A Template for Redemption:

Exodus 2-7 and Moshe's Life

Rachel Sharansky Danziger * February 22nd 2022 * Exodus: The Ins and Outs of Liberty #2

1: The way out?

Exodus 2:11-22

- (11) Some time after that, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his kinsfolk and witnessed their labors. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his kinsmen. (12) He turned this way and that and, seeing no one about, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.
- (13) When he went out the next day, he found two Hebrews fighting; so he said to the offender, "Why do you strike your fellow?" (14) He retorted, "Who made you chief and ruler over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Moses was frightened, and thought: Then the matter is known!
- (15) When Pharaoh learned of the matter, he sought to kill Moses; but Moses fled from Pharaoh. He arrived in the land of Midian, and sat down beside a well. (16) Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. They came to draw water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock; (17) but shepherds came and drove them off. Moses rose to their defense, and he watered their flock. (18) When they returned to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come back so soon today?" (19) They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds; he even drew water for us and watered the flock." (20) He said to his daughters, "Where is he then? Why did you leave the man? Ask him in to break bread." (21) Moses consented to stay with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah as wife. (22) She bore a son whom he named Gershom, for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land."

שמות ב':י"א-כ"ב

(יא) וַיְהְיּ וּ בַּיָּמְים הָהֵםׁ וַיִּגְדֵּל מֹשֶׁה ׁוַיֵּצֵא אֶל־אֶחִיׁו וַיַּרָא בְּסִבְלֹתָם וַיַּרְא ֹאִישׁ מִצְרִיׁ מַכֶּה אִישׁ־עִבְרִי מֵאֶחָיוּ (יב) וַיְּכֶּן כֹּה ׁוָכֹה וַיַּרָא כִּי אֵין אִישׁ וַיַּרְ ֹאֶת־הַמִּצְרִיֹּ וַיִּטְמְנֵהוּ בַּחוֹלּי

(יג) וַיֵּצֵא בִּיּוֹם הַשֵּׁנִי וְהִנֵּה שְׁנִי־אֲנָשִׁים עִבְרִים נִצִּים וַיֹּאמֶר לֶרְשָׁע לָמָה תַכֶּה בִעֶּך. (יד) וַיִּאמֶר מִי שְׂמְךְ לְאִישׁ שַׂרְ וְשֹׁפֵּט עֲלֵינוּ הַלְהָרְגנִי אַתָּה אֹמֵר כַּאֲשֶׁר הָרַגְתָּ אֶת־ הַמִּצְרִי וַיִּירָא מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמֵר אָכֵן נוֹדַע הַדְּבֶר.

(טו) וַיִּשְׁמַע פַּרְעה אַת־הַדָּבֶר הַזֶּה וַיִּבַקֵּשׁ לַהַרֹג אֵת־משֻה וַיִּבְרַח משה מְּפַּנֵי פַּרְעֹה וַיָּשֶׁב בְּאֵבֶץ־מְדִיָן וַיָּשֶׁב עַל־הַבְּאֵרּ (טז) וּלְכֹהֵן מִדְיָן שֶׁבַע בָּגוֹת וַתָּבֹאנָה וַתִּדְלֻּנָה וַתִּמַלֵּאנָה אַת־הָרָהָטִים לְהַשָּׁקוֹת צָאן אַבִיהֵן: (יז) וַיַּבְאוּ הַרֹעִים וַיִּגַרְשׁוִם וַיַּקַם מֹשֶׁה (יח) וַתָּבֹאנָה מֹשֶׁה מִשׁלָּן וַיָּשָׁק אֱת־צֹאנָם: (יח) וַתָּבֹאנָה אָל־רְעוּאֵל אַבִיהֵן וַיֹּאמֶר מַדּוָעַ מִהַרְתַּן בֹּא הַיִּוֹם: (יט) וַתֹּאמַרְן אִישׁ מִצְרִי הִצִּילָנוּ מִיָּד ּהָרֹעָיִם וְגַם־דָּלֹהְ דָלָה'לָנוּ וַיַּשְׁק אֶת־הַצְאן. (כ) וַיֹּאמֵר אֵל־בִּנֹתָיו וְאַיֹּוֹ לָמָה זֵה עַזַבְתֵּן אָת־הָאִּישׁ קּרָאָן לוֹ וְיָאכַל לָחֶם. (כא) וַיָּוֹאֵל מֹשֵׁהָ לָשֵׁבֶת אֵת־הָאִישׁ וַיִּתַּן אֵת־ צָפּׂרָה בָתוֹ לִמשֶׁהּ (כב) וַתֵּלֶד בֵּ'ן וַיִּקְרָא אָת־שָׁמוֹ גַּרְשֹׁם כִּי אַמַר גֵּר הַיִּיתִי בָּאָרֵץ נַכְרַיַה: {פּ}

