**Questions for Reflection**

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat which statement touched your heart and fired your imagination?

I was touched by the commentary on the Nazarean Codicil, particularly the following statement: *Firstly, Yosef as the “savior” of the Gentile world did so before “saving” his own people. From this we derive a principle that the healing of the world is prerequisite as a Jewish enterprise.*

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 11:4?

**Moses said, So said the Lord** – When did Moshe receive this prophecy?

**At the dividing point of the night** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: כַּחֲצֽת הַלַיְלָה?

H.YbH – When is the dividing point of the night? There were three watches and the divisions are between either the first and second watches or between the second and the third watches.

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 11:5?

**to the firstborn of the captive** - Why were the captives smitten?

**from the firstborn of Pharaoh… to the firstborn of the slave woman** – How is this to be understood?

**and every firstborn animal** – Why were animals included?

H.YbH – Up until this point, the Gentiles could be priests because of the priesthood of the firstborns. After this point, the Gentiles could no longer be priests. HaShem called only Israel, “His firstborn”.

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 12:2?

**This month** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: הַחֽדֶשׁ הַזֶה?

**This** – Why was *this* specified?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 12:4?

**But if the household is too small for a lamb** – What is the meaning of this verse?

**according to the number of** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: בְּמִכְסַת?

**according to one’s ability to eat** – What does this indicate?

**shall you be counted** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: תָּכֽסוּ?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 12:6?

**And you shall keep it for inspection** – What is the meaning of this Hebrew expression: לְמִשְׁמֶרֶת?

**shall slaughter it** - Now do they all slaughter [it]?

**the entire congregation of the community of Israel** – Who is included in this phrase?

**in the afternoon** – What is the meaning of this Hebrew phrase: הָעַרְבָּיִם בֵּין?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 12:7?

**And they shall take [some] of the blood** – What blood is this?

**the… door posts** – What are the door posts?

**the lintel** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: הַמַשְׁקוֹף?

**on the houses in which they will eat it** – Are there any limits to this phrase?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 12:9?

**You shall not eat it rare** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: נָא?

**or boiled** – Why is this included?

**in water** - How do we know that [it is also prohibited to cook it] in other liquids?

**except roasted over the fire** – Why is this included?

**its head with its legs** – Why are these two parts mentioned?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 12:13?

**And the blood will be for you for a sign** – What do we derive form this phrase?

**and I will see the blood** - [In fact,] everything is revealed to Him. Why then does the Torah mention that God will see the blood?

**and skip over** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: וּפָסַחְתִּי?

**and there will be no plague to destroy [you]** – What do we derive from this?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi regarding Shemot 12:15?

**For seven days** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: שִׁבְעַת יָמִים?

**For seven days you shall eat unleavened cakes** – What does this teach us?

**but on the preceding day you shall clear away all leaven** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: בַּיוֹם הָרִאשׁוֹן?

**that soul** - Who is excluded from this penalty?

**from Israel** – Why is this stated?

1. After reading the definitions of “Bein HaArbayim” by Rashi and the Ramban, what do you conclude this term to mean?

Between three and six pm (till the stars come out).

H. YbH – Yeshua died bein HaArbayim and Mordechai (Mark) says that He was hung at the sixth hour and died at the ninth hour.

1. The Sadducees understood that the term “Bein HaArbayim” mean in Exodus 12:6 meant between the evenings ending Nisan 13 and commencing Nisan 14. How would you refute their error?

*And you shall keep it for inspection until the fourteenth day of this month, and the entire congregation of the community of Israel shall slaughter it in the afternoon.*

They were to eat the Pesach on the same day that they left Egypt. When this is coupled with our verse, then I understand that it is slaughtered on the fourteenth and eaten on the fifteenth.

H.YbH – Tradition says that it is on the 15th – H. Shaul says that Mashiach our “Pesach lamb” was slaughtered. And He was slaughtered on the late afternoon of the fourteenth. The Nazarean Codicil is the final arbiter of halachic issues.

1. Why are women associated with shopping and spending money more so than men?

Because they were created by HaShem to exchange potential for actual. This is most evident in sex where she selects one sperm, out of millions, in order to bring forth a child.

1. It has been said that “The less sex you’ve been experiencing, the less you want it. The more you’ve been enjoying it, the more you want it.” To what spiritual reality does this statement points to?

The more you get close to HaShem, the more you want to be close to Him.

1. Define what a ***“Mashal”*** is.

A *mashal* is a “physical” or temporal example of something that is spiritual and cannot be seen. A parable.

1. Why is it impossible for us to ultimately own “silver and gold”? And since we can’t fully own “silver and gold” what should we do with it when it comes into our possession?

Because we must leave it in this world when we go to the next world. Therefore, we should spend it wisely on those things which will follow us into the next world. It all belongs to HaShem.

1. What key teachings for us are contained in the texts of Mark 6:17-29?

Avoid illicit relationships, be very careful with your vows, Have irrational vows annuled by the bet din, do not murder.

1. Why have Christian translators made a big blunder in translating Romans 1:16 “to the Jew first”?

The Jewish people do not need teaching on what they already know. Because the Jews are the recipients of the Oracles of G-d i.e. the Mesorah, it only stands to reason that the Mesorah be taught CHIEFLY by the JEWISH PEOPLE! But the main point is that they **MUST be first taught by a Jewish Hakham** (who has learned the oral law from his master.)

1. Why “It was necessary that the Torah of God be spoken/taught to the Gentiles by you (the Jewish people) first”?

Because the Jews were the ones entrusted with the oracles of HaShem, which they learned from a teacher who received them from their teacher… from Moshe.

1. In your opinion, and taking into consideration all the above readings for this Shabbat, what is the prophetic message (the idea that encapsulates all the Scripture passages read) for this week?

Be very careful to do things precisely the way HaShem has commanded.

21. How do our reading pertain to Lag B’Omer?

 The office is the parnas, the feminine pastor who we meet in our psalm as a mashal of the one who converts the physical into the spiritual. Thus we understand that Lag B ‘Omer is associated with the feminine sefira.