

Shemos

Emperors Can Decree but Hashem's Plans Will be Realized in the End.

by Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh

In Shemos 1:16 and in 1:22 we read of Paroh making decrees to throw all newborn baby boys into the Nile River. The first decree that we read about in verse 16 was directed at all of Bnai Yisroel. Rashi, on this verse, explains that Paroh was worried about the savior of Israel being born. The Sifsai Chachamim elaborates on this and explains that we have to say that this was Paroh's main concern because if he was only worried about the population growth of Bnai Yisroel, he might have made decrees against all Jewish babies, chas veshalom.

In verse 22 Paroh's edict was to everybody, Yisroel and Mitzri, to throw all baby boys into the Nile River. Rashi clarifies that it was specifically on the day Moshe Rabbeinu was born that this decree was for all baby boys to be killed. This was because Paroh's soothsayers told him that Am Yisroel's savior was going to be born and it was not known if he would come from the Bnai Yisroel or the Mitzrayim. So to avoid all possibilities, Paroh decreed all boys born that day to be killed. The soothsayers also saw that the savior's downfall would be water. That was why Paroh specifically decreed that the boys be drowned in water. What they did not know was that Moshe Rabbeinu's downfall would be the incident at Midbar Zin where Bnai Yisroel were thirsty and Moshe and Aharon failed to make a proper Kiddush Hashem by bringing forth water for the thirsty masses. [See Bamidbar 20: 1-14 and the commentaries on what Moshe Rabbeinu did that caused him not to enter Eretz Yisroel.]

In the end, Hashem's plans are realized, regardless of what human kings think they can accomplish. Mortal kings tend to think that they reign supreme and can turn around the entire world to further their personal interests. But no matter how hard they try, no matter how much manpower they have, it is Hashem alone who is orchestrating all events on a personal, global and even universal level. In Melachim II 11:1-3 we read about the evil Queen Asalia who believed she had killed out all possible descendents of the previous king who would be heirs to the throne. What she did not know was that one baby boy, Yehoash, a potential heir to the throne, was hidden away and never found by the queen's soldiers and was able to be guarded and protected safely for six years when Asalia was queen. At the end of the six years Asalia was killed and Yehoash became king, ensuring the continuity of Malchus Bais Dovid. This is but one example of how we see all of Hashem's plans will materialize in the end.