2. The man who saw

Exodus 3:1-4

(1) Now Moses, tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, drove the flock into the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. (2) A messenger of יהוה appeared to him in a blazing fire out of a bush. He gazed, and there was a bush all aflame, yet the bush was not consumed. (3) Moses said, "I must turn aside to look at this marvelous sight; why doesn't the bush burn up?" (4) When יהוה saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him out of the bush: "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Here I am."

Deuteronomy 34:1-5

(1) Moses went up from the steppes of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the summit of Pisgah, opposite Jericho, and יהוה showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan...(4) And יהוה said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, 'I will assign it to your offspring.' I have let you see it with your own eyes, but you shall not cross there." (5) So Moses the servant of יהוה died there, in the land of Moab, at the command of ...

שמות ג':א'-ד'

(א) וּמשֶׁה הָיָה רֹעֶה אֶת־צְאן יִתְרֹוּ חֹתְנוּ כֹּהֵן מִדְיָן וַיִּנְהַג אֶת־הַצֹּאן אַחַר הַמִּדְבָּר וַיָּבֹא אֶל־ הַר הָאֱלֹהִים חֹבִבָה. (ב) וַיִּרָא מַלְאַך יְהֹנֶה אַלְיוּ בְּלַבַּת־אֵשׁ מִתּוֹך הַסְּנֶה וַיַּרְא וְהַנֶּה הַסְּנֶה בֹּעֵר בָּאֵשׁ וְהַסְּנֶה אֵינֶנוּ אָכֵּל. (ג) וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אָסֻרְה־נֵּא וְאָרְאֶה אֶת־הַמַּרְאֶה הַנָּדֹל הַיֶּה מַהוּע לֹא־יִבְעַר הַסְּנֶה. (ד) וַיִּרְא יְהֹוָה כִּי סָר לִרְאוֹת וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו אֱלֹהִים מִתּוֹךְ הַסְּנֶה וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי.

דברים ל"ד:א'-ה'

 (א) וַיַּעַל מֹשֶׁה מֵעַרְבֹת מוֹאָב ֹאֶל־הַר נְבוֹ רְאשׁ הַפִּסְגָּה אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי יְרֵחוֹ וַיַּרְאֵהוּ יְהוֹנֶה אֶת־כָּל־הָאֶרֶץ אֶת־הַגּלְעָד עַד־דָּן...(ד) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהֹוֹה אֵלְיוֹ זֹאַת הָאָרֶץ ֹאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק וְּלְיַעֲקֹב ֹלֵאמֹר לְזַרְעַךְ אֶתְנֶנָה הֶרְאִיתִיךְ בְעֵינֶיךְ וְשְׁמָה לֹא תַעֲכֹר.
 (ה) וַיָּמָת שָׁם מֹשֶׁה עֶבֶּד־יְהֹנֵה בְּאֶרֶץ מוֹאָב עַל־פִּי יִהֹנֵה.

3. Facing the Egyptians

Exodus 3:5-10

(5) And [God] said, "Do not come closer! Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you stand is holy ground!" (6) and continued, "I am the God of your father's [house]—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. (7) And יהוה continued, "I have marked well the plight of My people in Egypt and have heeded their outcry because of their taskmasters; yes, I am mindful of their sufferings. (8) I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and to bring them out of that land to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey, the region of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. (9) Now the cry of the Israelites has reached Me; moreover, I have seen how the Egyptians oppress them. (10) Come, therefore, I will send you to Pharaoh, and you shall free My people, the Israelites, from Egypt."

