

PARSHAT SHEMOT
EXODUS 1:1-6:1
HAFTARAH ISAIAH 27:6-28:13, 29:22-23
23 TEVET 5784/04 JANUARY 2024



Oil on canvass by James Abbott McNeill Whistler

WHAT'S IN A NAME

1. Book of Exodus/Sefer Shemot
2. These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each one and his household. (Exodus 1:1)
3. A new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. (1:8)

Hebrew midwives/midwives of the Hebrews... (1:15)

A certain man of the house of Levi... (2:1)

...married a Levite woman. (2:1)

The woman conceived and bore a son... (2:2)

His sister stationed herself at a distance... (2:4)

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe in the Nile... (2:5)

She named him Moses... (2:10)

Moses said to God, "Who am I...?" (3:11)

And God said to Moses, "Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh." (3:14)

4. Every person is called by three names: One, which they are called by their father and mother; one, which they are called by other people; and one, which they acquire for themselves. The earned name is worth much more than all of the others. (Midrash Tanhuma)
5. Each person is born with a deficiency. A person's whole purpose in life, their mission, is to clarify that deficiency....The name "we acquire for ourselves" is the name we get by healing the deficiency within us. (Rabbi Mordechai Yosef)