# You Can't Go Back To Egypt

# 1. שמות פרק יד (פרשת בשלח)

- (ט) וַיִּרְדְּפוּ מִצְּרַיִם אַחֲרֵיהֶם וַיַּשִּׂיגוּ אוֹתָם חֹנִים עַל הַיָּם כָּל סוּס רֶכֶב פַּרְעֹה וּפָרָשָׁיו וְחֵילוֹ עַל פִּי הַחִירֹת לפָנִי בַּעַל צָפֹן:
- ָרִי) וּפַּרְעֹה הִקְּרִיב וַיִּשְׂאוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת עֵינֵיהֶם וְהִנֵּה מִצְרַיִם נֹסֵעַ אַחֲרֵיהֶם וַיִּירְאוּ מְאֹד וַיִּצְעֲקוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵל יִקוָק:
  - (ִיא) וַיֹּאֹמְרוּ אֶל מֹשֶׁה הַמִּבְּלִי אֵין קְבָרִים בְּמִצְרַיִם לְקַחְתָּנוּ לָמוּת בַּמִּדְבָּר מַה זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ לָנוּ לְהוֹצִיאָנוּ ממצרים:
- (יב) הְלֹא זֶה הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְנוּ אֵלֶיךָ בְמִצְרַיִם לֵאמֹר חֲדַל מִמֶּנוּ וְנַעַבְדָה אֶת מִצְרָיִם כִּי טוֹב לָנוּ עֲבֹד אֶת מצרים ממתנוּ בּמדבּר:
- (ִיגֹ) וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל הָעָם אַל תִּירָאוּ הִתְיַצְבוּ וּרְאוּ אֶת יְשׁוּעַת יְקֹוָק אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה לָכֶם הַיּוֹם כִּי אֲשֶׁר רְאִיתֶם אֶת מִצְרֵים הַיּוֹם לֹא תֹסָפוּ לְרָאֹתַם עוֹד עֵד עוֹלַם:
- (9) The Egyptians gave chase to them, and all the chariot horses of Pharaoh, his horsemen, and his warriors overtook them encamped by the sea, near Pi-hahiroth, before Baal-zephon.
- (10) As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites caught sight of the Egyptians advancing upon them. Greatly frightened, the Israelites cried out to the LORD.
- (11) And they said to Moses, "Was it for want of graves in Egypt that you brought us to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, taking us out of Egypt?
- (12) Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us be, and we will serve the Egyptians, for it is better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness'?"
- (13) But Moses said to the people, "Have no fear! Stand by, and witness the deliverance which the LORD will work for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you will never see again.

#### 2. ריטב"א יומא דף לח, ע"א ד"ה לאלכסנדריאה של מצרים

פי' דאע"ג דכתיב 'לא תוסיפון לשוב בדרך הזה עוד', כבר פירשו בספרי לגור שם אי אתה חוזר אבל אתה חוזר לסחורה ולכבוש את הארץ. ומיהו תמיהא מילתא, על מה סמכו העולם לגור בזמן הזה במצרים כגון הרמב"ם ז"ל וכמה גדולים אחרים. ויש אומרים שאותן עיירות כבר נתבלבלו ונחרבו ואלו עיירות אחרות הן שנתיישבו אחרי כן. וה"ר אליעזר ממיץ תירץ שלא אסר הכתוב אלא להולך בדרך ההוא שמארץ ישראל והמדבר למצרים דהכי כתיב קרא 'לא תוסיפון לשוב בדרך הזה'. והנכון יותר, שאין האיסור ההוא אלא בזמן שישראל שרויין על אדמתם, אבל בזמן הזה שנגזר עלינו להיות נידחים בכל קצוי הארץ, כל חוצה לארץ אחד הוא, ואין איסור אלא שלא לצאת מדעת מן הארץ לחוצה לארץ

#### 3. ספר החינוך (סדר דפוס פרנקפורט) · תק שלא לשכון בארץ מצרים לעולם

משרשי המצוה. לפי שאנשי מצרים רעים וחטאים, והאל ברוך הוא הוציאנו משם וגאלנו בחסדיו מידם, לזכותנו ללכת בדרכי האמת, ורצה בטובו הגדול עלינו, לבלתי נשוב עוד להטמא בתוכם, כדי שלא נלמד סעיפותיהם, ולא נלך בדרכיהם המגנים אצל תורתנו השלמה