שמות ג':ה'-יי

בַּבּהוּנְגַעֶּיֶּהְ אַתְּרִבְּ הֲלֹבֵ שֵׁלּ־נְעֶעֶיֶּהְ מֵעַל

(ה) וַיֹּאמֶר אַלּ־תִּקְרַב הֲלֹב שֵׁל־נְעֶעֶיִּהְ מֵעַל

רַגְּעֶׂיִּהְ כִּי הַפָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה עוֹמֵד עָלְיוּ אַדְמַת־לְבֶּשׁ הְוֹּא. (ו) וַיֹּאמֶר אָנֹכִי אֱלֹהֵי אָבִּיךְ אֱלֹהֵי אַבְּרָהָם אֱלֹהֵי יִצְחָק וֵאלֹהֵי יַצְקֹב וַיִּסְתֵּר מֹשֶׁה שָּבְּיִם אֱלֹהִים. (ז) וַיִּאמֶר פְּמָצְרָיִם פְּנִיוֹ כִּיְ יָבִא מַהַבִּיט אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים. (ז) וַיִּאמֶר בְּמִצְרָיִם יְהוֹהְ רָאֹה רָאֹה רָאֹנְתִי אֶת־צְעַנִי עַמִּי אֲשֶׁר בְּמִצְרָיִם מְּבְיּתִי אֶת־בְּעַלְתוֹ מִן־הָאֶרָץ חַהְּוֹל אֵל־אֶרֶץ טוֹבָה וּלְחָבְּי וְהַחְנִי וְהַחָתִּי וְהָבְי לְהַצִּילוֹו מִיְד מִצְרַיִם מְּבְרִי וְהַחְנִי וְהַחְתָּי וְהָבְּת בְּנֵיי וְהַחְנִי וְהַחְנִי וְהָחָתִי וְהָבְּרִץ הַהְוֹא אֶלֹּר מְּבְרִי מִבְּרִים לֹחֲצִים (ט) וְעַתָּה הְנָה צְעְכַת בְּנִי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאָה אֵלָי (ט) וְעַתָּה לְכָה וְאֶשְׁלְחֲהְ אֲשֶׁר מִצְרַיִם לֹחֲצִים וֹהוֹצֵי אַתִּר בְּנִירִי שְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרָיִם לֹחֲצִים אֹתִבּי בְּיִי בְּלָה וְאָשְׁלְחֲהְ אֵלֶי מִמְצְרָיִם לֹחֲצִים אֹת וֹנְתָּה לְכָה וְאָשְׁלְחֲהְ אֵלְ מִמְצְרָיִם לֹחֲצִים וֹרְנִתְּה לְכָּה וְאָשְׁלְחֲהְ אֵלְ מִמְצְרָיִם לֹחְבּרִעֹה וֹם וּמִין בְתִּה בְּנִיי יִשְׂרָאֻל מִמִּצְרָיִם לֹחְצִים וּחִיץ אֲשֶׁר מִבְירִי שְּׁרְאָה אֵלְרִים וּתְּבִים וּתְבִּים וּתְבִּתְּה בְּנִייִשְּׁרְאֵל בְּתְּרְ מִּבְּרִים לֹחֲצִים וּתְנִים וּתְבִּתְּי בְּנִייִישְׁרְאָל מְמִבְיִים לְּבִים וּיִים וּבְּיִבּים בּיִי שְׁרִבּים וּיִבּת בְּיִים וּיִבְּתְיִים וּיִבּים וּיִים בּּיִים וּיִבְּיִים וּיִבּים וּיִים וּיִבְּתִים וּיִבּים וּיִבְּתְיִים וּיִּים וּיִבּים וּיִבְיִים וּיִבְּתְיִים וּיִבְּיִים וּיִבְּיִים וּיִבּים וּיִבּים וּיִבּתְּי בְּיִבּיים וּיִבּתְיים וּיִבּתְיים וּיִבְּתְייִבּים וּיִבְּיִים וּיִּים וּיִבְּתְיִים וּיִּים בְּיִים בּיּים בּּיים וּיִבּים וּיבּים וּיִבְּיִים בְּיִבּים וּיִבְּתְיִבּים וּיִבְּי בְּבְּיבּי בְּיִים בְּיִבְּיִים בְּיִים בְּחְיִבּים בְּיבְייִים בְּיִים בְּיִבְּיִים בְּיִים בְּיִים בְּיִים בְּיִים בְּיִים בְּיִים בְּיִים בְּיִים בְּיוּיִילְּיתְיים בְּיבְּיִים בְּיִים בְּיבְּים בְּיבְייִים בְּיִים בְּיִים בְּיִים בְּיִים בְּיִּים בְּי

4: Facing the Israelites

Exodus 5:20-21

(20) As they left Pharaoh's presence, they came upon Moses and Aaron standing in their path, (21) and they said to them, "May יהוה look upon you and punish you for making us loathsome to Pharaoh and his courtiers—putting a sword in their hands to slay us."

