Biblical Roots of Anti-Semitism

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שבת

אֲמַר לֵיהּ הָהוּא מֵרַבָּנַן לְרַב כָּהֲנָא: מִי שְׁמִיעַ לָךְ מַאי ״הַר סִינַי״? אֲמַר לֵיהּ: הַר שֶׁנַּעֲשׂוּ בּוֹ נִסִּים לְיִשְׂרָאֵל. ״הַר נִיסַּאי״ מִיבָּעֵי לֵיהּ! אֶלָּא: הַר שֶׁנַּעֲשָׂה סִימָן טוֹב לְיִשְׂרָאֵל. ״הַר סִימָנַאי״ מִיבָּעֵי לֵיהּ! אֲמַר לֵיהּ: מַאי טַעְמָא לָא שְׁכִיחַתְּ קַמֵּיהּ דְּרַב פָּפָּא וְרַב הוּנָא בְּרֵיהּ דְּרַב יְהוֹשֻׁעַ דְּמָעַיְינִי בְּאַגָּדְתָּא? דְּרַב חִסְדָּא וְרַבָּה בְּרֵיהּ דְּרַב הוּנָא דְּאָמְרִי תַּרְוַוְיְיהוּ: מַאי ״הַר סִינַי״? הַר שֶׁיָּרְדָה שִׂנְאָה לְאֻמּוֹת הָעוֹלָם עָלָיו.

One of the Sages said to Rav Kahana: Did you hear what is the reason that the mountain was called **Mount Sinai?** Rav Kahana **said to him:** It is because it is **a mountain upon which miracles [*nissim*] were performed for the Jewish people.** The Sage said to him: If so, **it should have been** called **Mount Nisai,** the mountain of miracles. **Rather,** Rav Kahana said to him: It is **a mountain that was a good omen [*siman*] for the Jewish people.** The Sage said to him: If so, **it should have been** called **Har Simanai,** the mountain of omens. Rav Kahana **said to him: What is the reason** that **you do not frequent** the school where you can study **before Rav Pappa and Rav Huna, son** of Rav Yehoshua**, who study *aggada*? As Rav Ḥisda and Rabba, son of Rav Huna, both said: What** is the reason it is called **Mount Sinai?** It is because it is **a mountain upon which hatred [*sina*] came down to the nations of the world.**

שמות

וַיָּקָם מֶלֶךְ־חָדָשׁ עַל־מִצְרָיִם אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדַע אֶת־יוֹסֵף: וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־**עַמּוֹ** הִנֵּה עַם בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל רַב וְעָצוּם מִמֶּנּוּ: הָבָה נִתְחַכְּמָה לוֹ פֶּן־יִרְבֶּה וְהָיָה כִּי־תִקְרֶאנָה מִלְחָמָה וְנוֹסַף גַּם־הוּא עַל־שֹׂנְאֵינוּ וְנִלְחַם־בָּנוּ וְעָלָה מִן־הָאָרֶץ: וַיָּשִׂימוּ עָלָיו שָׂרֵי מִסִּים לְמַעַן עַנֹּתוֹ בְּסִבְלֹתָם וַיִּבֶן עָרֵי מִסְכְּנוֹת לְפַרְעֹה אֶת־פִּתֹם וְאֶת־רַעַמְסֵס:

A new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, “Look, **the Israelite people** are much too numerous for us.

Let us deal shrewdly with them, so that they may not increase; otherwise in the event of war they may join our enemies in fighting against us and rise from the ground." So they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor; and they built garrison cities for Pharaoh: Pithom and Raamses.

