

# The Passover Story

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## Exodus 12:22-27

<sup>22</sup> And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip *it* in the blood that *is* in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that *is* in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. <sup>23</sup> For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike *you*. <sup>24</sup> And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. <sup>25</sup> It will come to pass when you come to the land which the Lord will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. <sup>26</sup> And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' <sup>27</sup> that you shall say, 'It *is* the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.'"

The Passover story, is one of the most dramatic and amazing stories in the entire bible. It is also a story of great significance, not only for what God did at that time to free Israel, but also because of the symbolism involved and the event it pointed to, that at that time, was yet in the future. It is so important, that God wanted it to be remembered annually. In fact, the observance of the Passover is so important, that God provided a way for those who had to miss the Passover, to observe it at a second Passover,

## Numbers 9:9-12

<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>10</sup> "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If anyone of you or your posterity is unclean because of a corpse, or *is* far away on a journey, he may still keep the Lord's Passover. <sup>11</sup> On the fourteenth day of the second month, at twilight, they may keep it. They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>12</sup> They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break one of its bones. According to all the ordinances of the Passover they shall keep it.

Of all the commanded observances, it is only the Passover that has a provision for a second observance. God gave us detailed instructions for the observance of Passover and He also wanted us to pass the story on to our children, so that they would understand and always remember the Passover and what God had done for us, and actually for all of mankind. The Passover pointed to the future and to the most pivotal event in the history of the world!

I always enjoy going back over the story of the Passover and the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt. What an exciting time that must have been, after all that time in bondage, to be going out and leaving behind those who had made their lives miserable and who had made them to serve in slavery. To know that they were heading to a new land, where they all would be free...a land flowing with milk and honey. But, it also must have been scary for them at the same time. They were leaving everything that they knew and were familiar with; all that they had understood for all of their lives. There also must have been some fear at the thought of defying the Egyptians, who ruled over them so harshly and ruthlessly. They had been in Egypt for so long, that they could not remember what it was like to be free. Yet, there were still those among them who feared God, so God was not unknown to them during their captivity. Pharaoh commanded the Hebrew midwives to kill all of the male children they delivered, but the midwives feared God, so they defied Pharaoh and God blessed them.

### **Exodus 1:13-14**

**<sup>13</sup> So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. <sup>14</sup> And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage – in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve *was* with rigor.**

Not only did the Egyptians enslave the children of Israel, they intentionally made their lives bitter and made them serve, as it says here, with rigor, which means severely, or with severity. They intentionally made life hard on them. They oppressed them, they were cruel to them; they actually despised them and looked upon them with contempt. Why?

### **Exodus 1:8-10**

**<sup>8</sup> Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. <sup>9</sup> And he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel *are* more and mightier than we; <sup>10</sup> come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and *so* go up out of the land."**

The Egyptians feared the Hebrews because of their numbers and also because they were afraid that they would leave and go up out of the land. They enjoyed having them their as their slaves. They did not want to lose their labor force. They were building their cities on the backs of the Israelites. They had completely forgotten that they would have all perished during a famine, years earlier, if it would not have been for Joseph, who wisely prepared during the time of plenty and then also managed what had been stored up when there was none to be had.

When the father of Joseph, Jacob, died and Joseph went up to bury him in the land of Canaan, all the household of Pharaoh and even all the elders of Egypt made the journey with him. They went up and mourned with Joseph for seven days, as it says in Genesis 50:10, with a very solemn lamentation.

### **Genesis 50:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, <sup>8</sup> as well as all the house of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's house. Only their little ones, their flocks, and their herds they left in the land of Goshen. <sup>9</sup> And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen, and it was a very great gathering.

<sup>10</sup> Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which *is* beyond the Jordan, and they mourned there with a great and very solemn lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father.

In Genesis 50:3, we can see that they had mourned for seventy days in Egypt before they even left for Canaan!

### **Genesis 50:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. <sup>3</sup> Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those who are embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

But now, the Egyptians had completely forgotten all about what Joseph had done for them. They also did not realize that God had caused them to prosper, because of the Israelites being there in the midst of their land.

God was going to use all of this for His own purpose, and we begin to see that as we move forward in the story. Despite all of the things the Egyptians did to try and hinder the Israelites from growing and multiplying, God blessed them and as it says in Exodus 1:20 the people grew very mighty.