שמות ה':כ'-כ"א

(כ) וַיִּפְגְעוּ אֶת־מֹשֶׁה וְאֶת־אַהֲרֹן נִצָּבִים לִקְרָאתָם בְּצֵאתָם מֵאֵת פַּרְעֹהּ (כא) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵהֶם יָרֵא יְהֹוָה עֲלֵיכֶם וְיִשְׁפֹּט אֲשֶׁר הִבְאַשְׁהֶּם אֶת־רֵיחֵנוּ בְּעֵינֵי פַרְעֹה וּבְעֵינִי עֲבָדִיו לֵתֶת־חֶרֵב בְּיָדָם לְהָרְגִנוּ

Numbers 16:12-14

(12) Moses sent for Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab; but they said, "We will not come! (13) Is it not enough that you brought us from a land flowing with milk and honey to have us die in the wilderness, that you would also lord it over us? (14) Even if you had brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and given us possession of fields and vineyards, should you gouge out the eyes of those involved? We will not come!"

במדבר ט"ז:י"ב-י"ד

(יב) וַיִּשְׁלַח משֶׁה לִקְרֹא לְדָתָן וְלַאֲבִירָם בְּגִי אֶלִיאָב וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא נַעֲלֶה. (יג) הַמְעַט כִּי הֶעֱלִיתָנוּ מֵשֶּׁרֶץ זָבַת חָלָב וּדְבַשׁ לַהַמִיתֵגוּ בַּמִּדְבָּּר כִּי־תִשְּׁתָּרֵר עָלֵינוּ גַּם־הִשְּׂתָּרִר. (יד) אַרְ לֹא אֶל־אֶּרֶץ זָבַת חָלָב וּדְבַשׁ הַבִיאֹתְנוּ הָתֵּם הְנַקֵּר לֹא נַעֲלֶה.

Rashi on Exodus 2:13

(1) שני אנשים עברים TWO MEN OF THE HEBREWS — viz., Dathan and Abiram (Nedarim 64b); it was they, too, who left over some of the manna (Exodus Rabbah 1:29).

5: Access to water

Exodus 15:22-26

(22) Then Moses caused Israel to set out from the Sea of Reeds. They went on into the wilderness of Shur; they traveled three days in the wilderness and found no water...(24) And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" (25) So he cried out to יהוה, and יהוה showed him a piece of wood; he threw it into the water and the water became sweet. There [God] made for them a fixed rule; there they were put to the test. (26) [God] said, "If you will heed your God יהוה diligently, doing what is upright in God's sight, giving ear to God's commandments and keeping all God's laws, then I will not bring upon you any of the diseases that I brought upon the Egyptians, for I יהוה am your healer."

שמות ט"ו:כ"ב-כ"ו

(כב) וַיַּפַּע משֶׁה אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִיַּם־סֹּוּף וַיֵּצְאוּ
אֶל־מִדְבַּר־שׁוּר וַיֵּלְכִּוּ שְׁלְשֶׁת־יָמִים בַּמִּדְבָּר
אֶל־מִדְבַּר־שׁוּר וַיֵּלְכִּוּ שְׁלְשֶׁת־יָמִים בַּמִּדְבָּר
וְלֹא־מָצְאוּ מִיִם...(כד) וַיִּלְנוּ הָעֶם עַל־מֹשֶׁה
לֵאמֹך מַה־נִּשְׁתָה (כה) וַיִּצְעַק אֶל־יִהֹנָים
וַיֹּמְתְקוּ
הַמְּיִם שָׁם שָׂם לּוֹ חֹק וּמִשְׁפַּט וְשָׁם נִפְּהוּ
הַמְיִם שָׁם לְּוֹ חֹק וּמִשְׁפַּט וְשָׁם נִפְּהוּ
(כו) וַיֹּאמֶר אִם־שָׁמוֹעַ תִּשְׁמַע לְקוֹל וּ יְהֹוָה
אֱלֹהָיִר וְשִׁמְרִתְּ כָּל־חָקָיו כֵּל־הַמַּחֲלָה
לְמִצְוֹתְי וְשָׁמַרְתָּ כָּל־חָקָיו כֵּל־הַמַּחֲלָה
יְהֹוָה רֹפִאֵּךְ (ס)

