NAASEH

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Leaving Sodom, Leaving Egypt

Parallels between Genesis 18-19 and Exodus 2-14

The Outcry

God intervenes because of a cry that rises up, and He both sees and, in an ambiguous way, knows.

EGYPT **Exodus 2:23-25**

וַיְהִי בַיָּמִים הָרַבִּים הָהֵם וַיָּמָת מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם וַיֵּאָנְחוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִן הָעֲבֹדָה **וַיִּזְעָקוּ** וַתַּעַל שַׁוְעָתָם אֶל הָאֱלֹקִים מִן הָעֲבֹדָה. וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹקִים אֶת נַאֲקָתָם וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹקִים אֶת בְּרִיתוֹ אֶת אַבְרָהָם אֶת יִצְחָק וְאֶת יַעֲקֹב. **וַיַּרְא** אֱלֹקִים אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל **וַיֵּדַע** אֱלֹקִים.

During those many days the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under the slavery and **cried out**, and their plea rose up to God from the slavery. God heard their moaning, and God remembered His covenant with Avraham, with Yitzchak, and with Yaakov. God **saw** the Israelites, and God **knew**.

Exodus 3:7

וַיֹּאמֶר ה׳ רָאֹה רָאִיתִי אֶת עֳנִי עַמִּי אֲשֶׁר בְּמִצְרָיִם וְאֶת **צַעֲקָתָם** שָׁמַעְתִּי מִפְּנֵי נֹגְשָׂיו כִּי יָדַעְתִּי אֶת מַכְאֹבָיו.

Hashem said: I have surely seen the suffering of My people in Egypt, and I have heard their **outcry** because of their taskmasters, for I know their pain.

SODOM **Genesis 18:20-21**

וַיֹּאמֶר ה׳ **זַעֲקַת** סְדֹם וַעֲמֹרָה כִּי רָבָּה וְחַטָּאתָם כִּי כָבְדָה מְאֹד. אֵרְדָה נָּא **וְאֶרְאֶה** **הַכְּצַעֲקָתָהּ** הַבָּאָה אֵלַי עָשׂוּ כָּלָה וְאִם לֹא **אֵדָעָה**.

Hashem said: The **outcry** of Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin so very heavy! I will go down and **see** whether they have done entirely as the **outcry** that has reached Me; and if not, I will **know**.

Matzah and Feet

An evening meal of matzah is eaten, with attention to everyone's feet.

EGYPT **Exodus 12:8, 11**

(ח) וְאָכְלוּ אֶת הַבָּשָׂר בַּלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה צְלִי אֵשׁ **וּמַצּוֹת** עַל מְרֹרִים יֹאכְלֻהוּ. (יא) וְכָכָה תֹּאכְלוּ אֹתוֹ מָתְנֵיכֶם חֲגֻרִים **נַעֲלֵיכֶם בִּרַגְלֵיכֶם** וּמַקֶּלְכֶם בְּיֶדְכֶם וַאֲכַלְתֶּם אֹתוֹ בְּחִפָּזוֹן פֶּסַח הוּא לַה׳.

(8) They shall eat the meat on this night, roasted over fire, with **matzot** and bitter herbs. (11) This is how you shall eat it: your waist belted, **your shoes on your feet**, and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is a Pesach offering to Hashem.

SODOM **Genesis 19:2-3**

(ב) וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֶּה נָּא אֲדֹנַי סוּרוּ נָא אֶל בֵּית עַבְדְּכֶם וְלִינוּ **וְרַחֲצוּ** **רַגְלֵיכֶם** וְהִשְׁכַּמְתֶּם וַהֲלַכְתֶּם לְדַרְכְּכֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא כִּי בָרְחוֹב נָלִין. (ג) וַיִּפְצַר בָּם מְאֹד וַיָּסֻרוּ אֵלָיו וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל בֵּיתוֹ וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם מִשְׁתֶּה **וּמַצּוֹת** אָפָה וַיֹּאכֵלוּ.

(2) He said, "Please, my lords, turn aside to your servant's house. Spend the night and **wash your feet**, then rise early and go on your way." They said, "No, we will spend the night in the square." (3) He pressed them hard, so they turned aside to him and came into his house. He made them a feast and baked **matzot**, and they ate.

DIFFERENCE Shoes on, ready to go, vs. barefoot, ready to stay for a while

The Doorway

The question is whether to go out through the *petach*, the doorway, or stay inside.

