Class # 13 - **Parshat Shemot: Pharoh versus Hitler**

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

Rabbi Pinny Rosenthal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2Iazwru7yE>

1. What is the Nazi narrative about the Jewish history?
2. What is effective about their story?
3. What is the “rat” analogy?

**Slavery begins…**

1:5The [original] number of Jacob's [direct descendants](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=1#C987), including Joseph who was in Egypt, was [seventy](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=1#C988). 1:6 Joseph, his brothers, and [everyone else in] that generation died. 1:7 The Israelites were fertile and prolific, and their population increased. They became so numerous that the land was filled with them.

*The New Order*

1:8 [A new king](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=1#C989) who did not know of Joseph, came into power over Egypt. 1:9 He announced to his people, 'The Israelites are becoming too numerous and strong for us. 1:10 We must deal wisely with them. Otherwise, they may increase so much, that if there is war, they will join our enemies and fight against us, [driving [us] from the land](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=1#C990).' 1:11 [The Egyptians] appointed tax officers over [the Israelites] to crush their spirits with hard labor. [The Israelites] were to build up the cities of [Pithom](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=1#C991) and [Ra'amses](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=1#C992) as supply centers for Pharaoh. 1:12 But the more [the Egyptians] oppressed them, the more [the Israelites] proliferated and spread. [The Egyptians] came to dread the Israelites. 1:13 The Egyptians started to make the Israelites do labor designated to break their bodies. 1:14 They made the lives of [the Israelites] miserable with harsh labor involving mortar and bricks, as well as all kinds of work in the field. All the work they made them do was intended to break them. 1:15 The king of Egypt spoke to the [[chief](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=1#C993)] Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shifra and Puah. 1:16 He said, 'When you deliver Hebrew women, you must look carefully at the [birthstool](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=1#C994). If [the infant] is a boy, kill it; but if it is a girl, let it live.' 1:17 The midwives feared God, and did not do as the Egyptian king had ordered them. They allowed the infant boys to live. 1:18 The king of Egypt summoned the midwives and demanded, 'Why did you do this? You let the infant boys live!' 1:19 'The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptians,' replied the midwives to Pharaoh. 'They know how to deliver. They can give birth before a midwife even gets to them.' 1:20 God was good to the midwives, and the people increased and became very numerous. 1:21 Because the midwives feared God, He [gave them great families](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=2&CHAPTER=1#C995) [of their own]. 1:22 Pharaoh then gave orders to *all* his people: 'Every boy who is born must be cast into the Nile, but every girl shall be allowed to live.'

1. What is the pretext for enslaving the Jews?
2. How does that differ from the Nazis?
3. What problem did Pharoh need to overcome?
4. What were the four stages of the slavery?

**The Ramban’s approach to understanding the descent into slavery**

{Nachmanides 1194-1270} was a leading medieval Jewish scholar, [Sephardic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sephardic) [rabbi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabbi), [philosopher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy), [physician](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physician), [kabbalist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kabbalah), and [biblical commentator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_commentaries_on_the_Bible).



  
  
  