### **Exodus 1:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. <sup>21</sup> And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.

God had promised Abraham years before, four hundred and thirty years to be exact, because of his faithfulness, that He would multiply his descendants and give them a land of their own as a home. God was blessing the Israelites and multiplying them, even in the midst of their bondage and misery.

God began preparing for the release of His people, long before the actual event occurred. God prepared a man, whom through He would eventually free Israel. Moses, a Hebrew born of slaves, was accepted into the royal house of Egypt and reared and educated in the ways of the Egyptians. He became a great man in the midst of them. God caused Moses to be saved from death as an infant, because Pharaoh had decreed that all male children of the Hebrews must die. His mother placed him in a basket and set him afloat on the Nile River to save his life.

### **Acts 7:21-22**

**21 But when he was set out, Pharaoh's daughter took him away and brought him up as her own son. 22 And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.**

God prepared Moses from the start for a certain task and he spent his first forty years in Egypt, but not as a slave. The historian Flavius Josephus states that Moses was so fair to look upon as a child, that people would stop whatever they were doing when he passed by to stare at him. Even the Egyptians realized that he was destined for something great.

### **Acts 7:23-24**

**23 "Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel.**

Moses was destined from birth, for the job that God had chosen him for. From his rescue out of the river Nile, to the time that he departed Egypt; during the first forty years of his life, he was being shaped and guided. From Egypt, he went to Midian and there he lived for another forty years.

Only now he was not in such a high position, he was a shepherd, a protector and keeper of flocks. For his first forty years Moses was a man of importance, for the next forty years, Moses was being humbled and through this second period of his life, God was still shaping, guiding and preparing Moses for a specific task.

### **Acts 7:30-31**

**30 "And when forty years had passed, an Angel (properly translated messenger) of the Lord (the words "of the Lord" do not appear in the original text) appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai.**

When God was ready, when Moses had been prepared for the task ahead of him, God sent him back to Egypt to free the children of Israel. Moses was not excited about the task that God wanted him to perform, he knew what he was facing; he grew up in Egypt! He knew the arrogance of the Egyptians and how they felt about the Hebrews. Moses came up with excuse after excuse, until God finally got angry with him.

Moses told God that he was not a good speaker, so God appointed his brother Aaron to be his spokesman. Notice one interesting thing here; even though Aaron was to be the spokesman, Moses was still to tell him what to say...that is important as we will see later.

### **Exodus 4:14-17**

**<sup>14</sup> So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. <sup>15</sup> Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. <sup>16</sup> So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. <sup>17</sup> And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs."**

Even though Moses tried his best to avoid the task that God had set before him, when God determines that you are going to do something, you WILL do it! Moses is not the only one that tried to avoid the job that God had for him to do. One interesting thing to note here is that Aaron was apparently still in Egypt and he was able to get out of Egypt and meet Moses at the mountain of God. He was already on the way, when God spoke to Moses on the mountain. God had also spoken to Aaron and told him to go out to meet Moses. God already knew what was going to happen and he had prepared Aaron for a purpose too.

### **Exodus 4:27**

**<sup>27</sup> And the Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him on the mountain of God, and kissed him.**

God already knew that Moses was going to make excuses and try to avoid going back to Egypt. Moses and Aaron journeyed back to Egypt together and the first thing they did was to meet with the children of Israel and explain what God was going to do for them. God had already revealed the entire series of events that were to take place in Egypt to Moses. Moses then related all that God had told him, to Aaron.

## Exodus 4:28

<sup>28</sup> So Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord who had sent him, and all the signs which He had commanded him. <sup>29</sup> Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel.

<sup>30</sup> And Aaron spoke all the words which the Lord had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people. (notice who was doing the speaking and who was doing the signs here, it was Aaron)<sup>31</sup> So the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Moses and Aaron began to prepare Israel for what God was going to do for them. They even showed signs to Israel so they would believe that God had sent them and that He would deliver them. Next, Moses and Aaron had an audience with Pharaoh. Aaron told Pharaoh that God demanded the release of his people, so that they could worship him in the wilderness. True to his word, God hardened the heart of Pharaoh.

