



PASSOVER | פֶּסַח

Text Study A Community of Equals

Who are the Israelites' most important citizens?

I. Exodus Ch. 10 (Translation: JPS)

So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says G-d, the G-d of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go that they may worship Me. For if you refuse to let My people go, tomorrow I will bring locusts on your territory...'"

With that he turned and left Pharaoh's presence.

Pharaoh's courtiers said to him, "How long shall this one be a snare to us? Let the men go to worship their G-d! Are you not yet aware that Egypt is lost?"

So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh and he said to them, "Go, worship your G-d!

Who are the ones to go?"

Moses replied, "We will all go, young and old: we will go with our sons and daughters, our flocks and herds; for we must observe G-d's festival."

But he said to them, "...No! You men go and worship G-d, since that is what you want." And they were expelled from Pharaoh's presence.

>> Why does Pharaoh refuse to let the women and children go worship with the men?

>> Why does Moses insist the women, children, and flocks be allowed to leave?

>> What does this statement about "young and old, sons and daughters" say about their role in Israelite society?

II. Leviticus Ch. 19:33, 34

When strangers reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them.

The strangers who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love each one as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I Hashem am your G-d.

>> Why does the Torah require never forgetting the painful experience of slavery?

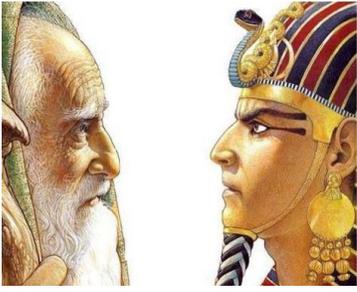
>> Why should strangers be considered full and equal citizens in Israelite society?

>> What does it mean today to love a stranger?



North Suburban Synagogue

Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל



"All Things Being Equal": a diverse collection of thoughts on equality



1. "To be successful, a woman has to be much better at her job than a man." - Golda Meir



2. "Until we get equality in education, we won't have an equal society."
- Sonia Sotomayor



3. "Women will only have true equality when men share with them the responsibility of bringing up the next generation."
- Ruth Bader Ginsburg



4. "[Adam was created by himself] to proclaim the greatness of G-d; for humans stamp many coins with one seal and they are all like one another; but G-d has stamped every human with the seal of the first person, yet not one of them are like another. Therefore everyone must say, "For my sake was the world created."
- Talmud (Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5)

5. "All this talk about equality. The only thing people really have in common is that they are all going to die." - Bob Dylan

6. "All the people like us are 'We,' and everyone else is 'They.'" - Rudyard Kipling



7. "In order to get beyond racism, we must first take account of race. There is no other way. And in order to treat some persons equally, we must treat them differently."
- Harry A. Blackmun



8. "At some point we have to stop and say, 'There's Marlee,' not, 'There's the deaf actress.'" - Marlee Matlin



9. "I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit together at the table of brotherhood."
- Martin Luther King, Jr.



10. "G-d created man in His image; in the image of G-d He created him; male and female He created them."
- Torah (Genesis 1:27)

1. Which three quotes do you most agree with? Why?
2. Do you disagree with any of these? Which?
3. What does equality look like in 2022?
4. Who in our world are not yet considered to be equal?