# 4. דברים פרק יז

- (יד) כִּי תָבֹא אֶלֹ הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יְקֹוָק אֱלֹהֶיךָ נֹתֵן לָךְ וִירִשְׁתָּהּ וְיָשַׁבְתָּה בָּהּ וְאָמַרְתָּ אָשִׂימָה עָלַי מֶלֶךְ כְּכָל הַגּּוֹיִם אַשׁר סביבתי:
  - (טוֹ) שׂוֹם תָּשִּׁים עָלֶיךָ מֶלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר יְקֹוָק אֱלֹהֶיךָ בּוֹ מִקֶּרֶב אַחֶיךְ תָּשִּׂים עָלֶיךָ מֶלֶךְ לֹא תוּכַל לָתֵת עָלֶיךְ. איש נַכְרִי אֵשֶׁר לֹא אַחִירָ הוּא:
    - (טז) רַקֹ לֹא יַרְבֶּה לֹוֹ olo וִיקֹוָק אָמַר לָכֶם לֹא תֹסְפּוּן (טז) בִקֹ לֹא יַרְבֶּה לֹוֹ olo וַיִקֹוָק אָמַר לָכֶם לֹא תֹסְפּוּן לַשוּב בַּדֵּרֵך הַזֵּה עוֹד:
      - (יז) וָלֹא יַרְבֶּה לוֹ נַשִּׁים וָלֹא יַסוּר לְבַבוֹ וְכֵסֶף וְזַהַב לֹא יַרְבֶּה לוֹ מָאד:
    - (יח) וְהַיָּה כְשָׁבָתוֹ עַל כָּסָא מַמְלַכָתוֹ וְכַתֵב לוֹ אֶת מִשְׁנֵה הַתוֹרֵה הַזֹּאת עַל סֵפֶר מִלְפְנֵי הַכּהַנִים הַלְוַיָּם:
- (ִיט) וְהָיְׁתָהֹ עִמֹּוֹ וְקָרָא בוֹ כָּלֹ יְמֵי ֹחַיָּיוֹ לְמַעַן יִלְמַד לְיִרְאֶה אֶת יְקוָק אֱלֹהָיוֹ לִשְׁמֹר אֶת ׂכָּל דִּבְרֵי הַתּוֹּרָה הַזֹּאת ּ וְאֵת הַחֵקִּים הַאֵּלֶה לַעֲשֹׁתַם:
  - (בֹ) לְבִלְתִּי רוּם לְבָבוֹ מֵאֶחָיו וּלְבִלְתִּי סוּר מִן הַמִּצְוָה יָמִין וּשְׂמֹאול לְמַעַן יַאָרִיךְ יָמִים עַל מַמְלַכְתּוֹ הוּא וּבָנָיו בָּקֵרֵב יָשָׂרָאַל:
- 14) If, after you have entered the land that your God has assigned to you, and taken possession of it and settled in it, you decide, "I will set a king over me, as do all the nations about me,"
- 15) you shall be free to set a king over yourself, one chosen by your God. Be sure to set as king over yourself one of your own people; you must not set a foreigner over you, one who is not your kin.
- 16) Moreover, he shall not keep many horses or send people back to Egypt to add to his horses, since God has warned you, "You must not go back that way again."
- 17) And he shall not have many wives, lest his heart go astray; nor shall he amass silver and gold to excess.
- 18) When he is seated on his royal throne, he shall have a copy of this Teaching written for him on a scroll by the levitical priests.
- 19) Let it remain with him and let him read in it all his life, so that he may learn to revere his God, to observe faithfully every word of this Teaching as well as these laws.
- 20) Thus he will not act haughtily toward his fellows or deviate from the Instruction to the right or to the left, to the end that he and his descendants may reign long in the midst of Israel.