<u>בראשית</u>

<u>ל״ט</u>

וַיְהִי֙ כְּהַיּ֣וֹם הַזֶּ֔ה וַיָּבֹ֥א הַבַּ֖יְתָה לַעֲשׂ֣וֹת מְלַאכְתּ֑וֹ וְאֵ֣ין אִ֤ישׁ מֵאַנְשֵׁי֙ הַבַּ֣יִת שָׁ֔ם בַּבָּֽיִת׃

וַתִּתְפְּשֵׂ֥הוּ בְבִגְדּ֖וֹ לֵאמֹ֑ר שִׁכְבָ֖ה עִמִּ֔י וַיַּעֲזֹ֥ב בִּגְדּ֖וֹ בְּיָדָ֑הּ וַיָּ֥נָס וַיֵּצֵ֖א הַחֽוּצָה׃

וַיְהִי֙ כִּרְאוֹתָ֣הּ כִּֽי־עָזַ֣ב בִּגְדּ֗וֹ בְּיָדָהּ֙ וַיָּ֣נָס הַחֽוּצָה׃ וַתִּקְרָ֕א לְאַנְשֵׁ֖י בֵּיתָ֑הּ וַתֹּ֣אמֶר לָהֶ֗ם לֵאמֹר֙ רְא֣וּ הֵבִ֣יא לָ֔נוּ **אִ֥ישׁ עִבְרִ֖י לְצַחֵ֣ק בָּ֑נוּ** בָּ֤א אֵלַי֙ לִשְׁכַּ֣ב עִמִּ֔י וָאֶקְרָ֖א בְּקֹ֥ול גָּדֽוֹל׃

וַיְהִ֗י כְּשָׁמְעֹו֙ כִּֽי־הֲרִימֹ֣תִי קוֹלִ֔י וָאֶקְרָ֖א וַיַּעֲזֹ֣ב בִּגְדּ֑וֹ אֶצְלִ֔י וַיָּ֥נָס וַיֵּצֵ֖א הַחֽוּצָה׃

One such day, he came into the house to do his work. None of the household being there inside, she caught hold of him by his garment and said, "Lie with me!" But he left his garment in her hand and got away and fled outside. When she saw that he had left it in her hand and had fled outside, she called out to her servants and said to them, "Look, he had to bring us a Hebrew to dally with us! This one came to lie with me; but I screamed loud. And when he heard me screaming at the top of my voice, he left his garment with me and got away and fled outside."

<u>מ״א</u>

וַיְדַבֵּ֣ר שַׂר־הַמַּשְׁקִ֗ים אֶת־פַּרְעֹה֙ לֵאמֹ֔ר אֶת־חַטָּאַ֖י אֲנִ֥י מַזְכִּ֖יר הַיּֽוֹם׃

פַּרְעֹ֞ה קָצַ֣ף עַל־עֲבָדָ֗יו וַיִּתֵּ֤ן אֹתִי֙ בְּמִשְׁמַ֣ר בֵּית־שַׂ֔ר הַטַּבָּחִ֖ים אֹתִ֑י וְאֵ֥ת שַׂר־הָאֹפִֽים׃

וַנַּחַלְמָה חֲלוֹם בְּלַיְלָה אֶחָד אֲנִי וָהוּא אִישׁ כִּפְתְרוֹן חֲלֹמוֹ חָלָמְנוּ׃

וְשָׁם אִתָּנוּ **נַעַר עִבְרִי** עֶבֶד לְשַׂר הַטַּבָּחִים וַנְּסַפֶּר־לוֹ וַיִּפְתָּר־לָנוּ אֶת־חֲלֹמֹתֵינוּ אִישׁ כַּחֲלֹמוֹ פָּתָר׃

The chief cupbearer then spoke up and said to Pharaoh, “I must make mention today of my offenses. Once Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and placed me in custody in the house of the prefect, together with the chief baker. We had dreams the same night, he and I, each of us a dream with a meaning of its own. A Hebrew youth was there with us, a servant of the prefect; and when we told him our dreams, he interpreted them for us, telling each of the meaning of his dream. And as he interpreted for us, so it came to pass: I was restored to my post, and the other was impaled.”

