

Miketz 2023

Miketz/"At the End Of", Genesis 41:1-44:17, opens with the prophetic dreams of Pharaoh, an event that becomes instrumental in the restoration of Joseph and the reuniting of the house of Israel. However, as we have said countless times before, these Torah portions were not written for the benefit of those who were living at the time, these portions become instrumental in revealing the events of the miketz –at the end! A roadmap for you and I today! Both Revelation and Amos speak of a famine that will once again grip the world therefore making it paramount to understand the instructions revealed here in the midst of this parshah! Because this coming famine will serve the same purpose!

Genesis 41:1

At the end: Strong's #7093 qets קֵץ end, specifically an end of time or space; it refers to the finish, a final point, a goal or a purpose; cognate words infer a limit, border, or a boundary line! From the root #7112 qatsats קָצַץ to cut off, to cut loose or cut away, to divide, or to amputate; it seems to point toward that what's about to take place is revealing set limits, borders or a boundary line being put in place regarding the cutting away/exile of Joseph!

*Remember this parshah's role as a prophetic shadow picture! The house of Joseph today - the scattered house of Israel dispersed among the nations is once again subject to the authority and might of Egypt/world powers, yet a border/limit/boundary line has been put in place regarding our exile!

In fact further connecting this point, this same wording – miketz – is next seen in the Torah in **Exodus 12:41** – “And it came to pass at the end/miketz of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of Yahweh went out from the land of Egypt.” – the end of Israel's bondage and exile in Egypt!

*Remember that in **Gen. 15:13** – “And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land *that is* not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;” Yahweh revealed to Abraham key insight regarding a future season of affliction!

This information would have been taught and passed down to Isaac, to Jacob, and then to Joseph! So as we examine the text, keep in mind this is not only about Israel being preserved in the midst of the famine, but it is also laying the groundwork regarding the prophecy of their own bondage – which Joseph knew! Therefore his actions are two fold – not only to sustain his house through the famine, but also to preserve his house through the coming season of bondage, and to prepare them for their redemption!

Israel must understand the parameters of their coming bondage, what has opened the door for them to be in that position, what keeps them in that bondage, and what is the key that will unlock their freedom at the miketz/at the declared appointed end of this season – because it is not the word or whim of Pharaoh!

*The miketz, the boundaries being revealed deal not only with the end of Joseph's personal exile, but the end of the exile of the entire house who is facing a season of bondage, both then and even more so the house of Israel today!

Continuing with this line of thought, this phrase (miketz) is also found in connection with the shemittah years! **Deuteronomy 15:1** – “At the end/miketz of every seven years thou shalt make a release.” Pay attention to this connection! Pharaoh's dream reveals 7 years of plenty, followed by 7 years of famine – 7 years is a shemittah cycle! Could the limit/boundary line/border that is being put into place and revealed within these verses be connected to the shemittah cycles?

*It's no accident that our current exile is a consequence of this very statute (the shemittah year) not being honored. **2 Chronicles 36:21** – “To fulfill the word of Yahweh by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill threescore and ten years.”

Desolate: Strong's #8074 shamem שָׁמֵם to be desolate, appalled, stunned, to stupefy; the numerical value = 380, the value of Mitsrayim מִצְרַיִם Egypt! Is it possible, the house of Israel had already neglected the honoring of the shemittah cycles while in the land of their inheritance, and so they are sent to Egypt in order for the land to enjoy her Sabbaths? And is it possible the famine is brought on by their very neglect of the shemittah cycles?

Release: Strong's #8059 shemittah שְׁמִטָּה letting drop of exactions, remitting, a release from debt, but also releasing ownership/control of the land! Breaking it apart שָׁמ root meaning name (shem – the power, authority, and the character of an individual are contained within their name); the other root stem found here is מַטֵּה matteh (#4294) meaning tribe or staff or rod; which metaphorically represents the source of one's strength, sustenance, or authority – who you follow!

*The rod/matteh also represents the ability to plant seed in order to build one's lineage or name (your tribe)!

Connecting the dots, the Hebrew shows that the shemittah reveals who your source is (the source of your strength, sustenance, and authority), and whose name you are continuing on! The Promised Land is Yahweh's, therefore access to it is solely for those who are his living heirs – continuing on His Name! The shemittah becomes the DNA test!

It is interesting to note that this same מַטֵּה (#4296) matteh can be translated as a funeral bier, a litter on which the dead were carried! The shemittah reveals the

state of the house –either as living heirs or as those tainted by death, therefore unable to continue on the NAME, hence a year of blessing or exile!

It seems then, by connecting the dots, the famine becomes a manifestation revealing the state of the house itself!

