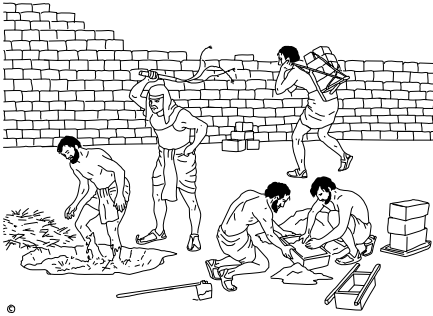


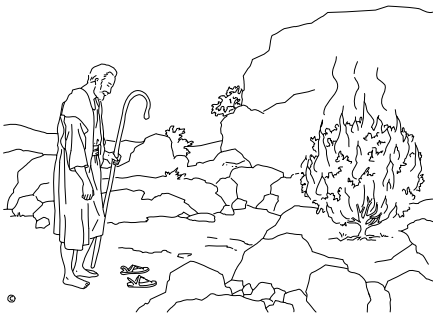
# Moses and the Passover

## Moses

*After the prophet Joseph died, the Israelites were slaves in Egypt for about 400 years. Then God raised up the prophet Moses to save the Israelites from the Egyptians and from their slavery.*



*God spoke to Moses on Mount Horeb through a bush that burned but did not burn up and said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.*



The LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt. I have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up from that land to a land that is both good and spacious. So now go, and I will send you to Pharaoh

to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

God said to Moses, "I AM that I AM." And he said, "You must say this to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "You must say this to the Israelites, 'The LORD – the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob – has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this is my memorial from generation to generation.'

You must go to the king of Egypt and tell him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So now, let us go three days' journey into the wilderness, so that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.' But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go, not even under force. So I will extend my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders that I will do among them, and after that he will release you.

So the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. You are to speak everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh that he must release the Israelites from his land. But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and although I will multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt, Pharaoh will not listen to you. I will reach into Egypt and bring out my regiments, my people the Israelites, from the land of Egypt with great acts of judgment. Then the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD, when I extend my

hand over Egypt and bring the Israelites out from among them."

And Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the LORD commanded them. Now Moses was eighty years old and Aaron was eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh.

## The Plagues on Egypt

*Nine times Pharaoh refused to grant Moses and Aaron their request to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Each time Pharaoh refused, God sent terrible plagues to Egypt and upon the Egyptians. These were the plagues:*

(1) *First the Nile River turned to blood. The fish died, the water stank, and the Egyptians were unable to drink water from the Nile. There was blood everywhere – even in wooden and stone containers. All the Egyptians dug around the Nile for water to drink, because they could not drink the water of the Nile.*

(2) *After that the Nile River swarmed with frogs, and they covered the land of Egypt. They were everywhere – in houses, bedrooms, on beds, in ovens, and in kneading troughs. After Moses prayed, the frogs died out of the houses, the villages, and the fields. The Egyptians piled them in countless heaps, and the land stank.*

(3) *The third plague was gnats. All the dust of the ground became gnats throughout all the land of Egypt.*

(4) *Next God sent a thick swarm of*

*flies, and the whole land of Egypt was ruined because of the flies. However, this time the plague did not affect the land of Goshen where the Israelites lived. Pharaoh begged Moses to pray again, so he did, and the LORD did as Moses asked – he removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. Not one remained! But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also and did not release the people.*

*(5) The fifth plague was the death of all the horses, donkeys, camels, herds, and flocks of the Egyptians from a terrible disease. However, none of the Israelites' livestock became diseased or died because God protected them.*

*(6) The sixth plague was boils. Moses threw soot from a furnace into the air, and it caused festering boils to break out on both people and animals.*

*(7) The seventh plague was a destructive storm. The LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire fell to the earth. Hail fell and fire mingled with the hail; the hail was so severe that there had not been any like it in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation. The hail struck everything in the open fields, both people and animals, throughout all the land of Egypt. The hail struck everything that grows in the field, and it broke all the trees of the field to pieces. Only in the land of Goshen, where the Israelites lived, was there no hail. So Pharaoh's heart remained hard, and he did not release the Israelites, as the LORD had predicted through Moses.*

*(8) The eighth plague was locusts. Locusts covered the surface of all the ground, so that the ground became dark with them, and they*

ate all the vegetation of the ground and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Nothing green remained on the trees or on anything that grew in the fields throughout the whole land of Egypt.

