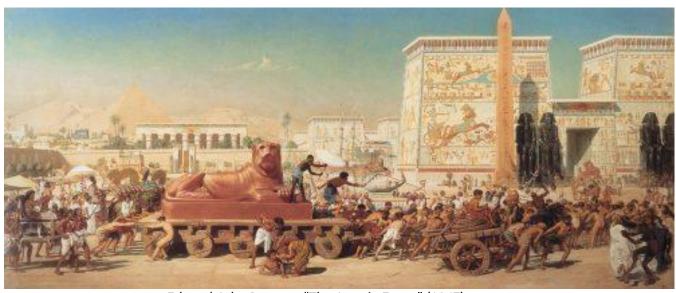
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THE TORAH OF LEADERSHIP

Leadership by the Numbers I Erica Brown I January 20, 2022



Edward John Poytner, "The Jews in Egypt" (1867)

Exodus 1:1-9

ּ וְאֵׁלֶה שְׁמוֹת בָּגֵי יִשְׂרָאֵׁל הַבָּאָים מִצְרֵיְמָה אֲת יַעֲלֶּב אָישׁ וּבֵיתוֹ בְּאוּ:

רְאוּבֵן שִׁמְעוֹן לֵוַי וִיהוּדָה

יִשָּׁשׁכָר זְבוּלֵן וּבִנְיָמְן:

ַדָן וְנַפְתָּלִי גָּד וְאָשֵׁר:

ַוְיָהִי כָּל־נֶגֶפֶשׁ יֹצְאֵי יֶרֶךְ־יַעְקֹב שִׁבְעִים נָפֶשׁ וְיוֹסֵף הָיָה בְמִצְרֵיִם:

וַיָּמֶת יוֹסֵף וְכָל־אֶחָּיו וְכָל הַדָּוֹר הַהְּוּא:

וּבְגֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל פָּרָוּ וַיִּשְׁרְצֶוּ וַיִּרְבָּוּ וַיִּעַצְמָוּ בִּמְאָד מְאָד וַתִּמָּלֵא הָאָרֶץ אֹתֶם:

וַיָּקָם מֶלֶדְ־חָדָשׁ עַל־מִצְרֵיִם אֲשֶׁר לְאֹ־יָדַע אֶת־יוֹמֵף:

וַיָּאמֶר אֵל־עַמְּוֹ הָנָּה עַם כְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵׁל רָב וְעַצְוּם מְמֵנוּוּ

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These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each coming with his household: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. The total number of persons that were of Jacob's issue came to seventy, Joseph being already in Egypt. Joseph died, and all his brothers, and all that generation. But the Israelites were fertile and prolific; they multiplied and increased very greatly, so that the land was filled with them. A new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are much too numerous for us.

Reflective Question

When have numbers been particularly important to you in your leadership? Describe.

Leadership Challenge

Where, in your exercise of leadership right now, can you make people rather than numbers count?