

TARGUM ONQELOS

Vayera – Sipra d'Mapkana (Exodus) 6-9 – וַיֵּרָא

¶ And MarYah spake to Mosheh and said to him, I am MarYah; and I appeared to Abraham and to Izhak and to Jakob by (the name) El-Shaddai, but by My name Yahweh¹ I was not known to them. And also I have confirmed My covenant with them to give them the land of Kenaan, the land of their sojourning in which they sojourned.

¶ And before Me has been heard the cry of the sons of Israel whom the Mizraee make to labor for them; and I have remembered My covenant. Therefore, say to the sons of Israel, I am MarYah, and I will bring you out from the midst of the sore labor for the Mizraee, and will deliver you from their servitude, and redeem you with a lofty arm and with great judgments.

¶ And I will bring you near before Me to be a people, and I will be to you Alaha; and you shall know that I am MarYah your Alaha who brings you out from the sore Mizrean [Egyptian] bondage. And I will lead you into the land which I have sworn in My Word to give to Abraham, to Izhak, and to Jakob; and to you will I give it for an inheritance; I am MarYah.

¶ And thus Mosheh spake with the sons of Israel: but they did not receive (the word) from Mosheh because of the anguish of spirit, and from the labor which was hard upon them.

¶ And MarYah spake to Mosheh, saying, Go in, speak with Pharaoh a ruler of Mizraim, that he send away the sons of Israel from his land. And Mosheh spake before MarYah, saying, Behold, the sons of Israel have not received from me, and how then will Pharaoh receive, and I (so) heavy of speech? And MarYah spoke to Mosheh and

Aharon, and gave them commandment to the sons of Israel and to Pharaoh a ruler of Mizraim for the going forth of the sons of Israel from the land of Mizraim.

¶ These are the heads of the house of their fathers. The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, Hanuk and Phalli, Hetsron and Karmi; these are the progeny of Reuben. And the sons of Shimeon, Yemuel and Yamin and Achad and Yakin and Zochar and Shaul the son of a Kenaanitha; these are the progeny of Shimeon.

¶ And these are the names of the sons of Levi, according to their generations: Gershon and Kehath and Merari. And the years of the life of Levi were a hundred and thirty and seven years. The sons of Gerson, Libni and Shimei, after their progenies. And the sons of Kehath., Amram and Izhar and Hebron and Uzziel. And the years of the life of Kehath, a hundred and thirty-three years. And the sons of Merari, Maheli and Mushi. These are the progenies of Levi, after their generations. And Amram took Yokebed the sister of his father to him to wife, and she bore to him Aharon and Mosheh. And the years of the life of Amram were a hundred and thirty-seven years.

¶ And the sons of Izhar, Korah and Nepheg and Zikri. And the sons of Uzziel, Mishael and Elzaphan and Sithri. And Aharon took Elisheba the daughter of Aminadab the sister of Nachshon to him to wife; and she bore to him Nadab and Abihu, Elazar and Ithamar. And the sons of Korah, Asir and Elkanah and Abiasaph: these are the progeny of Korah. And Elazar the son of Aharon took (one) of the daughters of Phutiel to himself to wife, and she bare him Pinhas. These

are the chiefs of the fathers of the Levae, according to their generations.

¶ It is Aharon and Mosheh, to whom MarYah had said, Bring forth the sons of Israel from the land of Mizraim by their armies. These are they who spoke with Pharaoh a king of Mizraim to let the sons of Israel go forth from Mizraim: it is Mosheh and Aharon.

¶ And it was in the day when MarYah spoke with Mosheh in the land of Mizraim, that MarYah spoke to Mosheh, saying, I am MarYah: Speak with Pharaoh, a king of Mizraim, all that I have said to you.

¶ But Mosheh said before MarYah, Behold, I am heavy of speech, and how will Pharaoh receive from me?

¶ But MarYah said to Mosheh, See, I have appointed you as a master (rab) with Pharaoh, and Aharon is your interpreter (methurgeman). You shall speak all that I have commanded you, and Aharon your brother shall speak with Pharaoh to send away the sons of Israel from his land.

