Class # 15 - **Parshat Bo - The religion of inclusion**

Advanced Fellowship Parsha Class - Sponsored in memory of Alice Toby Barbanel Z”l

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<https://youtu.be/NhZfb-uM0S4?t=43m14s>

*Masada* is an [American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) television [miniseries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miniseries) that aired on [ABC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Broadcasting_Company) in April 1981 -  it was a fictionalized account of the [historical siege](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Masada) of the [Masada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masada) citadel in [Israel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel) by legions of the [Roman Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Empire) in AD 73. The siege ended when the [Roman armies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_legion) entered the fortress, only to discover the [mass suicide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_suicide) by the [Jewish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jew) defenders when defeat became imminent.

1. Why does the Governor Lucius Flavius Silva ask for a Roman Priest?
2. What does the Priest do?
3. Who participated in the ritual?
4. Who was not present?
5. What beliefs did the Romans have?

*Warning*

10:1 God said to Moses, '[Go](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=10#C1152) to Pharaoh. I have made him and his advisors stubborn, so that I will be able to demonstrate these miraculous signs among them. 10:2 You will then be able to [confide](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=10#C1153) to your children and grandchildren how I [made fools of](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=10#C1154) the Egyptians, and how I performed miraculous signs among them. You will then fully realize that I am God.' 10:3 Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh. In the name of God, Lord of the Hebrews, they said to him, 'How long will you refuse to submit to Me? Let My people leave and serve Me. 10:4 If you refuse to let My people leave, I will bring locusts to your territories tomorrow. 10:5 They will cover every visible speck of land, so that you will not be able to see the ground, and they will eat all that was spared for you by the hail, devouring every tree growing in the field. 10:6 They will fill your palaces, as well as the houses of your officials and of all Egypt. It will be something that your fathers and your fathers' fathers have never seen, since the day they were in the land.'

With that, [Moses] turned his back and left Pharaoh.

10:7 Pharaoh's officials said to him, 'How long will this [man] continue to be a menace to us? Let the men go, and let them serve God their Lord. Don't you yet realize that Egypt is being destroyed?' 10:8 Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. 'Go serve God your Lord,' he said. 'But exactly who will be going?' 10:9 'Young and old alike will go,' replied Moses. 'We will go with our sons and our daughters, with our sheep and cattle. It is a festival to God for [[all of](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=10#C1155)] us.' 10:10 '[May God only be with you just as I will let you leave with your children](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=10#C1156)!' replied Pharaoh. 'You must realize that [you will be confronted](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=10#C1157) by [evil](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=10#C1158). 10:11 But that's not the way it will be. Let the males go and worship God, if that's really what you want!' With that, he had them expelled from his presence.

Rashi:

11) NOT SO as you have said, to take the children with you,

but 'לכו נא הגברים ועבדו את ה Let the males go and worship God…….

כי אתה אתם מבקשים means FOR THAT IS WHAT YOU DID SEEK till now: let us sacrifice to our God — and it is not the custom for little children to offer sacrifice.

6) Why did Pharoh not believe that the Jews really wanted to take the children to the festival?

7) Why are children a central part of Judaism?

8) How does the holiday of Passover extenuate this idea?