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בקיאות Review 6

Part 1 פרק מ"א

1. Why is the Nile the only river called a יאור?

It means a canal. This is because the whole land is made into man-made canals and the Nile fills them. The reason they need that is because rains do not regularly fall in Egypt.

2. What is יפות מראה a sign of? Why?

It's a sign for days of abundance because people will act kindly towards one another, not miserly.

3. "And the cows of ugly appearance...ate." What is this a sign of?

That all the joy and excitement of the years of abundance would be forgot in the years of famine.

4. What does the expression והנה חלום suggest?

It suggests a new development: That it is one, entire dream and it needs interpretation.

5. What word is used to describe פרעה's agitation? What about the word indicated agitation? What word is used to describe Nebuchadnezzar's agitation after his dream? Why the difference?

The word is ותפע רוחו. His spirit was stirred like the clappers of a bell (פעמון). But by Nebuchadnezzar's dream it says ותתפעם רוחו. The difference is that there were two causes of agitation, the failure to remember the dream and the lack of interpretation, for Nebuchadnezzar.

6. What is the specific form of magic practiced by the חרטומים? How do you see this in the word?

They disturb the bones of the dead. In Aramaic, the word טימי are bones. This corresponds to חרטומים.

7. "But there was no one who could interpret them לפרעה." What the word לפרעה add?

It adds that there were many explanations posed to פרעה but none of them appealed to him.

8. The butler refers to יוסף as יוסף עבד. What does this indicate about the butler and why did he use each of these descriptions?

Each of these is a disparaging term towards יוסף. A youth indicated a fool meaning that he too stupid to be a king, a Hebrew indicated not familiar with our language and therefore cannot be a king, and a slave to say that he can never be king because a slave cannot be a king. This shows that the butler is evil because even his compliments are insincere.

9. “You hear a dream to interpret it.” What does the word תשמע suggest?

It suggests comprehension of the dream.

10. What was יוסף expressing by using the word בלעדי (beyond me).

The wisdom to interpret the dreams is not mine, but rather comes from ה'.

11. The word צמנות means withered. Provide two sources for this definition.

1. In Aramaic, צומנא means rock. This shows that the wheat is hard and without moisture.
2. The word נצן means nothing in them. This means that nothing was left in the husk; it had been emptied of the kernel.

Review 7 בקיאות

Part 2 פרק מ"א

1. How does רש"י know that seven years mentioned twice refers to the same seven years?

The fact that the dream repeated itself and it had the same seven years shows the urgency of the situation. The dream is about to come true,

2. יוסף uses different verbs to tell פרעה that ה' has informed him of his intentions. Why?

The seven good years are “told” to פרעה but the seven bad years are “shown” to פרעה. This is because the famine was far in the future and the word showing applies here.

3. “And all the abundance in the land of Egypt will be forgotten.” Which part of the dream indicated this?

This is when the sick cows swallow the fat cows.

4. “And the abundance will not be known” (the abundance will be forgotten during the famine). Which part of the dream suggests this?

The fact that when the sickly cows ate the fat ones, they looked no better than they did before.

5. רש"י translate הנמצא כזה in accordance with the תרגום. What is his translation and what is the alternative meaning?

תרגום reads it as “Can we find one like him?” רש"י accepts this opinion and rejects the alternative which is “The one found like this man.”

6. What does the word ישק mean? Provide another example (include the context) of the usage from ספר בראשית.

It means will be sustained (all the needs of the people will be sustained). This is similar to what אברהם says about ה' ה' will sustain my household.

7. What is the significance of פרעה removing his ring and placing it in the hand of יוסף?

The one who receives the ring is to be second to the king (like מרדכי during פורים).

8. Translate and explain the derivation of the word אברך (three explanations).

- a. The patron of the king (אב רך – father and רך which is the equivalent of rex)
- b. The father in terms of wisdom yet tender in years (אב רך – tender father)
- c. People would bend their knees to acknowledge his authority (ברכיים – knees)

9. פרעה states, אני פרעה. Give two explanations to this expression.

- a. I am Pharaoh and I have the wherewithal to issue a decree that no one may raise his hand without your permission.
- b. This means that I will be king and you will be second to the king. This is to remind יוסף that even though he has the ring, he is still second in command.

10. What is the meaning of, “No man may lift his hand of foot?”

This means that no man may wage war (lift his hands up with sword or put their foot on a horse to ride it) without consulting יוסף.

11. What is the meaning of יוסף's Egyptian name? Which part of the name indicated this?

His name is צנפת פענח. This means decipherer of the cryptic. We know this because there is no word similar to פענח in scripture.

12. Why is פוטיפרע referred to as פוטיפרע?

He becomes impotent because he wanted to have homosexual relations with יוסף. The word פרע means to disarrange, mutilate.

13. Why does the תורה stress that יוסף had children before the onset of the famine?

Because it is forbidden for a person to have marital relations during a famine (Beit Misrash!)

14. Why were the Egyptians starving if they had stored so much grain during the years of plenty?

All the produce which they stored rotted away (except יוסף's)

15. The Egyptians cried out to Paroh for bread but Paroh told them to go to יוסף and do whatever he says. Relate the dialogue that took place between Paroh and the Egyptians.

יוסף told them to get a ברית מילה. They came to Paroh and he responded, “Do whatever he says! Did he not tell you the years of famine are coming?” They responded, “We gathered much but it

rotted!” He responded, “If so, whatever he tells you, do! See, he made a decree against the produce and it rotted. What if he were to make a decree against us?”

16. The famine spread על כל פני הארץ. What is the פני הארץ?

The rich people.

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