¶ And I will harden the heart of Pharaoh, and will multiply My signs and wonders in the land of Mizraim. But Pharaoh will not receive your (word); and I will give forth the stroke of My power upon Mizraim, and will bring out My host, My people, the sons of Israel, from the land of Mizraim by great judgments. And the Mizraee shall know that I am MarYah when I uplift the stroke of My power upon Mizraim, and bring forth the sons of Israel from among them.

¶ And Mosheh and Aharon did exactly as MarYah commanded them.

¶ And Mosheh was the son of eighty years, and Aharon the son of eighty-three years, in their speaking with Pharaoh.

¶ And MarYah spoke to Mosheh and Aharon, saying, When Pharaoh shall speak to you, saying, Produce a sign, you shall say to Aharon, Take your staff, and throw it down before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent (*tanina, Heb., tanin, a long creature, whether serpent or crocodile. T.*).

¶ And Mosheh and Aharon went in before Pharaoh, and did as MarYah had commanded them. Aharon threw down his staff before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent. And Pharaoh called for the wise men and the magicians; and they also, the Mizraite magicians, did so by their enchantments. They cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents; but the staff of Aharon swallowed up their rods. And Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as MarYah had said.

¶ And MarYah said to Mosheh, The heart of Pharaoh is heavy: he is unwilling to send the people away. Go to Pharaoh in the morning; behold, he goes forth to the waters, and stand to meet him on the bank of the river, and the staff that was turned to a serpent (*Heb., nachash*) take in your hand; and say to him, MarYah, Alaha of the Jehudaeae has sent me to you, saying, Release My people, that they may serve before Me in the desert; and, behold, you have not yet acceded. Thus says MarYah, By this you shall know that I am MarYah: Behold, with the staff that is in my hand I strike the water of the river, and it shall be turned to blood: and the fish which are in the river shall die, and the river become putrid, and the Mizraee tried in vain to drink the water from the river.

¶ And MarYah spoke to Mosheh, Say to Aharon, Take your staff, and lift up your hand over the waters of the Mizraee, upon their rivers, upon their canals, and upon their lakes, and upon all their reservoirs of water, that they may become blood; and there shall be blood in all the land of Mizraim, and in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.

¶ And Mosheh and Aharon did so, as MarYah commanded; and he lifted the staff, and struck the waters of the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, and all the waters of the river were turned into blood. And the fish of the river died, and the river became putrid; and the Mizraee could not drink of the water of the river, and there was blood in all the land of Mizraim.

¶ And the magicians did so with their enchantments; and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as MarYah had said. And Pharaoh turned and entered into his house; neither did he set his heart also to this. And all the Mizraee were digging by the bending of the river for water to drink; for the water which was in the river they could not drink.

¶ And seven days were fulfilled after that MarYah had struck the river; and MarYah said to Mosheh, Go to Pharaoh and say to him, Thus says MarYah: Send away My people, that they may serve before me. But if you refuse to send them away, behold, I will strike all your borders with frogs, and the river shall multiply frogs; and they shall come up and enter into your house, and into your chamber place for sleeping, and upon your bed, and into the house of your servants, and among your people, and into your ovens and your kneading pans; and upon you and upon your people and upon all your servants shall the frogs come up.

¶ And MarYah said to Mosheh, Say to Aharon, Lift up your hand with your staff upon the streams, upon the rivulets, and upon the lakes; and the frogs shall come up on the land of Mizraim. And Aharon lifted up his hand over the waters of the Mizraee, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Mizraim. And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and made frogs to come up on the land of Mizraim.

¶ And Pharaoh called Mosheh and Aharon, and said, Pray before MarYah that the frogs may be removed from me and from my people; and I will release the people, that they may sacrifice before MarYah. And Mosheh said to Pharaoh, Demand for yourself a miracle, and appoint me a time² when I shall pray for you, and for your servants and your people, that the frogs may be finished from you and from your house, and remain only in the river. And he said, Tomorrow. And he said, According to your word; that you may know that there is none like MarYah our Alaha. And the frogs shall be removed from you and from your house and your servants and your people; in the river only shall they remain.

