



# אור בישראל

A LIGHT FROM WITHIN ISRAEL

פרשת בא

ג' שבט תשפ"ה 1.2.25

**1** The weekly Torah portion is Parashat Bo, the third parsha in the Book of Exodus. In Parshat Bo, the last 3 of the 10 plagues of Egypt appear – the plague of locusts, the plague of darkness, and the plague of the firstborn.

The parsha contains many commandments related to Passover that have been observed for thousands of years, until today.

The Israelites are instructed to gather inside their homes in family groups for the first Seder night. While we might have expected to celebrate liberation in the streets, a long-term process like the Exodus, with its educational message for generations, begins between the kitchen and living room in an educational family celebration called the Seder night. After all, nations are built from families.

**3** The parsha also includes the commandment of tefillin (phylacteries). Our commentators explain that the great event of the Exodus must be commemorated and carried forward with us forever. The tefillin serve as this constant reminder, worn every morning on the head and arm of every Jewish man.

Moshe repeatedly asks Pharaoh to free the Israelites. Moshe explains to Pharaoh that we don't know everything in advance, not certain exactly how things will unfold. We embark on a journey in the desert because God commanded it, and we follow him

**4** without knowing exactly what will happen. This is also what our story this week tells us about.

## A STORY FOR SHABBAT

### What would you do?

A rabbi once turned to his students and asked them: "What would you do if you found a wallet filled with money on the side of the road and no one else was watching you?" One student replied, "There is no question that I would immediately start to look for the wallet's owner, and if I couldn't find him, I'd post a sign announcing that I had found a wallet and that the owner should come and claim it." The rabbi waved his hands dismissively, and turned to another student to find out what he would do in this situation. This student responded: "Why should I tell lies? My financial situation is difficult, and I owe money to many people. If I had no way of finding out who the wallet belongs to, I would take it. It would make a wonderful gift for me and my family." The rabbi was dissatisfied with this answer too, and asked a third student what he would do. He replied, "The truth is that I don't know. While sitting here with the rabbi and my friends, it seems clear to me that I would try to fulfill the mitzvah of returning a lost object. But if I were standing in the street, all alone, and no one else was watching me, I don't know what I would do... I sincerely hope that my good side would win, and I'd make the right decision." "Ah...finally an honest answer," said the rabbi. "You can't assume that you will pass this test, and you must prepare yourself for a struggle. You know that life is a constant battle between good and evil, so you hope that, with God's help, your good inclination will triumph, and that you won't give in to temptation."

(from the book series- Ligdol)

### Food for Thought

Sometimes we feel completely sure of ourselves and are confident that we'll know what to do in a particular situation, but when we come face to face with that challenge, we become overwhelmed. It's important to prepare ourselves in advance with strategies that will help us pass the test.





Exodus and her father, Biyaylign Kassa

## FROM THE DIARY OF A CHEMED STUDENT

### "Everything Is Possible: My Journey of Hope and Hard Work"

Hi everyone, my name is Exodus. I'm a grade 11 student at Ulpenat Kiryat Gat, and I'm 18 years old. I made Aliyah last year from Ethiopia, and it was one of the most overwhelming experiences my family and I had been waiting for—to return to the "Holy Land." We were so happy to reunite with our family in Israel, whom we hadn't seen in a long time.

After some time, I started studying at my current school. As a new student who hardly knew Hebrew, it was very challenging. At first, it was really hard because of the language barrier, and I felt like I would never be an active participant in class as I used to be. But I promised myself that I would try my best and never give up. With the help of my teachers, fellow students, and my own determination, I successfully finished grade 10.

I want to share my experience and give advice to everyone reading this: **Everything is possible. Never give up—your only limit is your imagination.**

Exodus Kassa. 11th grade. Ulpenat Ort Kiryat Gat



דף הפרשה מוקדש לעילוי  
נשמת החיילים הקדושים  
מיכאל בן חמו ואייל טויטו הי"ד



## FROM THE DIARY OF A SHLICHA

Shoval Kornfeld, an educational shlicha at the "Yavneh" school in Antwerp, Belgium, writes to us: The violent attacks in Amsterdam came as a surprise to the Jewish community in Antwerp. Many Jews began saying out loud that the future doesn't look bright in Belgium either, and the dream of making aliyah (immigrating to Israel) seems closer than ever to realization. This is where our role as shlichim on behalf of the State of Israel came in - to pick up the gauntlet and address these feelings. We created an "Aliyah Salon" to make information and content accessible for those interested in or currently in the process of making aliyah. For this purpose, we worked together with the organization "Shivat Zion" whom we knew through the Jewish Agency and World Bnei Akiva. They invited Moriah Rodrig, a Belgian graduate who made aliyah, and Jonathan Vigné as the organization's representative. The success exceeded all our expectations. Dozens of interested men and women came to receive tools and knowledge about making aliyah, and everything took place in our

living room in a warm and pleasant atmosphere. It was amazing to see how all the connections we've made here helped us with publicity and reaching audiences we hadn't thought we'd touch! With God's help, we'll see how to continue this event as another springboard to assist all those who want to make aliyah. We're happy to be the bridge connecting Diaspora Jewry with the State of Israel.



## Around the Shabbat Table

- Do you think the war is changing people's relationship with their Jewish identity? If so - is this a temporary or permanent change?
- Think about a time when you helped someone feel like they belonged. Or about a time when someone helped you. What did you do? How did they feel?
- Why is it important to never give up when facing challenges?
- What lesson does Exodus want us to learn from her story?

