Tikvah Live:
The Jewish Meaning of Egypt: From Moses to Jabotinsky
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Sources

1. But it happened in the seventh month that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal family, came with ten men and struck and killed Gedaliah, the Jews, as well as the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah. **26** And all the people, small and great, and the captains of the armies, arose and went to Egypt; for they were afraid of the Chaldeans. **II Kings, Ch. 25**

2. So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon. **10** And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. **11** Then they said to Moses, "Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? **12** *Is* this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For *it would have been* better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness." **13** And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation[b] of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. **14** The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold[c] your peace." **Ex., Ch.14**

3. And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt. **2** Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. **3** And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots

of meat *and* when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.**" Ex., Ch. 16**

4. 20 You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. 21 You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. 22 If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry; 23 and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless. **Ex., ch. 22**

5. Now the mixed multitude who were among them [c]yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? 5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6 but now our whole being *is* dried up; *there is* nothing at all except this manna *before* our eyes!" **Num., Ch. 11**

6. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! 3 Why has the LORD brought us to this land to [a]fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" 4 So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt." **Num., Ch. 14**

7. But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.' **Deut. 17**

8. "And the LORD will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I said to you, 'You shall never see it again.' And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy *you.*" These *are* the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the

children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb. **Deut., ch. 28**

9. […] if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: […] Your carcasses shall be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and no one shall frighten *them* away. **27** The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed. **28** The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart. **29** And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save *you.* […] The LORD will strike you in the knees and on the legs with severe boils which cannot be healed, and from the sole of your foot to the top of your head. […] You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it. […] then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses. **60** Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. **Deut., ch. 28**

10. "I warn you without respite that the catastrophe is coming… You cannot see the volcano that will soon start spewing the fire of destruction… Heed my words at this midnight hour. For the love of God! May each save his own life, while time remains—and time is short! "
Jabotinsky, 'The End of Hollow Condemnations' 1938

11. We are living on the brink of the abyss, the eve of a final disaster in the global ghetto. **Exalted Zionism—Speech at the Founding Conference of the Revisionist Zionism", Vienna, 1935**

12. But from this it does not follow that the Arabs of the Land of Israel as a collective will sell their fanatical sense of patriotism, which even the Papuans refuse to sell. Every nation will wage a struggle against settlers so long as it has even a glimmer of hope to be rid of the danger of their settling the land. This is what the Arabs of the Land of Israel have done, and this is what they will continue to do. [1] Jabotinsky, **"On the Iron Wall" (1923).**

13. In the beginning, God created the individual. Each individual is a king unto himself, with equal value to his neighbour—even the wicked are kings in their own right. Better that the individual sin against society than that society sin against the individual. Society was created for the sake of the individual. Jabotinsky, "Story of My Life", in **Collected Works—Volume 1: ddcs**

14. If we have a Jewish majority in this land, we will first and foremost establish a regime of complete, total, and perfect equality of rights, without a single exception. Whether one is a Jew, an Arab, an Armenian, or a German matters not at all to the law—every path must be open to every citizen. **Jabotinsky, "Israel's Land" (1929),**

15. Even in poverty a Jew is a prince / Whether slave or tramp / You have been created the son of kings / Crowned with the diadem of David / Whether in light or in darkness / Always remember the crown / The crown of pride and Tagar… I, who wrote these words, intended to apply them to every single person, Greek or Bantu, northern or Eskimo. All were created in the image of God**." State and Society" (1940),**