EGYPT **Exodus 12:22**

After a break for the laws of Pesach

(כב) וּלְקַחְתֶּם אֲגֻדַּת אֵזוֹב וּטְבַלְתֶּם בַּדָּם אֲשֶׁר בַּסַּף וְהִגַּעְתֶּם אֶל הַמַּשְׁקוֹף וְאֶל שְׁתֵּי הַמְּזוּזֹת מִן הַדָּם אֲשֶׁר בַּסָּף וְאַתֶּם **לֹא תֵצְאוּ** אִישׁ **מִפֶּתַח** בֵּיתוֹ עַד בֹּקֶר.

Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood in the basin. And **none of you shall go out** of the **doorway** of his house until morning.

SODOM **Genesis 19:6**

(ו) **וַיֵּצֵא** אֲלֵהֶם לוֹט **הַפֶּתְחָה** וְהַדֶּלֶת סָגַר אַחֲרָיו.

Lot **went out** to them, to the **doorway**, and shut the door behind him.

DIFFERENCE Israelites are forbidden to leave their houses

The Destroyers

The force sent against the place is called a *mashchit*, a destroyer.

EGYPT **Exodus 12:23**

(כג) וְעָבַר ה׳ לִנְגֹּף אֶת מִצְרַיִם וְרָאָה אֶת הַדָּם עַל הַמַּשְׁקוֹף וְעַל שְׁתֵּי הַמְּזוּזֹת וּפָסַח ה׳ עַל הַפֶּתַח וְלֹא יִתֵּן **הַמַּשְׁחִית** לָבֹא אֶל בָּתֵּיכֶם לִנְגֹּף.

Hashem will pass through to strike Egypt. He will see the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, and Hashem will pass over the doorway and will not let the **destroyer** enter your houses to strike.

SODOM **Genesis 19:13**

(יג) כִּי **מַשְׁחִתִים** אֲנַחְנוּ אֶת הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה...

For we are about to **destroy** this place...

A Great Cry

A great cry from the place is bound up with its destruction.

EGYPT **Exodus 12:30**

(ל) וַיָּקָם פַּרְעֹה לַיְלָה הוּא וְכָל עֲבָדָיו וְכָל מִצְרַיִם וַתְּהִי **צְעָקָה גְדֹלָה** בְּמִצְרָיִם **כִּי** אֵין בַּיִת אֲשֶׁר אֵין שָׁם מֵת.

Pharaoh rose in the night, he and all his servants and all Egypt, and there was a **great outcry** in Egypt, **for** there was no house without someone dead.

SODOM **Genesis 19:13, continued**

כִּי **גָדְלָה צַעֲקָתָם** אֶת פְּנֵי ה׳ וַיִּשְׁלָחֵנוּ ה׳ לְשַׁחֲתָהּ.

For their **outcry has grown great** before Hashem, and Hashem has sent us to destroy it.

DIFFERENCE Cause and effect are swapped

Get Up, Go Out

The same command, *kumu tze'u*, sends them out of the place.

EGYPT **Exodus 12:31**

After another brief break for the laws of Pesach

(לא) וַיִּקְרָא לְמֹשֶׁה וּלְאַהֲרֹן לַיְלָה **וַיֹּאמֶר קוּמוּ צְאוּ** מִתּוֹךְ עַמִּי גַּם אַתֶּם גַּם בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּלְכוּ עִבְדוּ אֶת ה׳ כְּדַבֶּרְכֶם.

He called for Moshe and Aharon in the night **and said, "Get up, go out** from among my people, both you and the Israelites, and go serve Hashem as you said."

SODOM **Genesis 19:14**

(יד) וַיֵּצֵא לוֹט וַיְדַבֵּר אֶל חֲתָנָיו ל�קְחֵי בְנֹתָיו **וַיֹּאמֶר קוּמוּ צְאוּ** מִן הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה כִּי מַשְׁחִית ה׳ אֶת הָעִיר וַיְהִי כִמְצַחֵק בְּעֵינֵי חֲתָנָיו.

Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, **and said, "Get up, go out** of this place, for Hashem is destroying the city." But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

DIFFERENCE Host Egypt is actually the one expelling the Israelites

Delay and Force

Leaving involves delaying, and being taken out by force.

EGYPT **Exodus 12:39** *

(לט) וַיֹּאפוּ אֶת הַבָּצֵק אֲשֶׁר הוֹצִיאוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם עֻגֹת מַצּוֹת כִּי לֹא חָמֵץ כִּי גֹרְשׁוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם וְלֹא יָכְלוּ **לְהִתְמַהְמֵהַּ** וְגַם צֵדָה לֹא עָשׂוּ לָהֶם.