Bava Kamma 82a:5-6

..As it is taught in a baraita with regard to the verse: "and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water" (Exodus 15:22). Those who interpret verses said that water here is referring to nothing other than Torah, as it is stated: "Ho, everyone who thirsts, come for water" (Isaiah 55:1). The verse means that since the Jews traveled for three days without hearing any Torah they became weary, and therefore the prophets among them arose and instituted for them that they should read from the Torah each Shabbat, and pause on Sunday, and read again on Monday, and pause on Tuesday and Wednesday, and read again on Thursday, and pause on Shabbat eve, so they would not tarry three days without hearing the Torah.

6. Moshe's future withdrawal

Deuteronomy 1:6-14

(6) Our God יהוה spoke to us at Horeb, saying: You have stayed long enough at this mountain. (7) Start out and make your way to the hill country of the Amorites and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, the hill country, the Shephelah, the Negeb, the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and the Lebanon, as far as the Great River, the river Euphrates. (8) See, I place the land at your disposal. Go, take possession of the land that יהוה swore to your fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to assign to them and to their heirs after them. (9) Thereupon I said to you, "I cannot bear the burden of you by myself. (10) Your God יהוה has multiplied you until you are today as numerous as the stars in the sky.— (11) May יהוה, the God of your ancestors, increase your numbers a thousandfold, and bless you as promised.—(12) How can I bear unaided the trouble of you, and the burden, and the bickering! (13) Pick from each of your tribes candidates who are wise, discerning, and experienced, and I will appoint them as your heads." (14) You answered me and said, "What you propose to do is good."

<u>דברים אי:וי-י"ד</u>

(ו) יהוה אלהינו דבר אלינו בחרב לאמר רב־לכם שבת בהר הזה: (ז) פַּנוּ וּ וּסְעוּ לכֵם וּבֹאוּ הַר הַאֱמֹרִי וְאֱל־כַּל־שָׁכֵנַיוֹ בַּעֲרַבָה בָהַר וּבַשָּׁפֵלָה וּבַנֵּגַב וּבְחוֹף הַיַּם אֵרץ הַכָּנַעַנִי'וָהַלְּבַנוֹן עַד־הַנַּהֵר הַגַּדֹלְ נָהַר־פָּרֵתּי (ח) ראָה נַתַתִּי לִפְנִיכֵם אֵת־הַאַרִץ כָּאוּ וּרִשׁוּ אֵת־הָאָֹרֵץ אֲשֵׁר נִשִּׁבַּע יָהׁוָה לַאַבֹּתִיכֵם לְאַבְרָהַם לִיצְחָק וְלִיַעֵקֹב ׁלָתֵת לָהֵם וּלְזַרְעָם אַחֶרִיהֵם: (ט) וַאֹמֵר אֵלֶכֶם בַּעֵת הַהָּוָא (י) לאכֹוָר לֹא־אוּכֶל לְבַדִּי שָׂאָת אֶתְכֶם: יָהֹוָה אֱלֹהֶיכֶם הָרְבֵּה אֶתְכֵם וְהִנְּכֵם הַיֹּוֹם פַכוֹכְבֵי הַשַּׁמִים לרב: (יא) יְהוֹה אֵלהִי אַבוֹתֵכָים יֹסֵף עַלֵיכֶם כָּכֶם אֱלֵף פִּעָמִים וִיבָרַךְ אַתְכֵּם כַּאֲשֵׁרְ דְּבֵּרְ לָכֶם: (יב) אֵיכֶה (יג) אַשַּׂאַ לְבַדָּיָ טַרְחַכֶם וּמַשַּׂאַכֶם וְרִיבִכֶם: הַבוּ לַבֶּם אֲנַשִּׁים חַכַּמִים וּנִבנַים וִידִעִים לְשָׁבְטֵיכֵם וַאֲשִׂימֵם בְּרָאשֵׁיכֵם: (יד) וַתַּעַנוּ אֹתִי וַתֹּאמִרוֹּ טוֹב־הַדָּבֶר אֲשֶׁר־דִּבַּרָתַ לעשות:

7. A deficiency of speech

Exodus 4:10-12

(10) But Moses said to יהוה, "Please, O my lord, I have never been a man of words, either in times past or now that You have spoken to Your servant; I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." (11) And יהוה said to him, "Who gives humans speech? Who makes them dumb or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, יהוה? (12) Now go, and I will be with you as you speak and will instruct you what to say."

