



Question

1. Our Haggadah, based on Sifri Devarim 301

"ויגר שם" - מלמד שלא ירד יעקב אבינו להשתקע במצרים אלא לגור שם, שנאמר: ויאמרו אל־פרעה לגור בארץ באנו...

"And he sojourned there" – This teaches that Yaakov did not descend to settle in Egypt, but to sojourn there, as it says: And he said to Pharaoh, we have come to sojourn in the land...

2. Yeshayahu 52:4

...מְצָרִים יָרַד עַמִּי בְּרֵאשִׁיטָה לְגוֹר שָׁם...

...My nation descended to Egypt at first, to sojourn there...

Question: Why do we emphasize Yaakov's change in plans?

Answer #1: An Ant-Egypt Polemic

3. Sojourning and leaving Bereishit 12:10 (Avraham and Sarah)

4. A Bad Sojourning Yirmiyahu 42:13-22, 44:7-14, 44:24-29, 43:2

Answer #2: Unexpected Reversals, and Destiny

5. Examples in the text of the Haggadah

- Lavan sought to uproot everything
- Yaakov intended to sojourn in Egypt
- Your ancestors descended to Egypt as just 70
- "Let us be wise with him, lest he become many"

6. Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik, *Kol Dodi Dofek*, Gordon translation

First, the knock of the Beloved was heard in the political arena. From the point of view of international relations, no one will deny that the rebirth of the State of Israel, in a political sense, was an almost supernatural occurrence... I do not know who the representatives of the press, with their human eyes, saw to be the chairman in that fateful session of the General Assembly in which the creation of the State of Israel was decided, but he who looked carefully with his spiritual eye saw the true Chairman who conducted the proceedings — the Beloved. He knocked with his gavel on the lectern.

7. The conversation that led us down to Egypt Bereishit 15

8. Talmud, Nedarim 32a

א"ר אבהו א"ר אלעזר: מפני מה נענש אברהם אבינו ונשתעבדו בניו למצרים מאתים ועשר שנים? מפני שעשה אנגרייא בת"ח שנאמר "וירק את הניכיו ילידי ביתו." ושמואל אמר מפני שהפריז על מדותיו של הקב"ה שנא' "במה אדע כי אירשנה." ורבי יוחנן אמר שהפריש בני אדם מלהכנס תחת כנפי השכינה שנאמר "תן לי הנפש והרכוש קח לך."

Rabbi Avahu asked, citing Rabbi Elazar: Why was Avraham Avinu punished, and why were his descendants enslaved in Egypt for 210 years? Because he enlisted talmidei chachamim... And Shemuel said: Because he exceeded propriety regarding Divine conduct... And Rabbi Yochanan said: Because he kept people from entering the Divine presence...

9. Beyond the text, the body of the Seder itself emphasizes foiled expectations

- We do things in unusual ways, to inspire questions (Pesachim 108b-109a, 114b, etc.)
- We proclaim, "How different is this night, from all other nights!" (Aruch haShulchan Orach Chaim 473:21)
- The haste of the original Seder (Shemot 12:11)
- We eat matzah to remember that the Jews left in a rush (Devarim 16:3, see Ran Pesachim 25b *b'dapei Rif*)
- This year we are here, next year in Israel! This year we are here, next year we are free!