

## Torah Portion Preview for Bo

*Shabbat beginning January 27, 2023*

Torah portion Bo (“go”) completes the story of Passover, with the final three “signs” that God imposed on the Egyptians. Before the ultimate horrific image of God murdering every firstborn Egyptian person or beast, the details of the Passover feast are prescribed. At long last after months of refusal with horror after horrible sign, Pharaoh finally witnesses the wailing of his people and lets the Israelites go with all their families and livestock. Six hundred thousand men left on foot, their dependents, flocks, and herds went with them, departing so urgently that there was no time to let the bread rise.

The multiple scale of the story touches us every year. Women bake bread before it even rises. Men hurriedly collect their families and livestock. And the massive rag taggle horde rivaling the entire population of Chicago scurry to the desert en masse. Difficult as all this is to imagine, Rabbi Suzanne Singer’s reflection in the *Women’s Commentary* takes us one giant leap farther, teaching us to imagine the even more populous Egyptians. “As we recall at our seder table the wonders God performed for us, we must remember the price the Other paid for our liberation.”