*(9) The ninth plague was a thick darkness throughout the land of Egypt for three days. No one could see another person, and no one could rise from his place for three days. But the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.*

*(10) The tenth plague was the death of men and boys and animals who were the firstborn in their families.*

The LORD said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt; after that he will release you from this place.

Moses said [to the people], "Thus says the LORD: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt, and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, to the firstborn son of the slave girl who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. There will be a great cry throughout the whole land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again. But against any of the Israelites not even a dog will bark against either people or animals, so that you may know that the LORD distinguishes between Egypt and Israel.' All these your servants will come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Go, you and all the people who follow you,' and after that I will go out." Then Moses went out from Pharaoh in great anger.

The LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt."

So Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not release the Israelites from his land.

## The Passover

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month is to be your beginning of months; it will be your first month of the year. Tell the whole community of Israel, 'In the tenth day of this month they each must take a lamb for themselves according to their families – a lamb for each household. Your lamb must be perfect, a male, one year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You must care for it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then the whole community of Israel will kill it around sundown.



They will take some of the blood and put it on the two side posts and top of the doorframe of the houses where they will eat it. They will eat the meat the same night; they will eat it roasted over the fire with bread made without yeast and with bitter herbs. Do not eat it raw or boiled in water, but roast it over the fire with its head, its legs, and its entrails. You must leave nothing until morning, but you must burn with fire whatever remains of it until morning. This is how you are to eat it – dressed to travel, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. You are to eat it in

haste. It is the LORD'S Passover.

I will pass through the land of Egypt in the same night, and I will attack all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both of humans and of animals, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, so that when I see the blood I will pass over you, and this plague will not fall on you to destroy you when I attack the land of Egypt.

This day will become a memorial for you, and you will celebrate it as a festival to the LORD – you will celebrate it perpetually as a lasting ordinance.

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel, and told them, "Go and select for yourselves a lamb or young goat for your families, and kill the Passover animals. Take a branch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and apply to the top of the doorframe and the two side posts some of the blood that is in the basin. Not one of you is to go out the door of his house until morning. For the LORD will pass through to strike Egypt, and when he sees the blood on the top of the doorframe and the two side posts, then the LORD will pass over the door, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. You must observe this event as an ordinance for you and for your children forever. When you enter the land that the LORD will give to you, just as he said, you must observe this ceremony. When your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' – then you will say, 'It is the sacrifice of the LORD'S Passover, when he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt, when he struck Egypt and delivered our

households.'"

The people bowed down low to the ground, and the Israelites went away and did exactly as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.

## The Deliverance from Egypt



It happened at midnight – the LORD attacked all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the prison, and all the firstborn of the cattle. Pharaoh got up in the night, along with all his servants and all Egypt, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no house in which there was not someone dead. Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron in the night and said, "Get up, get out from among my people, both you and the Israelites! Go, serve the LORD as you have requested! Also, take your flocks and your herds, just as you have requested, and leave. But bless me also."

The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about 600,000 men on foot, plus their dependants. A mixed multitude also went up with them, and flocks and herds – a very large

number of cattle. They baked cakes of bread without yeast using the dough they had brought from Egypt, for it was made without yeast – because they were thrust out of Egypt and were not able to delay, they could not prepare food for themselves either.

## The Law of the Firstborn

The LORD spoke to Moses: "Set apart to me every firstborn male – the first offspring of every womb among the Israelites, whether human or animal; it is mine."

Moses said to the people, "Remember this day on which you came out from Egypt, from the place where you were enslaved. In the future, when your son asks you 'What is this?' you are to tell him, 'With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the land of slavery. When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to release us, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of people to the firstborn of animals. That is why I am sacrificing to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb, but all my firstborn sons I redeem.' It will be for a sign on your hand and for frontlets on your forehead, for with a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt."

- Exodus 3:6-8, 10, 14-15, 18-20; 7:1-7, 24; 8:14, 17, 31-32; 9:10, 23-24-26, 35; 10:15, 22-23; 11:1, 4-10; 12:1-3, 5-14, 21-32, 37-39; 13:1-3, 14-16

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