

Parashat Vaeira

Exodus 6:2-16

FIRST ALIYAH

² God spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am the Eternal. ³ I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as El Shaddai, but I did not make Myself known to them by My name יהוה. ⁴ I also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. ⁵ I have now heard the moaning of the Israelites because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant.

SECOND ALIYAH

⁶ Say, therefore, to the Israelite people: I am the Eternal. I will free you from the labors of the Egyptians and deliver you from their bondage. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and through extraordinary chastisements. ⁷ And I will take you to be My people, and I will be your God. And you shall know that I, the Eternal, am your God who freed you from the labors of the Egyptians. ⁸ I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession, I the Eternal.” ⁹ But when Moses told this to the Israelites, they would not listen to Moses, their spirits crushed by cruel bondage.

THIRD ALIYAH

¹⁰ The Eternal One spoke to Moses, saying, ¹¹ “Go and tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites depart from his land.” ¹² But Moses appealed to the Eternal, saying, “The Israelites would not listen to me; how then should Pharaoh heed me, me – who gets tongue-tied!” ¹³ So the Eternal spoke to both Moses and Aaron in regard to the Israelites and Pharaoh king of Egypt, instructing them to deliver the Israelites from the land of Egypt.

FOURTH ALIYAH

¹⁴ The following are the heads of their respective clans. The sons of Reuben, Israel’s first-born: Enoch and Pallu, Herzon and Carmi; those are the families of Reuben. ¹⁵ The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Saul the son of a Canaanite woman; those are the families of Simeon. ¹⁶ These are the names of Levi’s sons by their lineage; Gershon, Kohath, and Merari; and the span of Levi’s life was 137 years.