

# PARASHAT BO

## *Exodus 10:1–13:16*

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*Parashat Bo* takes its name from the first word of God's command to Moses, "Go (*Bo*) to Pharaoh." Moses and Aaron continue to plead with Pharaoh to let the Israelites go free. Because he refuses, the Egyptians are punished with plagues of locusts, darkness, and, finally, the death of their firstborn. Pharaoh tells Moses, "Be gone from me!" God then tells Moses that, after the last plague, Pharaoh will let the Israelites leave. That midnight Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt and proclaims that each year on the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month a festival lasting seven days will be celebrated in order to recall their liberation from Egypt. *Matzah*, or "unleavened bread," shall be eaten during the seven days, and on the first night of the festival the children will be told how God freed their people from the house of bondage.

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