

המוסד למען קדושת חיי אדם



TORAH READING:

Va'eira: Exodus 6:2 - 9:35

Tevet 28, 5776

January 9, 2016

In this week's Torah portion, Va'eira: Exodus 6:2 - 9:35, Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh to demand he release the Israelites from slavery, so they may travel into the wilderness to worship G-d. Pharaoh refuses their demands, and his nation is plagued with water turned into blood, an infestation of frogs, lice, and hordes of wild beasts, the death of all Egyptian owned horses, asses, camels, oxen and sheep, the eruption of boils on every citizen, and finally a firestorm of destructive hail that reigns down on the country.

Still, Pharaoh refuses to release the Jewish slaves.

Pharaoh is an arrogant, power hungry pagan. He doesn't believe in nor worship the one G-d, the G-d of Israel. The plagues convince him of the existence of something greater than himself and the power of his magicians, but he refuses to surrender to that power. And he suffers because of his arrogance, defiance and self will.

Pharaoh's spiritual struggle is familiar to many. Defiance of G-d's will and the insistence to serve our own interests leads to pain and suffering, yet, every soul faces this struggle. The daily question remains: Do we follow our own will, whatever the cost to our integrity, our moral fiber, or the wellbeing of our loved ones and community, or do we trust and follow the will of our loving, wise, and generous G-d, whatever the self sacrifice it requires?

The use of abortion hones this question to a fine point. Our spiritual regeneration demands that we choose life. Every time.