## Exodus 5:2

<sup>2</sup> And Pharaoh said, "Who *is* the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go."

Pharaoh blamed Moses and Aaron for making the people idle and commanded that the people should not receive any more straw to make bricks with and also that they should maintain the same daily quota of bricks as before. Not only were they not given straw, they were not even allowed to cut any straw, they had to glean what they could from stubble fields!

## Exodus 5:10-12

<sup>10</sup> And the taskmasters of the people and their officers went out and spoke to the people, saying, "Thus says Pharaoh: 'I will not give you straw. <sup>11</sup> Go, get yourselves straw where you can find it; yet none of your work will be reduced.'" <sup>12</sup> So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw.

Can you imagine how much extra work this added to the severe labor that was already put on them? What is left in a stubble field? How much stubble would they have to glean to replace the straw? Do you think they may have been a little discouraged when this happened to them?

At first, the Israelites did not understand why the straw had been taken away from them and they went to Pharaoh to find out why the straw was being withheld. They told Pharaoh that it was the fault of his own people that they were receiving no straw, but Pharaoh replied that they were lazy and wanted to go worship the Lord in the wilderness, so they would receive no straw, but they were to continue to make the same amount of bricks each day. After that, naturally they blamed their troubles on Moses and Aaron.

Evidently, the Israelites believed that they were to be delivered from their bondage immediately, so they were not working. Strangely enough, even though God had already explained the whole series of events to Moses, Moses and Aaron thought that the children of Israel were to be set free immediately also. Moses went to God and asked why He was allowing this to happen, why He had sent him to Pharaoh and why the people had not been set free. Moses already knew what God had planned, yet here he was questioning what was going on himself!

God reassured Moses that Pharaoh would let the people go by a strong hand and not only that, but that he would drive them out of the land. God tells Moses to reassure the people. God also instructs Moses to return to Pharaoh and demand the release of His people. Moses once again complains about not being able to speak before Pharaoh. Now what God says next is very interesting.

### **Exodus 7:1-2**

**<sup>1</sup> So the Lord said to Moses: "See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. <sup>2</sup> You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land.**

Do you see the relationship that is pictured here? It is a type of the relationship between God and Christ. First of all, Moses and Aaron are brothers, they are family. God and Christ are family. Moses is to be as God, he tells Aaron (a type of Christ in this situation) what to say and do and Aaron does it.

Moses and Aaron go before Pharaoh again and God had already told them what to do when they were there. Aaron threw the rod of Moses down before Pharaoh and it became a serpent. Pharaoh called for his magicians and sorcerers and they too threw down their rods and they became serpents, but Aaron's serpent ate up all of the others. Pharaoh's heart was hardened and so now God's plan really began to move into action and the plagues begin.

## **Exodus 7:17-18**

**<sup>17</sup> Thus says the Lord: "By this you shall know that I am the Lord. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood. <sup>18</sup> And the fish that are in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will loathe to drink the water of the river.""**

The first plague that comes upon Egypt is very dramatic; the waters are turned to blood. Not only the river, but streams, ponds and all bodies of water even the buckets and pitchers of water and all the fish die and the river stinks. Pharaoh's magicians however, were able to duplicate this same thing, so his heart was hardened. The first plague was very significant, because it was by the blood that Israel would be saved and by the blood that the firstborn of Egypt would die.

## **Exodus 8:3-4**

**<sup>3</sup> So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. <sup>4</sup> And the frogs shall come up on you, on your people, and on all your servants.""**

The second plague was frogs. From every body of water in Egypt, frogs came up and covered the land. Once again Pharaoh's magicians are able to duplicate this same feat, but this time Pharaoh asks Moses to remove the frogs after promising to let the people go to worship. But, as soon as the frogs are gone, Pharaoh's heart is hardened and he refuses to let the people leave.

## **Exodus 8:16-17**

**<sup>16</sup> So the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.'" <sup>17</sup> And they did so. For Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.**

The third plague...lice. All the people and animals are afflicted and this time Pharaoh's magicians could not duplicate what had been done and they warned Pharaoh that it was God's hand that had done this thing, but still his heart was hardened.

