

שמות ו':ו'

לֵכֶן אָמַר לְבְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲנִי ה' וְהוֹצֵאתִי אֶתְכֶם מִתַּחַת סִבְלַת מִצְרַיִם וְהִצַּלְתִּי אֶתְכֶם מֵעַבְדֵיכֶם וְגָאֵלְתִּי אֶתְכֶם בְּזְרוּעַ נְטוּיָה וּבִשְׁפָטִים גְּדֹלִים:

Exodus 6:6

Say, therefore, to the Israelite people: I am ה'. I will free you from the labors of the Egyptians and deliver you from their bondage. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and through extraordinary chastisements.

שמות ו':ז'

וְלָקַחְתִּי אֶתְכֶם לִי לְעָם וְהָיִיתִי לָכֶם לֵאלֹהִים וַיִּדְעֻם כִּי אֲנִי ה' אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הַמוֹצִיא אֶתְכֶם מִתַּחַת סִבְלוֹת מִצְרַיִם:

Exodus 6:7

And I will take you to be My people, and I will be your God. And you shall know that I, ה', am your God who freed you from the labors of the Egyptians.

שמות ח':ט"ו

וַיֹּאמְרוּ הַחֹרְטָמִם אֶל־פַּרְעֹה אֲצַבֵּעַ אֱלֹהִים הִוא וַיַּחֲזֶק לִב־פַּרְעֹה וְלֹא־שָׁמַע אֲלֵהֶם כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר ה':

Exodus 8:15

and the magician-priests said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God!" But Pharaoh's heart stiffened and he would not heed them, as ה' had spoken.

רש"י על שמות ח':ט"ו:א'

אצבע אלקים הוא. מכה זו אינה על ידי כשפים, מאת המקום היא (שמות רבה):

Rashi on Exodus 8:15:1

הוא אצבע אלקים THIS IS THE FINGER OF GOD — This plague is not caused by sorcery: it is of the Omnipresent God!

Ramban on Exodus 8:15:1

ולהמעיט הענין אמרו אצבע אלקים ולא אמרו "יד אלקים", כלומר מכה קטנה מאתו

They said it to minimize the situation. 'The finger of God,' and not 'The hand of God,' as if to say, this plague from God is just a small thing.

סנהדרין ס"ז ב:ט"ו

(שמות ח, טו) ויאמרו החרטומים אל פרעה אצבע אלקים היא אמר ר' אליעזר מיכן שאין השד יכול לבראות בריה פחות מכשעורה

Sanhedrin 67b:15

With regard to the verse: "And the magicians said to Pharaoh: This is the finger of God" (Exodus 8:15), **Rabbi Eliezer says:** It is derived from here that a demon cannot create an entity smaller than the size of a barley grain. Consequently, the magicians were not capable of duplicating the plague of lice, and they realized that this was not an act of sorcery but was performed by God.

The Maharal of Prague, in his brilliant super commentary on Rashi, '*Gur Aryeh*:

Dark forces have no power over a creature that is smaller than a barleycorn... There is a wondrous reason for this. For something which is the size of a barleycorn at least has some substance which the dark forces can latch onto. But something which is smaller than a barleycorn is nullified into the whole of the world... That is why it is called "barley" (שעורה – *seora*), from the same language for "measurement" (שעור – *sheor*) - for this size is measurable, but less than this becomes unmeasurable. And since it has no measurement, it just merges into the world.

שמות ל"א:י"ח

וַיִּתֵּן אֶל־מֹשֶׁה כָּכֹל־אֲשֶׁר כָּתָבְתָּ לְדָבָר אֲתוֹ בְּהַר סִינַי לַחַת הָעֵדֻת לִחַת אֶבֶן כְּתָבִים בְּאֶצְבַּע אֱלֹקִים:

Exodus 31:18

Upon finishing speaking with him on Mount Sinai, [God] gave Moses the two tablets of the Pact, stone tablets inscribed with the finger of God.

99 Days in Captivity:

[Rachel] Goldberg-Polin, 54, a soft-spoken teacher who grew up in Chicago, is remarkably comfortable in the unwanted role she has inhabited since shortly after Oct. 7: the international voice, face and conscience of the hostage crisis.

A small woman with graying hair pulled back from her forlorn face, she mixes a relatable, everywoman appeal with flashes of profound wisdom and righteous anger in a constant-motion campaign.

"All the public speaking, all that stuff would have — before — made me very nervous," she added when we spoke afterward. "My voice would have been shaking, I would have been panicked for weeks beforehand. That does not exist anymore. When you've been so traumatized and so terrified, nothing scares you anymore."

"In my mind, you're a *neviah*," Marcus-Berman said admiringly during the rabbis' meeting at the Shalom Hartman Institute, using the Hebrew word for a female prophet. "From where do you get the strength to do that — to immediately not only do everything you can to bring your son home, but to speak so powerfully and to lead us, to lead humanity, to fight this evil with such resilience and goodness."

"Whenever I see you saying something, I immediately post it," she added. "I just want you to know it is seen by all of us."

Rachel told the group that she sometimes goes to her room and screams into a T-shirt. That a few Fridays before she had "a real breakdown" where "the noises coming out of me" had only occurred once before in her life: When she gave birth to Hersh, the first of her three children, without an epidural.

"If we have strength, it's a very primal, maternal-paternal drive," she said. "The pain, it's a primal pain. I don't know that we're always strong. But I think that we feel this driven need to do whatever we can to save him. That's where the strength comes from."

<https://forward.com/forward-newsletters/looking-forward/574472/rachel-goldberg-polin-israel-hamas-war-hersh>

