

Now the Haggadah goes back to our text and for most of the rest of the Maggid section we are going to be dealing with commentary on the five methods that God used to take the people from Egypt. In the first pass each statement is taken an paired with another verse where that word is used. In the case of a strong hand, Exodus 9:3, speaking of the cattle plague states that it is the hand of God that is bringing the plague.

The Haggadah generally does not like to use quotes from outside of the Torah, but here we have one of three times it is done. This verse in context is talking about a story in Chronicles where David is swayed by the satan to take a census which God does not want. As part of the punishment, David sees an angel of God with sword in hand stretched over Jerusalem. David prays to God for forgiveness and he is told to bring sacrifice at the threshing floor of a particular person. He pays the man handsomly for the location, makes his sacrifice and God stops the angel. The interesting thing to note is that this is the spot where David chooses for the Temple to be built.

The Haggadah is defining “great awe” as revelation itself. To prove this we are given a quote from Deuteronomy which talks about the future when people will seek God and they will remember all the things that God did for them. As is often the case this is taken out of context here, but it does obviously talk about the Exodus and how the pople will have proof of God. That God exists and is doing his works for the people of Israel is what the text is equating with great awe.

Here we have a text that is actually not taken out of context at all. We also have our one implicit mention of Moses here. When the text says “you will take this rod...” it is clearly referring to Moses. This is at the end of the burning bush story and God is telling Moses that he will he will take the rod and do the signs and both the children of Israel and the Egyptians will have no other choice than believe him.

“**With a strong hand**” this is the cattle plague as it is said, “The *hand* of God is on your cattle in the field, on the horses, donkeys and camels, on the herd and flocks, a very severe plague.”

בַּיָּד הַחֲזָקָה. זֶה הַדָּבָר. כְּמָה  
שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: הִנֵּה יָד יְיָ הוֹיָה,  
בְּמִקְנֶךָ אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׂדֶה, בַּסּוּסִים  
בְּחֲמֹרִים בְּגַמְלִים, בַּבָּקָר  
וּבַצֹּאן, דָּבָר כְּבִד מְאֹד:  
*Exodus 9:3*

“**With an outstretched arm**” this is the sword as it is said, “his sword is drawn in his hand *outstretched* over Jerusalem.”

וּבְזָרַע נְטוּיָה. זֶה הַחֶרֶב. כְּמָה  
שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: וַחֲרַבּוּ שְׁלוֹפָה בְּיָדוֹ,  
נְטוּיָה עַל יְרוּשָׁלַיִם:  
*I Chron. 21:16*

at the threshing floor of a particular person. He pays the man handsomly for the location, makes his sacrifice and God stops the angel. The interesting thing to note is that this is the spot where David chooses for the Temple to be built.

“**With great awe**” this is the revelation of God as it is said, “has God ever attempted to take to Himself a nation from the middle of another nation by trials, signs and wonders, by war, by a strong hand, and outstretched arm and by *great awe*, like all that God did for you in Egypt before you eyes?”

וּבְמוֹרָא גָדוֹל, זֶה גְלוּי  
שְׁכִינָה. כְּמָה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: אֹה הַנְּסָה  
אֱלֹהִים, לָבוֹא לְקַחַת לוֹ גּוֹי  
מִקְרֵב גּוֹי, בְּמִסַּת בְּאֵתֶת  
וּבְמוֹפְתִים וּבְמִלְחָמָה, וּבְיָד  
חֲזָקָה וּבְזָרַע נְטוּיָה,  
וּבְמוֹרָאִים גְּדֹלִים. כֹּל אֲשֶׁר  
עָשָׂה לָכֶם יְיָ אֱלֹהֵיכֶם בְּמִצְרַיִם,  
לְעֵינֵיךָ:  
*Deuteronomy 4:34*

“**With signs**” this is the rod, as it is said, “you will take this rod in your hand and with it you will do the *signs*.”

וּבְאֵתוֹת. זֶה הַמַּטֵּה, כְּמָה  
שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: וְאֵת הַמַּטֵּה הַזֶּה  
תִּקַּח בְּיָדְךָ. אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה בּוֹ אֵת  
הָאֵתוֹת:  
*Exodus 4:17*