## **Exodus 8:21-22**

**21 Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. 22 And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the land.**

The fourth plague...flies. This time God made a difference between the Egyptians and Israel, and Pharaoh was told that the flies would not affect the land of Goshen, so that Pharaoh would know that God was in the midst of the land. God wanted Pharaoh to understand that He could do as He pleased, even in the midst of Egypt that Pharaoh ruled and that the gods of Egypt were powerless. Once again Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron and told them that they could go to sacrifice to God in the wilderness, so the flies were removed, but Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

## **Exodus 9:3-4**

**3 behold, the hand of the Lord will be on your cattle in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the oxen, and on the sheep – a very severe pestilence. 4 And the Lord will make a difference between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel.'"**

The fifth plague...disease among the livestock. All of the livestock that belonged to the Egyptians died, but none of the livestock of the children of Israel was harmed. Still Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not free the people.

## **Exodus 9:10-11**

**10 Then they took ashes from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered *them* toward heaven. And *they* caused boils that break out in sores on man and beast. 11 And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians.**

The sixth plague...boils. All the Egyptians were covered in boils from head to toe, even the magicians could not stand before Pharaoh, because of the boils on the bottoms of their feet, but none of the Israelites were affected. Pharaoh still would not let the people go.

## **Exodus 9:23-24**

**<sup>23</sup> And Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. And the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt. <sup>24</sup> So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.**

The seventh plague...hail. God sent hail such as had never occurred in Egypt ever before! God warned them to bring in everything from the fields, animals and servants and all that they wanted spared, because anything left out would be destroyed, or killed. Now, there were those in Egypt that were beginning to fear God and they believed what He said would come to pass. So, those that feared the word of God, brought in their animals and servants and all that they wanted to spare. The hail came and it was mingled with fire and the hail was so heavy that it was not like any that had ever occurred in Egypt since it had been a nation. The hail killed all that was in the field, man and animal and it destroyed everything that was in the fields and broke every tree. Can you imagine hail of that intensity?

Now, this time Pharaoh admits that he has sinned and once again promises to let the people go. But, as soon as Moses prayed for the hail to cease, Pharaoh again hardened his heart and would not let Israel go.

## **Exodus 10:14-15**

**<sup>14</sup> And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested on all the territory of Egypt. They were very severe; previously there had been no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them. <sup>15</sup> For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. So there remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.**

The eighth plague...locusts. God warned that locusts would cover the entire land, to the point that the ground would not be visible and that they would eat everything that the hail had not destroyed. Pharaoh's counselors pleaded with him to let the people go, because Egypt was already destroyed from what had already come to pass and he finally agreed, but only the men would be allowed to go and worship.

So God brought the locusts upon Egypt, there were so many locusts that the ground was covered up and darkened with them and they ate every thing that been left from the hail and not one green thing remained on a tree, or in the fields in all of Egypt. So Pharaoh admits again that he has sinned and asks Moses to intervene for him with God and to remove the locusts. God removes the locusts, but yet again Pharaoh's heart is hardened and he will not free the people.

## **Exodus 10:22-23**

**22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. 23 They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.**

The ninth plague...darkness. God brings darkness over the land of Egypt for three days and God said that it was to be a darkness which can be felt. Not only is it dark, it is some sort of deep gloom hanging over everyone, they can feel it. God was showing them that they were literally in darkness! The Egyptians could not see anyone and they went nowhere, or did anything for the entire three days, but the Israelites had light in their homes. Pharaoh sent for Moses and he tells him they are free to go sacrifice, but their herds must remain behind. Pharaoh wants some insurance, by leaving their herds behind, he is trying to make sure they will come back. Moses tells Pharaoh that they need their herds in order to sacrifice to God, but Pharaoh's heart is hardened once again and this time he warns Moses not to come before him again, because the next time he sees the face of Pharaoh, he (Moses) will die.

The tenth plague...death of the Egyptians firstborn. Now we come to the actual Passover event. God gives Moses specific instructions to pass down to Israel concerning the Passover and it was extremely important that they follow those instructions to the letter, if they failed to do so, it means their deaths. Why was it only the firstborn of Egypt that were to die? God had told Moses why back when He spoke to him on the mountain.