¶ And Mosheh and Aharon went out from Pharaoh; and Mosheh prayed before MarYah concerning the frogs which he had appointed to Pharaoh. And MarYah heard the words of Mosheh [*or "did according to the words of Mosheh"*]; and the frogs died from the houses, and from the courts, and from the fields. And they gathered them in heaps (upon) heaps, and they corrupted upon the ground. And Pharaoh saw that there was relief; and hardened his heart, and would not listen to them, as MarYah had said.

¶ And MarYah spake to Mosheh, Say to Aharon, Lift up your staff and strike the dust of the earth, and it shall become, insects,³ in all the land of Mizraim. And they did so.

¶ And Aharon lifted up his hand with the staff and struck the dust of the earth, and it became insects on man and on cattle; all the dust of the earth became insects in all the land of Mizraim. And the magicians tried with great difficulty with their enchantments to produce the insects, but were not able; and there were insects on man and on beast. And the magicians said to Pharaoh, This is a plague from before MarYah. Yet Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as MarYah had said.

¶ And MarYah said to Mosheh, Arise in the morning and stand before Pharaoh; behold, he goes out to the waters; and say to him, Thus says MarYah, Send My people away, that they may serve before Me. For if you will not send My people away, behold, I will send on you, and on your servants, and on your people, and upon your houses, the aroba;⁴ I and they shall fill the houses of the Mizraee with the aroba; and also the ground on which they are. But I will make a distinction in that day with the land of Goshen where My people dwell, that the aroba shall not be there; so that you may know that I MarYah do rule in the midst of the earth. And I will ordain redemption to My people, but upon your people shall be the plague. Tomorrow shall this sign be.

¶ And MarYah did so; and the aroba came with strength into the house of Pharaoh, and into the house of his servants, and into all the land of Mizraim; and the land was destroyed before the aroba.

¶ And Pharaoh called for Mosheh and Aharon, and said, Go, sacrifice before your Alaha in the land. But Mosheh said, It will not be fitting to do so; because the animals which the Mizraee worship we shall take to sacrifice before MarYah our Alaha. Behold, should we immolate the animal which the Mizraee worship, would they not stone us when they saw it? A journey of three

days will we go into the desert, and sacrifice before MarYah our Alaha, as He has told us.

¶ And Pharaoh said, I will send you away, that you may sacrifice before MarYah your Alaha in the desert; only you shall not go any farther: pray also for me.

¶ And Mosheh said, Behold I will go out from being with you, and will pray before MarYah, and He will remove the aroba from Pharaoh, and from his servants, and his people, tomorrow; only let Pharaoh lie no more⁵ in not sending away the people to sacrifice to MarYah.

¶ And Mosheh went out from before Pharaoh, and prayed before MarYah. And MarYah heard the words of Mosheh [*or "did according to the word of Mosheh"*], and removed the aroba from Pharaoh and his servants, and his people; not one remained. But Pharaoh hardened his heart again, and would not dismiss the people.

¶ And MarYah said to Mosheh, Go in to Pharaoh and say to him: Thus says MarYah, Alaha of the Jehudae; Send My people away, that they may serve before Me: for if you refuse to send them away, -and you have kept them until now, -behold, a plague from before MarYah shall be upon your cattle which are in the field; upon the horses, upon the donkeys, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep, a very great death. But MarYah will make distinction between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of the Mizraee; and of all that the children of Israel possess not one shall die.

¶ And MarYah set a time,⁶ saying, To-morrow will MarYah do this thing in the land. And MarYah did accordingly on the following day, and all the cattle of the Mizraee died; but of the cattle of the sons of Israel not a single one died.

¶ And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, not one of the cattle of the sons of Israel had died. And Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not send the people away.