# 5. שמואל א פרק ח

- (ד) וַיִּתְקַבְּצוּ כֹּל זִקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל שְׁמוּאֵל הָרָמָתָה:
- ָרָ) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו הִנֵּה אַתָּה זְקַנְתָּ וּבָנֶיךְ לֹא הָלְכוֹ בִּדְרָכֶיךְ עַתָּה שִׁימָה לָנוּ מֶלֶךְ לְשָׁפְטֵנוּ כְּכֶל הַגּוֹיִם:
  - (ו) ווַרַע הַדָּבָר בְּעֵינִי שְמוּאֵל כַּאֲשֶׁר אָמְרוּ תְּנָה לָנוּ מֶלֶךְ לְשַּׁפְטֵנוּ וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל שְׁמוֹאֵל אֵל יִקוַק: פ
- (ז) וַיֹּאמֶר יְקֹוָק אֶל שְׁמוּאֵל שְׁמַע בְּקוֹל הָעָם לְכֹל אֲשֶׁר יֹאמְרוּ אֵלֶיךְ כִּי לֹא אֹתְךְ מָאָסוּ כִּי אֹתִי מָאָסוּ מִמְּלֹךְ. עֵלֵיהֶם:
- (ח) בּכָל הַמַּעֲשִׂים אֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ מִיּוֹם הַעֲלֹתִי אֹתָם מִמִּצְרַיִם וְעַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וַיַּעַזְבֵנִי וַיַּעַבְדוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים כֵּן הַמָּה עשׁים גַּם לַרְ:
  - (ט) וְעַתַּה שָׁמע בַּקוֹלָם אַך כִּי הַעד תַּעיד בַּהֶם וְהגִדְתַּ לָהֶם משַׁפַּט הַמֵּלֵךְ אֲשֶׁר יִמִלֹךְ עַליהֶם: ס
    - (י) וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁמוּאֵל אֶת כָּל דָּבָרֵי יִקוַק אֶל הַעָם הַשַּׁאֲלִים מֵאִתוֹ מֶלֶךְ: ס
- (וֹא) וַיּאֹמֶר ֹ זָה יִהְיֶה מִשְׁפַּט ֹהַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר יִמְׁלֹךְ עֲלֵיׁכֶם אֶת בְּנֵיכֶם יִּקְּח וְשָׂם לוֹ בְּמֶרְכַּבְתּוֹ וּבְפָּרָשִׁיו וְרְצוּ לִפְנֵי מרכרתוֹ:
  - (יבֹ) וְלַשׂוּם לוֹ שַׂרֵי אֱלַפִּים וְשַׂרִי חֲמִשִּׁים וְלַחֲרשׁ חֲרִישׁוֹ וְלִקְצֹר קְצִירוֹ וְלַעֲשׂוֹת כָּלִי מַלְחַמְתּוֹ וּכְלֵי רְכְבּוֹ:
    - (יג) וָאֶת בָּנוֹתֵיכֶם יָקָח לְרַקַּחוֹת וּלְטַבַּחוֹת וּלְאֹפּוֹת:
    - (יד) וְאֵת שִּׁדוֹתֵיכֶם וְאֵת כַּרְמֵיכֶם וְזֵיתֵיכֶם הַטוֹבִים יָקָּח וְנַתַן לַעַבָּדַיו:
      - (טו) וְזַרעִיכֶם וְכַרְמִיכֶם יַעִשֹר וְנָתַן לְסָרִיסָיו וְלַעֲבָדָיו:
    - (טז) וְאֶת עַבְדֵיכֶם וְאֶת שִׁפְחוֹתֵיכֶם וְאֶת בַּחוֹרֵיכֶם הַטּוֹבִים וְאֶת חֲמוֹרֵיכֶם יָקָח וְעָשָּׁה לְמְלַאכְתּוֹ:
      - (יז) צאנכם יַעשר **וִאַתֶּם תָּהִיוּ לוֹ לַעַבַּדִּים**:
    - (יח) וזעקתם ביום ההוא מלפני מלככם אשר בחרתם לכם ולא יענה יקוק אתכם ביום ההוא:
      - (יט) וַיִּמָאֲנוּ הָעָם לִשָּׁמעַ בִּקוֹל שָׁמוּאֵל וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא כִּי אָם מֶלֶךְ יִהְיֵה עָלֵינוּ:

# (כ) וְהַיִינוּ גַם אֲנַחְנוּ כָּכֶל הַגּוֹיִם וּשְׁפַּטָנוּ מַלְכֵּנוּ וְיַצָּא לְפָנֵינוּ וְנַלְחֵם אֶת מִלְחֵמֹתֵנוּ:

#### Shmuel 1, Chapter 8

- 4) Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah.
- 5) And they said unto him: 'Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways; now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.'
- 6) But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said: 'Give us a king to judge us.' And Samuel prayed unto the Lord.
- 7) And the Lord said unto Samuel: 'Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee; for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me, that I should not be king over them.
- 8) According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, in that they have forsaken Me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.
- 9) Now therefore hearken unto their voice; howbeit thou shalt earnestly forewarn them, and shalt declare unto them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.'
- 10) And Samuel told all the words of the Lord unto the people that asked of him a king.
- 11) And he said: 'This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: he will take your sons, and appoint them unto him, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and they shall run before his chariots.
- 12) And he will appoint them unto him for captains of thousands, and captains of fifties; and to plow his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and the instruments of his chariots.
- 13) And he will take your daughters to be perfumers, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.
- 14) And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your olive-yards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.
- 15) And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.
- 16) And he will take your men-servants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.
- 17) He will take the tenth of your flocks; and ye shall be his servants.
- 18) And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king whom ye shall have chosen you; and the Lord will not answer you in that day.'
- 19) But the people refused to hearken unto the voice of Samuel; and they said: 'Nay; but there shall be a king over us;
- 20) that we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.'

