

THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

THE TORAH OF LEADERSHIP

February 17, 2022 | Erica Brown | Leadership and Personal Crisis

Susie Sorkin: Natasha is on our Federation board and she is a warm, vibrant and wise woman

iPad (4): A tremendous loss. Thanks

Sonia: I dedicate this learning to Deborah Lipstadt

Elka Abrahamson: N'siah Tova!

Becca Thomas: Erica's source sheet for today can be found here:

https://www.wexnerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2-17_Exodus-4-Personal-Crisis.pdf

Nina Butler: Is that an image reminiscent of the Mishkan in the back left?

Judy Oberlander: many difference scenes at once; attention is dispersed throughout the painting

Craig Levine (he-him): While I can't see the details, it looks as if the circumcision may be in the process of being done by a woman.

Judy Shanks: It looks like the women are in charge of the circumcision

Nina Butler: Nice that this religious ceremony is represented as COED and it seems that WOMEN are performing the bris??

Susie Sorkin: I too noticed the prominence of women!

Jessica Semel: also referencing Jacob and the angel, in a way. Sorry - late to the chat so someone might have already said.

Jessica Semel: and Joseph - Erica beat me to it.

Nina Butler: Was Moshe present when Tzipora circumcised their son? If he was present, why wasn't he involved, even in charge?

Stefanie Zelkind: "enough talking" - she jumped in with an action

Angie Atkins: Maybe Eleazar's circumcision is like Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac. They each reconsecrate the Israelite-god bond. In this case Tzipora saves not only Moshe's life thru the act of 'laying her hand upon the lad' but therefore the Israelite future (which is redeemed thru Moshe)

Alan Brown: Was Moses circumcised?

Susie Sorkin: This might be a real stretch, but I was thinking about how circumcision was kept up by the Hebrews for the hundreds of years while in Egypt. It makes me think of assimilation - what is kept, what is lost over time.

Devin Schain: I prefer to go on and "Advance" why go backwards

Jeff Spear: God doesn't come off so well in this moment. First, "stiffen the heart" and not get your freedom. Then, "sought to kill him." This all after the binding of Isaac. Is God asking too much?

Susie Sorkin: @Devin - we used that term for our board "advance" but it was new and a challenge to get people to use the term.

Larry Gellman: Over the years there have often been cases where I have lost sleep for an extended period of time due to my concern that those I was attempting to lead were not "seeing the light." In recent years that has almost always taken the form of being enormously stressed over the ways in which many of those I have been selected to lead engage in hatred of fellow Jews in the name of their love for Israel.

Wendy Kesser: The magnification on my readers are climbing faster and faster from all the spreadsheets/budgets, and meeting minutes that are required reading.

Larry Gellman: Sometimes the leadership role is the CAUSE of a family crisis.

Jessica Semel: Amen Larry

Wendy Kesser: When my father died in March, I went dark for all of Shloshim in reverence to him (and myself).

Angie Atkins: Don't personal crises also serve to realign us to what is important? To focus and pullback and also to rededicate to the essential...we uncover the "why" of what we are trying to be leaders about.

Sonia: Yes Angie!

Jessica Semel: I remember putting my event ahead of a kid, and my supervisor reminded me that that was actually the wrong equation.

Larry Gellman: During times of family discord in the past I have used my leadership roles as an escape valve to avoid having to confront the crises head on.

Susie Sorkin: each family member also has different needs