in order that the Teaching of the Eternal may be in your mouth--that with a mighty hand the Eternal freed you from Egypt. ¹⁰ You shall keep this institution at its set time from year to year.

Third Aliyah

¹¹“And when the Eternal has brought you into the land of the Canaanites, as God swore to you and to your ancestors, and has given it to you, ¹²you shall set apart for the Eternal every first issue of the womb: every male firstling that your cattle drop shall be the Eternal’s. ¹³But every firstling ass you shall redeem with a sheep; if you do not redeem it, you must break its neck. And you must redeem every first-born male among your children.

Fourth Aliyah

¹⁴And when, in time to come, your child asks you, saying, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to your child, ‘It was with a mighty hand that the Eternal brought us out from Egypt, the house of bondage. ¹⁵When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Eternal slew every first-born in the land of Egypt, the first-born of both man and beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the Eternal every first male issue of the womb, but redeem every first-born among my sons.’ ¹⁶“And so it shall be as a sign upon your hand and as a symbol on your forehead that with a mighty hand the Eternal freed us from Egypt.”