## **Exodus 4:22-23**

**22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. 23 So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn."'**

Notice that God was only going to kill the firstborn of Egypt, but all of the Israelites were in danger of dying, if they did not do precisely as God instructed them, not only their firstborn. That is an important distinction. It was the blood that saved each and every one of them. None of them were to leave their homes that night. The blood of the lamb, the sacrifice, saved them all.

God gave specific instructions for the Passover preparation. They were to set apart a lamb on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month. The lamb had to be a male and perfect, without blemish, a firstborn. The whole congregation was to kill the lambs on the 14<sup>th</sup>, they were to take the blood of the lamb and mark the doorposts and lintels of their dwellings.

They were also to roast the lambs whole and then eat the meat of the lambs with unleavened bread and bitter herbs and they were to eat it in haste, with their belts on their waists, their sandals on their feet and their staffs in their hands. They were to be ready to travel.

### Exodus 12:3-11

<sup>3</sup> Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of *his* father, a lamb for a household. <sup>4</sup> And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take *it* according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. <sup>5</sup> Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take *it* from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup> Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. <sup>7</sup> And they shall take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. <sup>8</sup> Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it.

<sup>9</sup> Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire – its head with its legs and its entrails. <sup>10</sup> You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. <sup>11</sup> And thus you shall eat it: *with* a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It *is* the Lord's Passover.

Now the final plague comes upon Egypt.

### Exodus 12:12-13

<sup>12</sup> 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you *are*. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt.

So, those who had obeyed God were protected and passed over and spared from death, because God saw the blood and they were accepted.

## Exodus 12:29-30

<sup>29</sup> And it came to pass at midnight that the Lord struck 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 dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. <sup>30</sup> So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for *there was* not a house where *there was* not one dead.

Now, after the last plague, Pharaoh cannot get rid of the Israelites fast enough.

## Exodus 12:31-36

<sup>31</sup> Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the Lord as you have said. <sup>32</sup> Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also."

<sup>33</sup> And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "*We shall all be* dead." <sup>34</sup> So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders. <sup>35</sup> Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. <sup>36</sup> And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them *what they requested*. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

And so, all of Israel went out in the sight of the Egyptians.

## Exodus 12:37-42

<sup>37</sup> Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. <sup>38</sup> A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds — a great deal of livestock. <sup>39</sup> And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves.

<sup>40</sup> Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt *was* four hundred and thirty years. <sup>41</sup> And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years — on that very same day — it came to pass that all the armies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. <sup>42</sup> It *is* a night of solemn observance to the Lord for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This *is* that night of the Lord, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.

What is the significance of the four hundred thirty years and why is it specifically mentioned here? God wanted attention called to this fact, but why?

### **Galatians 3:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ. <sup>17</sup> What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. <sup>18</sup> For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

This event occurred on the same day that God made a covenant with Abraham years earlier!

The children of Israel went out of Egypt boldly, they were finally free, but Pharaoh was not finished yet; once again God hardened Pharaoh's heart.

### **Exodus 14:5-9**

<sup>5</sup> Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" <sup>6</sup> So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. <sup>7</sup> Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them.

<sup>8</sup> And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness. <sup>9</sup> So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.

Now the people were very afraid and they accused Moses of bringing them out of Egypt to die. But God performs yet another great miracle to free and protect his people.

### **Exodus 14:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry *land*, and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup> So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry *ground*, and the waters *were* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. <sup>23</sup> And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

The Egyptians were still determined to get the Israelites, but God was not going to let that happen.

### **Exodus 14:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. <sup>25</sup> And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians."

While Israel was safely crossing over, God held up the Egyptians so that they were unable to catch up to the Israelites. The Egyptians actually had a chance, right here, to turn around and go back, but they did not. Now their fate was sealed...

### **Exodus 14:26-31**

<sup>26</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." <sup>27</sup> And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

<sup>28</sup> Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, *and* all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. <sup>29</sup> But the children of Israel had walked on dry *land* in the midst of the sea, and the waters *were* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

<sup>30</sup> So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup> Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.

The entire events of the exodus, picture God's plan for mankind. God had prepared Moses all his life for a special purpose, God placed Moses in charge and he was to be as God to Israel and Pharaoh. God appointed Aaron as a spokesman for Moses; he was to be as Moses' prophet. Moses told Aaron what to say and do and then Aaron did it. This was a type of the relationship between God and Christ, God did everything through Christ and Moses did everything through Aaron. Aaron went on to serve as high priest, just as Christ is now our high priest.