Exodus 2:23-25

(23) A long time after that, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites were groaning under the bondage and cried out; and their cry for help from the bondage rose up to God. (24) God heard their moaning, and God remembered the covenant with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. (25) God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

שמות ד':י'-ייב

(י) וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־יְהֹוָה בִּי אֲדֹנָי לֹא אִישׁ
דְּבָרִים אָנֹכִי גַּם מִתְּמוֹל גַּם מִשִּׁלְשׁם גַּם מֵאָז
דַּבֶּרְךְּ, אֶל־עַבְדֶּךְ כִּיְ כְבַד־פֶּוֹה וּכְבַד לָשׁוֹן אָנְכִיּ
(יא) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהֹוָה אֵלְיו מִי שָׁם פֶּה בֹּאָדָם אָוֹ מִי־
יָשׁוֹּם אִנִּם אוֹ חֵבִשׁ אוֹ פִּקָּחַ אוֹ עַנֵּר הֲלֹא אָנֹכִי
יְשֹׁוֹם וִעַתָּה לֵךְ וְאָנֹכִי אֶהְיֵה עִם־פִּיֹךְ
יְהֹוֹה. (יב) וְעַתָּה לֵךְ וְאָנֹכִי אֶהְיֵה עִם־פִּיֹךְ
וְהוֹבֵר.

שמות ב':כ"ג-כ"ה

(כג) וַיְהִיּ בַיָּמִים הָרַבִּים הָהֵם וַיָּמָתֹ מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִּם וַיֵּאָנְחוּ בְנִי־יִשְּׁרָאֵל מִן־הָצְבֹדָה וַיִּזְעָקוּ וַתִּעַל שַׁוְעָתָם אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים מִן־הָעֲבֹדָה. (כד) וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶת־נִּצְקָתָם וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת־בְּרִיתוֹ אֶת־ אַבְרָהָם אֶת־יִצְקֹק וְאֶת־יַעַקֹב. (כה) וַיַּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־בְּנִי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיָּדַע אֱלֹהִים. {ס}

8: Brotherhood and redemption

Exodus 4:13-16

But he said, "Please, O my lord, make someone else Your agent." יהוה became angry with Moses and said, "There is your brother Aaron the Levite. He, I know, speaks readily. Even now he is setting out to meet you, and he will be happy to see you. You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth—I will be with you and with him as you speak, and tell both of you what to do— and he shall speak for you to the people. Thus he shall serve as your spokesman, with you playing the role of God to him.

שמות ד':י"ג-ט"ז

וּיֹאמֶר בִּי אֲדֹנֵי שְׁלַח־נָא בִּיַד־תִּשְׁלֵח. וַיְּחַר־אַׂף יְהֹנֶׁה בְּמֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמֶר הֲלֹא אַהֲרֹן אָחִיֹּך הַלֵּוֹי יְדַלְּתִּי כִּי־דַבֵּר יְדַבֵּך הוּא וְגַם הִנֵּה־הוּא יִצֵא לְקְרָאתֶּך וְרָאֵך וְשָׁמַח בְּלִבוֹּ וְדְבַּרְתָּ אֵלְיו וְשִׂמְתָּ אֶת־הַדְּבָּרִים בְּפֵיו וְאָנֹכִי אֶהְיֶה עִם־פִּיּרְ וְעִם־פִּיהוּ וְהוֹבִיתִי אֶתְכֶם אֵת אֲשֶׁר תַּצְשִׂוּן. וְדִבֶּר־הְוּא לְךָ אֶל־הָעֶם וְהָיֶה הוּא יִהְיָה־לְּךְ לְפֵּה וִאַתָּה תִּהָיֵה־לִוֹ לֵאלֹהִים.

Midrash Tanchuma, Shemot 27

...when the Holy One, blessed be He, told Moses to go to Pharaoh as His messenger, he replied: *O Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom Thou wilt sent* (Exod. 4:13). Put out of your mind the thought that Moses was distressed because he was not willing to go. That is not so. He actually was concerned about Aaron's prestige. Moses said: Before I was designated (to go), my brother Aaron prophesied in Egypt for them for eighty years, as it is written: *And I made known to them in the land of Egypt* (Exod. 20:5)...Throughout all these years my brother prophesied, and if I should now intrude into his area (of service) he will be deeply distressed. That is why Moses did not wish to go. The Holy One, blessed be He, replied to Moses: Aaron will not be offended. In fact, not only will he not be displeased, but he will rejoice. You know this is so, for He said to him: *And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee; when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart* (Exod. 4:14). It does not say "he will be glad with his mouth" or simply "he will be glad," but rather, he will glad to see him, *in his heart*.