¶ And MarYah said to Mosheh and Aharon, Take handfuls of dust of the furnace, and let Mosheh scatter it towards the heavens in the presence of Pharaoh; and it will be like fine powder upon all the land of Mizraim, and it shall be upon man and beast an inflammation growing into ulcers in all the land of Mizraim.

¶ And they took the dust of the furnace and stood before Pharaoh; and Mosheh scattered it towards the heavens, and it became an inflammation of ulcers multiplying on man and beast. And the magicians could not stand before Mosheh, on account of the disease; for the disease was upon the magicians and upon all the Mizraee. And MarYah hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he would not listen to them, as MarYah had said to Mosheh.

¶ And MarYah said to Mosheh, Rise up in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, Thus says MarYah, Alaha of the Jehudaeae Send My people away, that they may serve before Me: for at this time I will send all My plagues upon your heart, and upon your servants and your people, that you may know that there is no one like Me, the Ruler in all the earth. For now it is near before Me to send indeed My strong plagues, and strike you and your people with death, and cut you off from the earth. For therefore have I raised you up, that I may show you My power, and that they may acknowledge the might of My name in all the earth. Until now you have kept My people down,⁷ that you may not release them. Behold, I will cause to come down, as at this time tomorrow, hail most mighty, the like of which has never been in Mizraim from the day that it was founded until

now. And now, send, gather in your cattle and all that you have in the field; for upon every man and beast that may be found in the field not gathered into the house the hail will fall, and they shall die.

¶ Those who feared the word of MarYah among the servants of Pharaoh collected his servants and his cattle unto the houses; but he who did not set his heart upon the word of MarYah, left his servants and his cattle in the field.

¶ And MarYah said to Mosheh, Lift up your hand towards the heavens, and there shall be hail in all the land of Mizraim upon man, and beast, and every herb of the field throughout the land of Mizraim.

¶ And Mosheh lifted up the staff towards the heavens, and MarYah sent thunders, (voices,) [*see Psalm 29*] and hail, and fire going upon the ground: and MarYah rained hail upon the land of Mizraim, and there was hail, and fire flaming among the hail, very mighty, such as the like of had not been in all the land of Mizraim since the time it had been for a people.

¶ And the hail was striking throughout all the land of Mizraim all that was in the field from man to cattle, and every herb of the field the hail struck, and every tree of the field it broke. Only in the land of Goshen, where the sons of Israel were, there was no hail.

¶ And Pharaoh sent and called for Mosheh and Aharon, and said to them, I have sinned this time; MarYah is righteous, and I and my people are guilty. Pray before MarYah that relief may be multiplied before Him, so that there may be upon us no more thunders of curses like these before MarYah, nor hail; and I will send you away, and will not continue to detain you.

¶ And Mosheh said to him, When I shall have gone out of the city, I will spread forth my hands in prayer before MarYah, and the thunders shall cease, and there shall be no more hail, that you may know that the earth belongs to MarYah. But (as for) you and your servants, I know that as yet you are not humbled before MarYah Alaha.

¶ And the flax and the barley were struck, because the barley was earing and the flax was in flower: but the wheat and the spelt were not struck, for they were later.

¶ And Mosheh went out of the city from Pharaoh, and spread forth his hands in prayer before MarYah, and the thunders ceased, and the hail and the rain which had descended did not come again upon the land.

¶ And Pharaoh saw that the rain had ceased, and the hail and the thunders, and he added yet to sin, and hardened his heart, he and his servants. And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he would not send away the sons of Israel, as MarYah had spoken by the hand of Mosheh.

Notes

1 Onkelos, YY.

2 Sam. Vers., "Decide for me", or, "over me."

3 Poisonous flies. Kalmetha, ONK. Ciniphes, Skniphes, LXX.

4 Heb., Arob; probably beetles, - blatta Agyptica, a

formidable and voracious insect.

5 "Add to lie." So also the Sam. Vers.

6 Sam. Vers., "appointed a testimony."

7 Sam. Vers., "have dealt deceitfully with."

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