Egypt represented sin and Pharaoh was a type of Satan the devil. God hardened Pharaoh's heart on purpose; he made it difficult for the Israelites to leave Egypt on purpose. God wanted to show how hard it is to break away from sin and how much Satan wants to keep us involved in it, he wants to keep us in bondage; he wants to make us to serve sin with rigor. Pharaoh fought a futile fight against God. Even when confronted with all the miraculous things that God did to free his people, he still thought he could win. Satan will repeat that same error at the return of Christ. Even though he knows very well what Christ and God are capable of, Satan will still fight against Christ at his return, foolishly believing that he can still win.

God made a difference between the Israelites and the Egyptians. The plagues were not coming upon the Israelites, even though they were in the same geographic area and inside of Egypt. God wanted to show that they were special, that they were "called out" and set apart for a special purpose; they were to be Holy to God. God also wanted to show that the gods of Egypt were false and powerless; God did everything He said He would do right in the midst of Egypt. The Passover lambs were set apart for a special use and purpose and they were to be perfect and without blemish, just as Christ was set aside for a special purpose and He was perfect in every way and without blemish.

The blood of the lamb represented Christ's blood that He shed for us and just as the lamb's blood protected the Israelites from death, Christ's blood also protects us from the death penalty we were under through sin. He became the Passover lamb for all time. We have become the doorposts and lintels...we are marked with Christ's blood. We are protected and passed over, because we have accepted Christ and his blood protects us.

The actual exodus out of Egypt, pictured coming out of a life of sin and a rebirth into a new life; literally becoming a new person free from the bondage of sin. The Israelites were already de-leavened as they came out of Egypt, picturing leaving a life of sin and removing all sin out of our lives and leaving it behind. Pharaoh's pursuit of the Israelites after letting them go, pictures the hold that Satan tries to maintain over us, that he actually pursues us and how we can break that bond forever by following God and trusting where he leads. The Passage through the Red Sea was the baptism of all of Israel; they rose up out of that watery grave and were newly begotten. Baptism pictures the burying of the old person, as they are completely covered over by the water and the begetting of a new person and a newness of life, as they rise up out of the water. Pharaoh's army died under that water, they did not rise up out of the watery grave, because they did not renounce their life of sin and what happened to them, happens to all that follow a life of sin, they are drowned by it. It leads to certain death.

God gave Moses the law written on stone tablets to picture the stony hearts of Israel, through God's Holy Spirit, we are to have God's law written in our hearts and minds. Israel wandered in the wilderness until an entire generation had died out, a generation is a lifespan of a person, this pictured the lifespan of man on earth and that we are travelers and sojourners here. God guided the Israelites day and night; they were lost in the wilderness and confused without His guidance and would have wandered aimlessly without God pointing the way for them. We must also always look to God for guidance in this life, this wilderness that we are seeking to find our way through.

The Israelites were dependent on God for everything for their very survival. God provided all that they needed to sustain life and He also provided for their physical needs, even their clothes and sandals never wore out. All they had to worry about was following God to the Promised Land. We are also told to follow God, to make the pursuit of His kingdom our main priority in life and He will provide all that we need.

### **Matthew 6:31-33**

**<sup>31</sup> "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**

The Promised Land represented God's kingdom and the Jordan River represented the gap between this life and the life we shall have in the kingdom. Crossing over the Jordan pictured entering God's kingdom. The covenant that God made with Abraham was a promise of physical blessings, but it really pointed to a spiritual fulfillment of all these things. That promise is extended to us, we can all inherit the promise and cross over into God's kingdom if we fulfill the requirements and live our lives as God intends for us.

What an incredible, amazing story of deliverance is related here. God set Israel free with a strong hand, just as we have been set free by an incredibly strong hand. We have been passed over and spared a certain death by the selfless sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The story of our deliverance is also equally incredible and amazing; the most pivotal event that has ever occurred in the history of this world. Let us never, ever forget the price that was paid by Jesus the Christ, God's only son, so that we could be passed over and inherit God's kingdom.

(All scriptural references cited from the New King James Edition of the Holy Bible)