Shemot Rabbah 5:9

"And God said to Aharon, 'Go to meet Moshe in the wilderness'": This is that which is written (Job 37:5), "God thunders wonders with His voice" - what is it that he thunders?.. Rabbi Reuven said, "At the time that the Holy One, blessed be He, said to Moshe in Midian, 'Go return to Egypt' (Exodus 4:19), the speech divided into two voices and it became two faces. And Moshe heard in Midian, 'Go return to Egypt,' but Aharon heard, 'Go to meet Moshe in the wilderness." Hence, "God thunders wonders with His voice."

9: There will be blood

Exodus 4:24-26

(24) At a night encampment on the way, ההה encountered him and sought to kill him. (25) So Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin, and touched his legs with it, saying, "You are truly a bridegroom of blood to me!" (26) And when [God] let him alone, she added, "A bridegroom of blood because of the circumcision."

שמות ד':כ"ד-כ"ו

(כד) וַיְתִּי בַדֶּרֶךְ בַּפֶּלֹוֹן וַיִּפְּגְּשֵׁהוּ יְהֹוָהׁ וַיְּכַקֵּשׁ הֲמִיתְוֹּ (כה) וַתִּלֵּח צִפּּרָה צֹר וַתִּלְרֹת שֶׁרְלַת בְּנָה וַתַּגַּע לְרַגְלֶיו וַתִּאמֶר כִּיְ חֲתַוּ־דָּמִים אַתָּה לִיּ (כו) וַיֻּרְף מִמֵּנֵוּ אֵז אָמְרָה חֲתַן דָּמִים לַמּוּלִת. {פּ}

10: Regaining identity

Exodus 5:22-23

(22) Then Moses returned to יהוה and said, "O my lord, why did You bring harm upon this people? Why did You send me? (23) Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has dealt worse with this people; and still You have not delivered Your people."

שמות ה':כ"ב-כ"ג

(כב) וַיְּשָׁב מֹשֶׁה אֶל־יְהֹוֶה וַיֹּאמֵר אֲדֹנִי לָמָה הֲבִעֹתָה לָעָם הַּיֶּה לָפָּה זֶּה שְׁלַחְתָּנִיּ (כג) וּמֵאָוֹ בָּאתִי אֶל־פַּרְעֹה ׁ לְדַבֵּר בִּשְׁמֶׂךְ הַרַע לָעָם הַזֶּה וְהַצֵּל לֹא־ הִצַּלְתָּ אֶת־עַמֶּךְּיּ

(י) וַיַדַבֶּר יִהוָה אֱל־מֹשֵה לֵאמֹר: (יא) בֹּא דַבֵּר

אַל־פַּרעה מַלֶּךְ מִצְרֵיִם וַישַׁלָּח אַת־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאַל

מַאַרצוֹּ (יב) וַיִדַבֵּר מֹשֵׂה לְפָנֵי יָהוַה לֵאמֹר הָן

Exodus 6:10-7:2

(10) יהוה spoke to Moses, saying, (11) "Go and tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites depart from his land." (12) But Moses appealed to יהוה, saying, "The Israelites would not listen to me; how then should Pharaoh heed me, me—who gets tonguetied!" (13) So יהוה spoke to both Moses and Aaron in regard to the Israelites and Pharaoh king of Egypt, instructing them to deliver the Israelites from the land of Egypt. (14) The following are the heads of their respective clans. The sons of Reuben, Israel's firstborn: Enoch and Pallu, Hezron and Carmi; those are the families of Reuben...(18) The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel; and the span of Kohath's life was 133 years...(20) Amram took into his [household] as wife his father's sister Jochebed, and she bore him Aaron and Moses; and the span of Amram's life was 137 years...(23) Aaron took into his [household] as wife Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab and sister of Nahshon, and she bore him Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar... (26) It is the same Aaron and Moses to whom יהוה said, "Bring forth the Israelites from the land of Egypt, troop by troop." (27) It was they who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt to free the Israelites from the Egyptians; these are the same Moses and Aaron. (28) For when יהוה spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt (29) and יהוה said to Moses, "I am יהוה; speak to Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I will tell you," (30) Moses appealed to יהוה, saying, "See, I get tongue-tied; how then should Pharaoh heed me!"...(1) יהוה replied to Moses, "See, I place you in the role of God to Pharaoh, with your brother Aaron as your prophet. (2) You shall repeat all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall speak to Pharaoh to let the Israelites depart from his land.