# 6. שמות רבה, וארה, ט

**ּרְאֵה** נְתַתִּיךְ אֱלֹהִים. אָׄמֵר לוֹ הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא לְמֹשֶׁה: פַּרְעֹה הָרָשָׁע עָשָׂה עַצְמוֹ אֱלוֹהַ, הוֹדִיעוֹ שֶׁאֵינוֹ כְלוּם. הְרֵינִי עוֹשֶׂה אוֹתְךְ עָלָיו אֱלוֹהַ. וּמִנַּין שֶׁעָשָׂה עַצְמוֹ אֱלוֹהַ, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: לִי יְאֹרִי וַאֲנִי עֲשִׂיתִנִי )יחזקאל כט, ג (לְפִיכַךְ יִראָה אוֹתָךְ וִיֹאמַר שֶׁזָּה אֱלוֹהַ.

# Shemot Rabbah, Vaera, 9

The Holy One, blessed be He, said to Moses: The wicked Pharaoh boasts that he is a god. Make him realize that he is an insignificant being. Indeed, I will make you appear as a god to him. Whence do we know that he claimed to be divine? It is said: *My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself* (Ezek. 29:3). Therefore, he will look at you and say: "Surely this one is god."

# 7. Henri Frankfort, Kingship and the Gods, 4-9

For Egypt viewed the universe as essentially static. It held that a cosmic order was once and for all established at the time of creation. This order might occasionally be disturbed, for the forces of chaos were merely subdued and not annihilated. Nevertheless, revolts against the established order were bound to remain mere ripples upon the surface... The rich Nile Valley lies isolated and protected between the almost empty deserts on either side... Egypt derived its prosperity from the annual inundation of the Nile, which never fails to rise, even if the floods differ greatly in their effectiveness...

This was the fundamental concept of Egyptian kingship, that Pharaoh was of divine essence, a god incarnate; and this view can be traced back as far as texts and symbols take us... In Egypt the community freed itself from fear and uncertainty by considering its ruler a god. It sacrificed all liberty for the sake of a never changing integration of society and nature...

#### 8. Psalms, Chapter 74

- 13) Thou didst break the sea in pieces by Thy strength; / Thou didst shatter the heads of the sea-monsters in the waters.
- 14) Thou didst crush the heads of leviathan, / Thou gavest him to be food to the folk inhabiting the wilderness.

#### 9. Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, Ch 17

The only way to erect such a common power, as may be able to defend them from the invasion of foreigners, and the injuries of one another, and thereby to secure them in such sort as that by their own industry and by the fruits of the earth they may nourish themselves and live contentedly, is to confer all their power and strength upon one man, or upon one assembly of men, that may reduce all their wills, by plurality of voices, unto one will: which is as much as to say, to appoint one man, or assembly of men, to bear their person; and every one to own and acknowledge himself to be author of whatsoever he that so beareth their person shall act, or cause to be acted, in those things which concern the common peace and safety; and therein to submit their wills, every one to his will, and their judgements to his judgement. This is more than consent, or concord; it is a real unity of them all in one and the same person, made by covenant of every man with every man, in such manner as if every man should say to every man: I authorise and give up my right of governing myself to this man, or to this assembly of men, on this condition; that thou give up, thy right to him, and authorise all his actions in like manner. This done, the multitude so united in one person is called a Commonwealth; in Latin, Civitas. This is the generation of that great Leviathan, or rather, to speak more reverently, of that mortal god to which we owe, under the immortal God, our peace and defence. For by this authority, given him by every particular man in the Commonwealth, he hath the use of so much power and strength conferred on him that, by terror thereof, he is enabled to form the wills of them all, to peace at home, and mutual aid against their enemies abroad. And in him consisteth the essence of the Commonwealth; which, to define it, is: one person, of whose acts a great multitude, by mutual covenants one with another, have made themselves every one the author, to the end he may use the strength and means of them all as he shall think expedient for their peace and common defence.

# 10. R' Aaron Tamarat, A Sermon on Liberty, 1906

Pharaoh became God and so had absolute justification to trample men mercilessly; for who, after all, can challenge God? Therefore, when the Blessed Holy One wanted to guard the Torah against imposters greedily seizing it to justify and excuse their persecuting, injuring, and inflicting indignities upon other men, He chose to introduce it with his own sever retributions upon Egypt... All of this is alluded to in the first of the ten sayings uttered by the Blessed Holy One at Mount Sinai: "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage"—not out of the Egypt of simple, natural killers, but rather out of the Egypt of lying imposers who convinced themselves they had the right to enslave the children of Israel...

The entire section of Deuteronimy 17:14-20 comes to present an exalted conception of the Israelite monarchy, forbidding trust in the accumulation of silver, gold, and prancing steeds "lest the people be turned again to the paths of the Egyptians," to the ways of the Egyptian tyrants.