(39) They baked the dough they had brought out of Egypt into cakes of matzah, for it had not risen; they had been driven out of Egypt and could not **delay**, nor had they made provisions for themselves.

Exodus 12:33

(לג) **וַתֶּחֱזַק** מִצְרַיִם עַל הָעָם לְמַהֵר לְשַׁלְּחָם מִן הָאָרֶץ כִּי אָמְרוּ כֻּלָּנוּ מֵתִים.

(33) Egypt **pressed hard** on the people to send them out of the land quickly, for they said, "We are all dead."

* *Verse 39 falls out of sequence, but it records what did not happen: there was no delay between verses 30 and 33.*

SODOM **Genesis 19:16**

(טז) **וַיִּתְמַהְמָהּ** **וַיַּחֲזִיקוּ** הָאֲנָשִׁים בְּיָדוֹ וּבְיַד אִשְׁתּוֹ וּבְיַד שְׁתֵּי בְנֹתָיו בְּחֶמְלַת ה׳ עָלָיו וַיֹּצִאֻהוּ וַיַּנִּחֻהוּ מִחוּץ לָעִיר.

He **delayed**. So the men **seized** his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, in Hashem's compassion for him, and they brought him out and set him down outside the city.

DIFFERENCE Israelites aren't given a chance to delay

Finding Favor

Someone finds *chen*, favor, in another's eyes.

EGYPT **Exodus 12:36**

(לו) וַה' נָתַן אֶת חֵן הָעָם בְּעֵינֵי מִצְרַיִם וַיַּשְׁאִלוּם וַיְנַצְּלוּ אֶת מִצְרָיִם.

Hashem gave the people **favor in the eyes** of Egypt, and they lent to them, and they emptied out Egypt.

SODOM **Genesis 19:19**

(יט) הִנֵּה נָא מָצָא עַבְדְּךָ חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ וַתַּגְדֵּל חַסְדְּךָ אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ עִמָּדִי לְהַחֲיוֹת אֶת נַפְשִׁי וְאָנֹכִי לֹא אוּכַל לְהִמָּלֵט הָהָרָה פֶּן תִּדְבָּקַנִי הָרָעָה וָמַתִּי.

Look, your servant has found **favor in your eyes**, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the mountain, or the evil will overtake me and I will die.

DIFFERENCE Finding favor with the angels vs. with the Egyptians

The Close Place

A route or refuge is described as *karov*, close.

EGYPT **Exodus 13:17**

After the laws of the Pesach offering and of the firstborn

(יז) וַיְהִי בְּשַׁלַּח פַּרְעֹה אֶת הָעָם וְלֹא נָחָם אֱלֹקִים דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים כִּי קָרוֹב הוּא כִּי אָמַר אֱלֹקִים פֶּן יִנָּחֵם הָעָם בִּרְאֹתָם מִלְחָמָה וְשָׁבוּ מִצְרָיְמָה.

When Pharaoh sent the people out, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, because it was **close**; for God said, "The people may change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt."

SODOM **Genesis 19:20**

(כ) הִנֵּה נָא הָעִיר הַזֹּאת קְרֹבָה לָנוּס שָׁמָּה וְהִוא מִצְעָר אִמָּלְטָה נָּא שָׁמָּה הֲלֹא מִצְעָר הִוא וּתְחִי נַפְשִׁי.

Look, this city is **close** enough to flee to, and it is small. Let me escape there; isn't it small? And my life will be saved.

DIFFERENCE God specifically avoids taking the Israelites to the close place

Looking Back

The root נ.צ.ב. marks the final look back.

EGYPT **Exodus 14:13**

(יג) וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל הָעָם אַל תִּירָאוּ הִתְיַצְּבוּ וּרְאוּ אֶת יְשׁוּעַת ה' אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה לָכֶם הַיּוֹם כִּי אֲשֶׁר רְאִיתֶם אֶת מִצְרַיִם הַיּוֹם לֹא תֹסִפוּ לִרְאֹתָם עוֹד עַד עוֹלָם.

Moshe said to the people, "Do not be afraid. **Stand firm** and see Hashem's salvation, which He will bring about for you today; for the Egyptians you see today, you will never see again."

SODOM **Genesis 19:26**

(כו) וַתַּבֵּט אִשְׁתּוֹ מֵאַחֲרָיו וַתְּהִי נְצִיב מֶלַח.

His wife looked back behind him, and she became a **pillar** of salt.

DIFFERENCE God doesn't give the Israelites the option of seeing Egypt again

Notice another parallel? Write to **ari@naasehpodcast.com**