



Judaism Unbound Resources

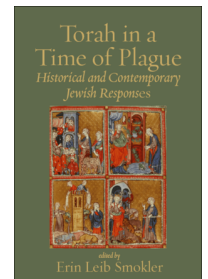


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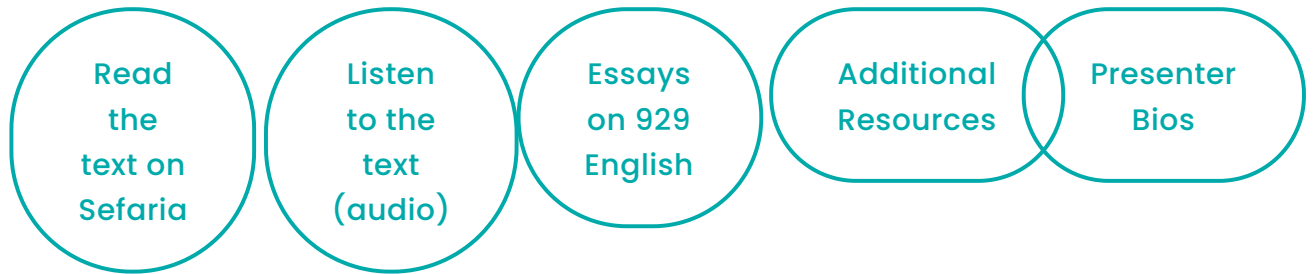
Welcome to The Plagues Project. Below you will find more than 30 videos, each offering a unique perspective on Judaism and plagues.

Plague is, certainly, a timely topic to all of us these days. Jews will also have plagues on the mind when the story of the Ten Biblical Plagues is read from the Book of Exodus (chapters 7-12) during the portions "Va'era" and "Bo" in the traditional synagogue Torah reading cycle, and then they will encounter them again during their Passover Seders. We hope that The Plagues Project can help expand our community's thinking on this important topic by showcasing the variety of ways that Jews have thought about Plagues - both the Biblical Plagues and plagues throughout history - for the last 3,000 years.

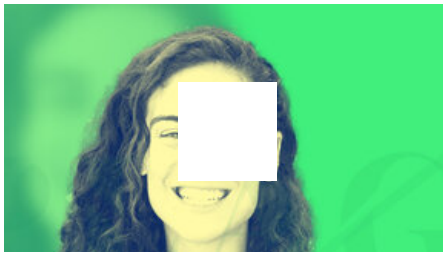


We believe that a plurality of voices can be brought together to explore the vast canon of Jewish literature. Tradition tells us that the Torah has "seventy faces," and we look forward to exploring them with you. Bringing together these varied perspectives was made possible by a collaboration between [BINA: The Jewish Movement for Social Change](#), [Judaism Unbound](#), [929 English](#), [The Oshman Family](#)

[JCC in Palo Alto](#), and [jewishLIVE](#). This project is being launched in partnership with the [Office Of Innovation \(OOI\)](#), which is publishing a series of essays reflecting on living during the period of the Coronavirus, titled *Torah in a Time of Plague* (Ben Yehuda Press, March 2021).



### Entering the Text: A Variety of Perspectives



Zoe Fertik, Introduction to the Ten Plagues



Shira Hecht-Koller, Crafting Order from Chaos



Erin Leib Smokler, Theological Vertigo: Living in Proximity to Plague

Richard Elliott Friedman, How Many Plagues Were There?

Nathaniel Berman, Standing Between the Living and the Dead, Plague and the Incense Ritual in Kabbalah

Teklit Michael and Elliot Glassenberg, a Refugee's Perspective

## **Wrestling with the Story**

Chaim Seidler-Feller, The Plagues as Human Self-Destruction

Yehuda Kurtzer & the Children Ives-Kurtzer, Studying The Ten Plagues with Our Kids

Faustine Sigal, Making Midrash with Children

Shaul Magid, Covid-19 and the Theological Challenge of the Arbitrary

Ayala Dekel, Being a First Born

Daniel Reifman, The Tenth Plague

## **Contemporary Lenses**

Leon Wiener Dow, Boils:  
Inside-Out

Tamara Tweel, The Song of  
Sirens: A Covid Birth Story

Lex Rofeberg, Boils: The 6th  
Plague Unlocks the Torah

Yonatan Neril, The Plagues  
and the Environment

Esther Sperber, MicroPolis  
Homes: Lessons Learned  
about Housing During the  
Pandemic

Zohar Atkins, The Finite Gift of  
Life Itself

## **The View from the Academy**

Edward Bleiberg, A View from  
Ancient Egypt

Marc Zvi Brettler, God and  
Plagues in the Bible

Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg,  
Are We Permitted to Flee the  
City in a Plague?

## Interpretations Throughout History

Sara Labaton,  
Healing and  
Humaneness

Elli Fischer, The Anti-  
Plague Properties of  
the Incense

Devorah Schoenfeld,  
Loving a Distant God:  
Rashi's Commentary  
on Song of Songs

Deena Aranoff,  
Household and  
Halakha in a Time of  
Pandemic

## The Perspectives of Art and Literature

Emily Shapiro Katz, Marc  
Chagall and The Plague of  
Darkness

Jeffrey Saks, The Plagues in  
the Work of S.Y. Agnon

Elka Deitsch, The Plagues in  
Hagaddah Manuscripts

Steven Zeitchik, Plagues in Hollywood

Hadar Cohen, A Body-Based Practice

Anita Silvert, The Toolbox of Bibliodrama

### Disasters Strike Egy

The Ten Plagues from Cecil B. DeMille's "The Ten Commandments"

### The Prince of Egypt

The Ten Plagues from Dreamworks Animation's "The Prince of Egypt"

### Israel in Egypt (G. F.

"Israel in Egypt" (G. F. Handel) (performed by The SCM Chamber Choir and SCM Early Music Ensemble)

**If you like the Plagues Project, check out our related projects...**

**About the Partnership.** The Plagues Project is part of a larger initiative brought to you by a unique partnership of four organizations: jewishLIVE/Judaism Unbound, 929 English, the Oshman Family JCC in Palo Alto, and Israel's BINA: The Jewish Movement for Social Change. Brought together by a passion to make Jewish texts and Jewish learning accessible to everyone, and accelerated by the COVID-19 crisis, these four organizations have teamed up to offer new ways of encountering Jewish text and ideas online using a multimedia toolbox in a maximally open sandbox. The Plagues Project includes a fifth partner, the Office Of Innovation (OOI), which is publishing a series of essays

reflecting on living during the period of the Coronavirus, titled *Torah in a Time of Plague* (Ben Yehuda Press, March 2021). The greatest strength of this partnership is our ability to showcase a wide range of Jewish thinkers and Jewish ideas. The more perspectives we hold together, the more united we can be.

Click on the logos below to visit the partners' web sites: