**Questions for Understanding and Reflection**

1. How were the readings for last Shabbat fulfilled for you during last week?

**My prophecy was**: Lets all become mustard seeds and cultivate more mustard seeds. We can do much with very little.

**The fulfillment was**: I had a chance this week, for the first time, to speak to a Japanese and Chinese student (together) about how to bring peace (shalom) to the world by learning how to love their neighbor through tzedaka. I impressed upon them that they personally had the ability to bring peace between their two countries by changing themselves into men who loved their neighbors – and then teach this to others. They were very receptive.

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat which verse or verses impressed your heart and fired your imagination?

Shemot 1:7 impressed me with the six adjectives used to describe the increasing population of the Jews: The children of Israel were fruitful (1) and swarmed (2) and increased (3) and became very very strong (4 and 5), and the land became filled with them (6). These six allude to the six children with each birth as Rashi brought out.

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Ex. 1:1?

**And these are the names of the sons of Israel** – Why were they counted again after death?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Ex. 1:8?

**A new king arose** – What is the meaning of a ‘new’ king?

**and who did not know** – What does this mean?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Ex. 1:15?

**to the midwives** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: לַמְיַלְּדֽת?

**Shifrah** – Who was this?

**Puah** – Who was this?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Ex. 1:19?

**for they are skilled as midwives** – How is this to be interpreted?

**God benefited** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: וַיֵּיטֶב?

**God benefited the midwives** - What was this benefit?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Ex. 1:16?

**When you deliver** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: בְּיַלְדְכֶן?

**on the birthstool** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: הָאָבְנָיִם?

**if it is a son, etc**. – Why are only sons mentioned?

**she may live** – What happened to the girls?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Ex: 1:21?

**He made houses for them** – What is this house?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Ex. 2:3?

**[When] she could no longer hide him** – What prevented her from hiding him?

**reed** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: גּֽמֶא?

**with clay and pitch** – Why were both substances used?

**and put [it] into the marsh** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew expression: וַתָּשֶׂם בָּסוּף?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Ex. 2:7?

**from the Hebrew women** – What does this teach us?

(No one else could feed Moshe except a Hebrew woman.)

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Ex. 2:13?

**two Hebrew men were quarreling** – Who were these men?

**quarreling** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: נִצִּים?

**Why are you going to strike** – How is this to be understood?

**your friend** – Who is this friend?

**Who made you a man** – Why did they ask this question?

**Do you plan to slay me** – What do we learn from this?

**Moses became frightened** – How is this to be explained?

**Indeed, the matter has become known** – How is this to be interpreted?

1. What are the 10 synonyms for “praise” according to the Talmud?

nizzuah [victory], niggun [melody], maskil, mizmor [psalm], shir [song], ashre [happy], tehillah [praise], tefillah [prayer], hodayah [thanksgiving] [and] hallelujah.

1. What Hebrew name for “G-d” is used mostly in the second book of Psalms, and why?

Elohim is used because G-d will be exercizing the attribute of strict justice.

1. In Psalm 42:2, who is the subject of this verse, the male or the female of the species?

The subject is a female who acts like a male.

1. Who is “Leviathan the barlike serpent, who is Leviathan the crooked serpent, who is Leviathan, and who is “the dragon that is in the sea”? Also, when we read about the serpent in the book of Revelation, what category of serpent is this?

**leviathan the barlike serpent** – That is Egypt.

**leviathan the crooked serpent** - That is Assyria.

**Dragon that is in the sea**: This is Esau. (The Roman Church, which includes all the Christian churches. Things like communion, trinity, etc. have the dogmas created by the Catholic church.)

**The Revelation serpent** is the Dragon that is in the sea.

1. In prophecy what is the “east wind” and what function does it have?

The east wind is the wind of antiquity – the ‘spirit that hovered over the deep”, is *yeshua*, salvation. This alludes to Mashiach.

1. What common point do Moshe, Yeshua, Abraham, and Yonah have in common?

They are all prophets. They were all involved with water.

1. What common theme runs throughout the Torah Seder and Nazarean Talmud?

The theme of suffering, persecution, and adversarial contention exists in every part of the Torah Seder and the Nazarean Talmud.

1. What special relationship do the Jewish people have with the constellations?

They stand above the constellations and can make *some* changes to their influence. The Gentile and the Jews are subject to the constellations and to the moon and sun. Thus the calendar affects everyone. The stars affect *all* our personalities. The new moons of Tishri and Nisan are superior to the other new moons. The Hakhamim represent the constellations because both are messengers to communicate HaShem’s will. Yet *spiritually* the constellations have no power over us because we are the stars and we are above the stars.

1. In your opinion, how do we overcome the cosmic forces of Ephesians 6:12?, defend your answer with Scriptural support.

The answer is in Ephesians 6:13-18 - 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

1. 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; ‎
2. Taking into consideration all the readings for this Shabbat what is the prophetic statement for this ‎week?‎

Lets work at influencing others to love each other to be strengthened as we experience the exile.