**Questions for Reflection**

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat which statement touched your heart and fired your imagination?

I was touched by the Ashlamata which speaks about “hemorrhoids of gold and five mice of gold”. I was trying to imagine what ‘transgression’ would prompt this ‘affliction’.

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 10:1?

**The Lord said to Moses: Come to Pharaoh** – What was his mission with Paro?

**that I may place** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: שִׁתִי?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 10:5?

**the view of the earth** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: עֵין הָאָרֶץ?

**and no one will be able** - What were they inhibited from doing?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 10:10?

**just as I will let you… out** – What is excluded in this statement?

**See that evil is before your faces** – How is this to be understood?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 10:11?

**Not so** – What was excluded by this statement?

**for that is what you request** – What is the meaning of this pasuk?

**And he chased them out** – Who chased them out?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 10:19?

**west wind** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase רוּחַ-יָם?

**into the Red Sea** – What direction is the Red Sea?

**Not one locust remained** – What do we learn from this statement?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 10:21?

**and the darkness will become darker** – What does this signify?

**will become darker** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: וְיָמֵשׁ?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 10:22?

**and there was thick darkness… for three days, etc.** – What was the nature of this plague?

**three days** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: שְׁלשֶׁת יָמִים?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 10:26?

**Hoof** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: פַּרְסָה?

**do not know how [much] we will worship –** What knowledge were they lacking?

1. What question’s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 10:29?

**You have spoken correctly** – What did he say correctly?

1. For what important reasons did G-d harden the hearts of Pharaoh and his servants?

The reason I (HaShem) hardened their hearts is that I might set in their midst these signs that I wish to do among them so that the Egyptians will know My power, but not in order that I can punish them more on account of this hardening of heart, and also that you and all Israel should recount during the coming generations the power of My deeds, ***and you will know that I am the Eternal***,[[1]](#footnote-1) and whatsoever I please, I do in heaven and in earth.

1. In the Remes what is the meaning of **“*I will not see your face again any more”?***

Evil will not behold righteousness again in the age to come.

He was prophesying of his own death.

1. How are the Ten Plagues related to the ***birth pangs*** of a woman?

The plagues represent the birth pangs and also the trimesters of pregnancy.

1. What is the relationship between the human birth canal and the shofar?
2. They are both the same shape.
3. A sperm goes in the small end (like we blow a small sound) and out the big end comes a baby (in the same way a baby results from the small seed).
4. The symbol of Israel in war and at the redemption, is a shofar. The shofar announces freedom, in the same way a baby travels through the birth canal to freedom.
5. Why do our Sages compare the final Redemption to a birth process?

Because it is a ‘death’ experience for some and it involves significant stress on those being redeemed. This ‘process’ is not an instantaneous experience. It is a process that occurs over time. The coming of the Mashiach is something that takes place over time.

1. Why is this Sabbath called **“Vay’hi BaShanah”** after the first words of our special Ashlamatah and not after the first words of the Torah Seder as we normally do?

This special Ashlamatah is read the Sabbath before Pesach Sheni or Second Chance Passover. We are reading this on Iyar 10 and Pesach Sheni is Iyar 15. This Ashlamata is preparing us for this time.

The Nazarean Codicil for this week also references our special Ashlamata.

1. What key teachings for us are contained in the texts of Mark 6:14-16 and Luke 9:7-9?

Yeshua as a true Torah Scholar. He is so distinguished that Herod is unnerved by his notoriety.

1. What is **“the bimodal aspect of the Torah”**?

That is the aspect that “Nisan is like Tishri”, that is the first half of the year is mirrored in the second half of the year. For example: There is a seven day festival (Pesach) in the spring and a seven day festival in the fall (Succoth).

The lectionary is two three and a half year cycles that make up a seven year cycle. This gives a reading an anchor in both the spring and in the fall.

1. List the Mitzvoth (commandments) in Romans 13:1-10 incumbent on Nazarean Jews and the Gentiles who join their assemblies.

Obey the Bet Din. – Pay synagogue dues. – Do not commit adultery. – Do not murder. – Do not steal. – Do not bear false witness. – Do not covet. – Love your neighbor as yourself. – Love.

1. In your opinion, and taking into consideration all the above readings for this Shabbat, what is the prophetic message (the idea that encapsulates all the Scripture passages read) for this week?

Do not harden your heart when dealing with HaShem.

1. Verse 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)