Famine: Strong's #7458 ra'av רָעַב famine, hunger; gematria = 272 and when subtracted from the value of shemittah (354) = 82, the value of Laban (#3837) לָבָן to be white, or to make bricks. When the shemittah is neglected, exposing the supposed heirs of the house, the famine sends them to the house of Laban (Egypt) where they will make bricks!

Breaking apart Laban's name – ל = to goad, prod, prick or sting, is the picture of a shepherds staff which prods cattle to perform some action; this is connected to the לָבָן root (Ben) meaning son, yet it has a numerical value of 52, the same value as behemah בְּהֵמָה cattle, beast, from the root meaning one who is mute.

*Laban is the one who will goad and prod the cattle to keep them in line, building bricks for the beast system. Yet in this goading and prodding it is this very opposition that will also reveal and separate the ben/the sons! The famine sends Israel to Egypt to build bricks for the very purpose of goading them into rising up to become the sons and heirs they were created to be! The same scenario is where we find ourselves today!

All of this is being revealed to Joseph through the dreams...the shemittah becomes the key that unlocks the ability to understand their exile as well as their redemption!

*Pay attention, this concept goes beyond physical Egypt, but the ruling power and system of Egypt, which is the same power and system still in place today directing the affairs of the entire world! We too find ourselves in Egypt, cogs in their machine, as the beast system controls every aspect of our society, yet a boundary has been set regarding the extent of our time here – we are here until we learn to rise up as the living sons and daughters, heirs of Yahweh!

To put this into context, the weekly Shabbat is for man, but the shemittah is for the land! In fact though a blessing for those who find themselves in debt, for those who were the lenders or the landowners the shemittah is a huge step of faith as they relinquish their control and acknowledge that Yahweh will work all things together on their behalf.

*With the understanding that the shemittah focuses on the land, the Torah makes it clear that dead things corrupt the land (**Numb. 35:33, Jer. 16:18**)! Therefore the shemittah reveals the boundary line – only one who is living is capable of giving rest to the land! Any corrupted by death (spiritual, physical, or the garments of Egypt) are incapable of stewarding the shemittah. **Romans 8:19** – “For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of Yah.”

Genesis 42:1 – “Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another?”

Corn: Strong’s #7668 **seber** שֶׁבֶר grain, corn; interesting to note that this is the first reference of this word! Yet directly before this we see Joseph gathering “corn” in Egypt, but a different word is used. Jacob specifically uses **seber** – grain, corn; from the root #7667 **sebar** שָׁבַר breaking, fracture, crushing, breach, shattering; yet it can also infer to bring to birth, or to measure off, to define, or to set a boundary!

Seber is a cognate of #7663/7664 **sabar** שָׁבַר hope, to inspect or examine, to wait upon with hope! It infers a hope based upon understanding and seeking out the one who is the source of that hope, and therefore able to wait in hope knowing that one who gave the promise is faithful to keep it!

What exactly are Jacob’s instructions to his sons? Why do you look to each other? You must find the source where your hope comes from! A boundary has been placed (shemittah?) yet in the crushing and the breaking, something will be born! His sons have been guilty of dishonoring the covenant – the land has been defiled by blood shed and the rending of Joseph’s coat! The house will be exiled for the land to have its rest, yet through the coming trials, they will be born again (live again)!

*There’s a reason Yahweh has allowed you to be in the furnace you’re in, it’s where you learn who your hope is! With that understanding, you now are able to trust Him once restored to your inheritance and bring the shemittah/Shabbat to the land because you have no fear when asked to release and let go!

Now back to Pharaoh’s dreams! **Genesis 41:1-4**

Is the interpretation Joseph gives to Pharaoh the full meaning of the dreams? Or perhaps was there a message meant solely for Joseph as well?

Pay attention to the phrase – “well favored”/yephot **מְרֵאָה יְפוֹת** – this phrase is used to describe Joseph himself in **Gen. 39:6** (as well as his mother Rachel in **Gen. 29:17**)! Not only do we find this connection, but cattle (bulls/oxen) are also the symbol of the house of Joseph as well as Pharaoh! Hmm...could it once again be the pattern of the herds being separated? Just like Jacob instituted with his flocks vs. those of Laban’s? Joseph’s house must be separated and unmingled from that of Pharaoh’s!

*Could it be Pharaoh’s dream goes beyond just representing the imminent 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of famine? It also holds a concealed message regarding the house of Joseph!

The well favored (Joseph) vs. the ill favored (Pharaoh’s house), which will consume/overtake the well favored (Joseph) for a season. **III:** Strong’s #7451 **ra’** עַר bad, evil; opposite of **to**/good, which literally means that which is functioning as it was created to do so; therefore evil/ra’/ill favored is something that has ceased to function in the manner that it was created for!

This door is opened by the actions of Joseph's brothers – **Gen. 37:20** – “Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil/ra' beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.”

*Yet Joseph is given hope and a promise – there is a miketz – a limit to this exile!