<u>מ״ג</u>

וַיָּבֹא יוֹסֵף הַבַּיְתָה וַיָּבִיאוּ לוֹ אֶת־הַמִּנְחָה אֲשֶׁר־בְּיָדָם הַבָּיְתָה וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ־לוֹ אָרְצָה׃וַיִּשְׁאַל לָהֶם לְשָׁלוֹם וַיֹּאמֶר הֲשָׁלוֹם אֲבִיכֶם הַזָּקֵן אֲשֶׁר אֲמַרְתֶּם הַעוֹדֶנּוּ חָי׃

וַיִּרְחַץ פָּנָיו וַיֵּצֵא וַיִּתְאַפַּק וַיֹּאמֶר שִׂימוּ לֶחֶם׃ וַיָּשִׂימוּ לוֹ לְבַדּוֹ וְלָהֶם לְבַדָּם וְלַמִּצְרִיִּם הָאֹכְלִים אִתּוֹ לְבַדָּם כִּי לֹא יוּכְלוּן הַמִּצְרִים לֶאֱכֹל אֶת־הָעִבְרִים לֶחֶם כִּי־תוֹעֵבָה הִוא לְמִצְרָיִם׃

When Joseph came home, they presented to him the gifts that they had brought with them into the house, bowing low before him to the ground. He greeted them, and he said, “How is your aged father of whom you spoke? Is he still in good health?”

They replied, “It is well with your servant our father; he is still in good health.” And they bowed and made obeisance.

Then he washed his face, reappeared, and—now in control of himself—gave the order, “Serve the meal**.” They served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves; for the Egyptians could not dine with the Hebrews, since that would be abhorrent to the Egyptians**.

<u>*מ״א*</u>

וַיִּיטַב הַדָּבָר בְּעֵינֵי פַרְעֹה וּבְעֵינֵי כָּל־עֲבָדָיו׃ וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־עֲבָדָיו **הֲנִמְצָא כָזֶה אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים בּוֹ׃**

וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־יוֹסֵף אַחֲרֵי הוֹדִיעַ אֱלֹהִים אוֹתְךָ אֶת־כָּל־זֹאת אֵין־נָבוֹן וְחָכָם כָּמוֹ
אָתָּה תִּהְיֶה עַל־בֵּיתִי וְעַל־פִּיךָ יִשַּׁק כָּל־עַמִּי רַק הַכִּסֵּא אֶגְדַּל מִמֶּךָּ׃
וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־יוֹסֵף רְאֵה נְתַתִּי אֹתְךָ עַל כָּל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם׃
וַיָּסַר פַּרְעֹה אֶת־טַבַּעְתּוֹ מֵעַל יָדוֹ וַיִּתֵּן אֹתָהּ עַל־יַד יוֹסֵף וַיַּלְבֵּשׁ אֹתוֹ בִּגְדֵי־שֵׁשׁ וַיָּשֶׂם רְבִד הַזָּהָב עַל־צַוָּארוֹ׃
וַיַּרְכֵּב אֹתוֹ בְּמִרְכֶּבֶת הַמִּשְׁנֶה אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ וַיִּקְרְאוּ לְפָנָיו אַבְרֵךְ וְנָתוֹן אֹתוֹ עַל כָּל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם׃
וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־יוֹסֵף אֲנִי פַרְעֹה וּבִלְעָדֶיךָ לֹא־יָרִים אִישׁ אֶת־יָדוֹ וְאֶת־רַגְלוֹ בְּכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם׃
וַיִּקְרָא פַּרְעֹה שֵׁם־יוֹסֵף צָפְנַת פַּעְנֵחַ וַיִּתֶּן־לוֹ אֶת־אָסְנַת בַּת־פּוֹטִי פֶרַע כֹּהֵן אֹן לְאִשָּׁה וַיֵּצֵא יוֹסֵף עַל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם׃

And Pharaoh said to his courtiers, “Could we find another like him—a man with the divine spirit?” So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is none so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my court, and by your command shall all my people be directed; only with respect to the throne shall I be superior to you.” Pharaoh further said to Joseph, “See, I put you in charge of all the land of Egypt.” And removing his signet ring from his hand, Pharaoh put it on Joseph’s hand; and he had him dressed in robes of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck.

He had him ride in the chariot of his second-in-command, and they cried before him, “Abrek!” Thus he placed him over all the land of Egypt. Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh; yet without you, no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.” Pharaoh then gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-paneah; and he gave him for a wife Asenath daughter of Poti-phera, priest of On. Thus Joseph emerged in charge of the land of Egypt.