

## Haftarah of Bo by Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh

The Haftarah for Parshas Bo is taken from Yirmiyahu 46:13-28. Towards the end of Sefer Yirmiyahu we are told of prophecies given over to Yirmiyahu of the demises of other nations such as Mitzrayim, Plishtim, Moav Ammon, Damesek and Bavel. Since we read in the Parsha of Mitzrayim being forced to submit to Hashem when they released Am Yisroel, the Haftarah is about a defeat that Mitzrayim will face later on in its history.

In the beginning of Chapter 46b, before the Haftarah begins, we are told of the series of Prophecies that Yirmiyahu had regarding the demise and destruction of Mitzrayim. Mitzrayim will suffer a terrible defeat in Charcamish a major city on the Euphrates River at the hands of the rising power of Bavel. What prompted this series of events? We are told in Melachim II 23 29-30 that Paro Necho killed Yoshiyahu the king of Yehuda at Meggido. We are told in this chapter of Melachim of the great deeds of King Yoshiyahu. After finding the Torah in the Bais Hamikdash, Yoshiyahu cleaned up yerushalyim and the Bais Hamikdash from all of the idolatry that was found all over. It took great courage to fight an entire society so steeped in idolatry and to bring back the worship of Hashem, the true G-d. The Navi emphasizes that Korbon Pesach was reinstated as well. Much space in the chapter is devoted to the revival of this celebration which was so central to our history and identity as Am Yisroel. As great as a Tzaddik as he was though, he was warned not to fight Mitzrayim. Mitzrayim wanted to fight Assyria at Charcamish but had to pass through Eretz Yisroel on the way. King Yoshiyahu believed he could stop Paro Necho, king of Mitzrayim and his armies from passing through the land, based on the verse in the Torah Vayikra 26:6 that states that a sword will not pass through your land. This is verse which is generally understood to mean that foreign armies will not even pass through our land in order to get to other places which brings a lot of destruction to a country. King Yoshiyahu felt that his removal of idolatry and reinstatement of Korbon Pesach would protect him from if he challenged Mitzrayim. In this one area, King Yoshiyahu was too confident of his deeds protecting him and sadly he was killed. While in one sense, his death may have been deserved, Nevertheless Hashem demands payment for all wrongs committed and especially deaths of tzaddikeim. Mitzrayim was now going to pay for the blood of King Yoshiyahu. Mitzrayim will now be utterly defeated. Hashem will deliver them directly in to the hands of those who seek their lives. They will suffer terribly and their cries will be heard till all ends of the world. But Am Yisroel, on the other hand, should have no fear. Though Am Yisroel will suffer, they will never be destroyed. Am Yisroel is simply receiving his punishments to be able to ultimately enjoy the rewards it deserves at the time of the final geulah.