שמות ו':י'-ז:ב'

רַעֹה פַּרְעֹה אַלִּי וְאֵיךְ יִשְׂכְעַנִּי פַּרְעֹה בְּנִי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לְא־שָׁמְעַנִּי פַּרְעֹה וַאַנִי עַרָל שִּׁפַתִים: {פּ} (יג) וַיִּדַבֶּר יִהֹוָה אֱל־מֹשֵׁה וְאֵל־אַהַרֹן וַיִּצַוִּם אַל־ רָגָי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶל־פַּרְעָה מֶלֶךְ מִצְרָיֶם לְהוֹצִיא אֶת־ בָּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מָאָרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: {ס} ראשֵׁי בֵית־אֱבֹתָם כָּנֵי רְאוּבֵן בָּכֹר יִשְׂרָאֵל חֲנוֹך וּפַלוּא הַצָּרוֹ וָכַרִמִּי אֱלֶה מִשְׁפָּחֹת רְאוּבֵן...(יח) וּבְנֵי קָהָת עַמִרָם וִיִּצְהָר וְחֵבְרוֹן וְעַזִּיאֵל וּשְׁנֵי חֵיֵי קָהָת שֶׁלֹשׁ וּשָׁלֹשָׁיִם וּמָאַת שָׁנַה...(כ) וַיִּקַּח עַמַרַם אַת־יוֹכֶבֶד דּדַתוֹ לוֹ לָאִשַּׂה וַתַּלֵד לוֹ אֵת־ אַהַרן ואָת־משֻה וּשְׁנִי חַיֵּי עַמְרַם שֶׁבַע וּשִׁלשׁיָם וּמָאַת שַׁנַה...(כג) וַיִּקַּח אָהַרן אֵת־אֵלְישֵׁבַע בַּת־ עמינדב אחות נחשון לו לאשה ותלד לו את־נדב` וְאֶת־אֲבִיהוֹּא אֶת־אֶלְעַזָר וְאֶת־אִיתַמֵּר...(כו) הְוּא אָהַרֹן וּמשֶׁה אֲשֶׁר אַמַר יִהֹוַה ֹלָהֵם הוֹצִיאוּ אֵת־ בָּנֵי יִשְׂרַאֶל מֶאֶרֶץ מִצְרֵיֶם עַל־צְבָאֹתָם: (כז) הָם הַמְדַבָּרִים אַל־פַּרִעֹה מֵלֶרְ־מִצְרַיִּם לְהוֹצֵיא אַת־ בּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרָיֵם הוּא מֹשֵׁה וְאַהַרֹּן. (כח) וַיְהִיֹּ בְּיוֹם דִּבֶּר יְהֹוָה אֵל־מֹשֵׁה בִּאֵרץ (כט) וַיִּדַבֶּר יִהֹוָה אֵל־מֹשֵׁה מָצְרֵיִם: {ס} לֵאמֹר אַנִי יִהֹוָה דַּבָּר אֵל־פַּרְעֹה מֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם אָת כַּל־אַשֶׁר אַנִי דֹבֶר אֶלֵיך: (ל) וַיִּאמֶר משֶׁה לְפָנֵי יָהֹוָה הָן אַנִי עַרָל שִּׁפַתִּיִם וְאֵיֹּךְ יִשְׁמַע אֵלַי פַּרְעָה... (א) וַיֹּאמֶר יִהֹוָה אֱל־מֹשֶׂה רְאָה נְתַתְּיִךְ (ב) אַלֹהָיִם לְפַרְעָה וְאַהַרֹן אָחָיִרְ יִהְיָה נְבִיאֵךְּ אַתָּה תִדַבֵּר אָת כַּל־אַשֶּׁר אֲצַוַּךְ וִאַהַרֹן אַחִיּרְרֹ יָדַבֶּר אֱל־פַּרְעֹה וְשָׁלַּח אֶת־בָּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מַאַרְצוֹּי