The numerical value of this phrase yephot mar'eh מִרְאֵה יְפוֹת = 742, the value of the phrase 'aron ha'edut אֲרוֹן הָעֵדוּת Ark of the Testimony! Immediately most will think of the Ark of the Covenant, which is referred to in this manner multiple times. Yet Joseph is also placed in a 'aron – an ark/coffin (**Gen. 50:26**) and it is the first time the word 'aron is used in the Torah! Now let's take a look at the second part of this phrase – the testimony.

Testimony: Strong's #5715 'edut עֵדוּת testimony; from the root #5707 'ed עָד witness, what testifies; cognate of 'adah (#5710) עָדָה to pass on, lay aside, in the sense of removing a garment or clothing

Connecting the dots, could it be that this dream Pharaoh is given holds a prophetic word specifically for Joseph in regards to the coming season of bondage he already has been taught regarding? Could this be the answer as to why Jacob's body is returned to the Promised Land upon his death, yet Joseph's bones are placed in an ark/'aron and kept until the exodus?

Joseph is to be the 'aron ha'edut – he is the ark of the testimony! He is a direct witness and record of Israel's descent into Egypt, having defiled the land of their inheritance and shunned the responsibilities of the covenant ensconced in the role of the firstborn, the house of Israel had ceased to function in the capacity it was created for – as the heirs of Elohim!

As such, they are overtaken for a season by the evil beast system, Joseph himself takes on the garments of Egypt (is recognized as Pharaoh's heir in **Gen. 41:42** as he is clothed by Pharaoh and given his signet ring), but he does so not in ignorance! The dream reveals all! Joseph and the entire house of Israel upon entering Egypt (exile, the world system) are classified as dead men, having already revealed the condition of the house prior to ever arriving. Egypt merely gives them the official stamp! They must have a change of garments!

The shemittah is the boundary line – when they are living (when they remove these grave clothes) they can return to bring Shabbat to the Land! Joseph understands that only through their stay in Mitzrayim (meaning double straits, from the root to be confined/cramped or enclosed), can they be reborn! It's the womb! They must be re-born/live again to be able to return and enter the land of their inheritance. This is why Israel must exit through the parting of the Red Sea – the breaking of the waters! Joseph's bones stay in order to be the testimony and witness of this prophecy to the house of Israel!

*For Israel to return to the land without Joseph's bones (the house of Joseph), it's emblematic of the house still rejecting the responsibilities of the Covenant (housed in the role of firstborn), and having not changed their garments, therefore the land remains in a state of defilement by the dead!

Joseph is called viypheh mar'eh מְרַאֶה וַיִּפֶּה (singular), where the cattle are yephot mar'eh מְרַאֶה יִפּוֹת (plural). The numerical difference is quite intriguing! Joseph's phrase = 347 & the cattle's phrase = 742, with a difference of 395...the value of Manasseh, the firstborn of Joseph!

Genesis 41:51 – “And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For Elohim, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.”

Manasseh: Strong's #4519 Menashsheh מְנַשֵּׁה causing to forget; from the root #5382 nashah נָשָׁה to forget, to deprive, to not call to mind or allow something to dominate one's thinking; cognate of #5383 nashah נָשָׁה to lend, be a creditor, to borrow; seen in **Deut. 15:2** regarding the shemittah years – Yahweh's release!

Manasseh is written with the same letters that form Neshamah (#5397) נְשָׁמָה breath, spirit; **Genesis 2:7** – “And Yahweh Elohim formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath (neshamah) of life; and man became a living soul.” Neshamah is associated with the mind and intellect of Yahweh, which is then entrusted to Adam!

*נ = heir, the seed, the continuation of a lineage; ש = Shem/Name; & ה = breathe, to reveal, to vocalize; Adam is the heir of Yahweh who will reveal/give breath to His Name!

It's interesting to note that the root of Menashshe, nashah נָשָׁה has a numerical value of 355, the same value as Pharaoh פַּרְעֹה! It's missing the letter מ = the womb! As long as they remain in a dead status, Israel is subject to Pharaoh; once they are reborn (exit the womb) and live again – they are a living soul!

Paired with the naming of Joseph's second son, **Ephraim:** Strong's #669 'Ephrayim אֶפְרַיִם double ash-heap, or I shall be doubly fruitful; comes from the root 'epher אֶפֶר ashes, a play on words with 'aphar אֶפֶר dust – the dust that is formed to receive the neshamah/breath!

Immediately after the naming of these 2 sons, **Gen. 41:53** – “And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended.”

Joseph encodes a message within his 2 sons – the 'aphar/dust that must have breathed within the breath/neshamah to become a living soul! He's revealing the redemption plan and boundary line regarding the exile of the house of Israel – they must become a living soul!

Ezekiel 37:5 – “Thus saith Yahweh Elohim unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:”