

Name: _____

Chumash Shemot

Parshanut Project

This year we will devote a portion of our year to studying the exegesis of several commentators. The goal of this project is to develop each student into an expert on one exegete, learn a particular commentator's style in-depth and be able to teach this information to others. Throughout the year each student will be called upon to present to the class his/her exegete's explanation to a particular topic/verse. In addition, each student will create an online blog/journal of his/her exegete and end the year with a final paper drawing upon the yearlong study.

(Step 1) Choose a פרשן

You will be responsible for this commentator throughout the year. Choose a medieval or modern commentator. You can access many commentaries on www.alhatorah.org in the mikraot gedolot section under the tools tab or on www.sefaria.org

(Step 2) Biographical Information and Basic Exegesis

Look up your exegete online and in books to identify historical background and basic methodology of commentator. You will post your biographical information at the beginning of your shared google doc. This can be written in outline, bulleted form.

Suggested sources: Encyclopedia Judaica, Wikipedia, *The Rishonim* by Artscroll, *Masters of the Word* by Kolatch, articles on vbm website by Avigail Rock, alhatorah.org, monographs on specific exegetes- Mrs. Geller and I can help you locate, scholarly articles online and in journals.

(Step 3) Ongoing Study

a. For each פרק that we learn in ספר שמות each student will prepare one commentary from his/her commentator. Choose commentaries that answer questions that you have on the chapter or that you find most interesting. I am available to help each student if they need help with a specific commentary.

b. Create a google doc for your commentary. Each entry must consist of the following 4 components

1. Quote the perek and pasuk your commentator is explaining
2. Copy and paste the select commentary

3. YOUR translation of the commentary - do not rely on an online translation they can be wrong. Translate in your own words.
4. Your interpretation of the commentary. For each commentary that you choose be sure to explain the commentator's question, his sources or proof texts and evaluate the type of answer that he gives. This is the most important part of each assignment - this is where you analyze your exegete and explain the techniques at play

c. Small group assignments: group parshanim together. In these groups you will work together analyze how your exegetes are similar/ different. Research and explain your exegetes in these groups so that you can bounce off ideas together.

(Step 4) Small Presentations

For assigned topics each student will present how their פרשן deals with the issue at hand. At these times there students will present their commentator's approach to the specific chapter or topic to the class. In addition, if a student posts a wonderful explanation of his/her commentator in the blog – that student might be called on to present the information to the class.

(Step 5) Final

A portion of the final exam will include an unseen where you will have to explain the methodology of a particular parshan and how your parshan is similar or different.