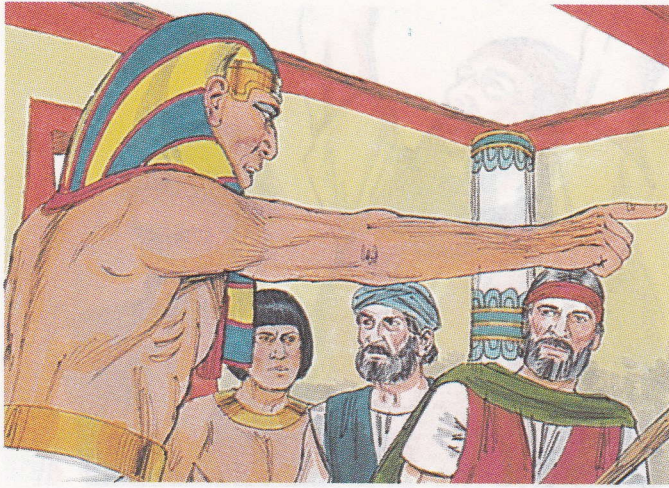


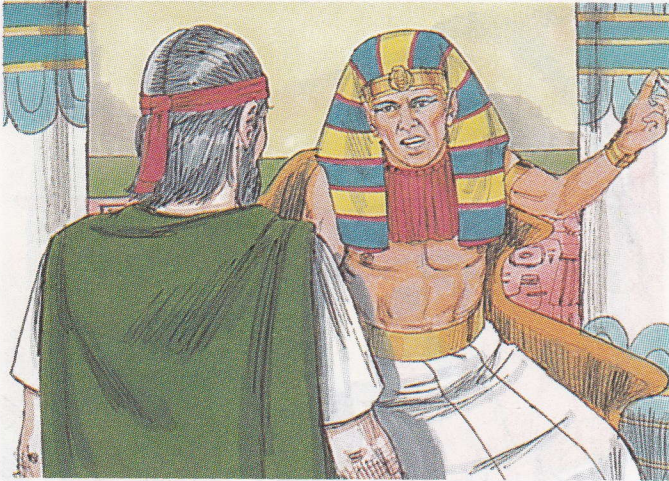
# The Passover



**1** In spite of the many plagues sent by God, the Pharaoh still refused to let the Israelites go into the desert to worship. Several times Pharaoh had said they could leave, only to change his mind.



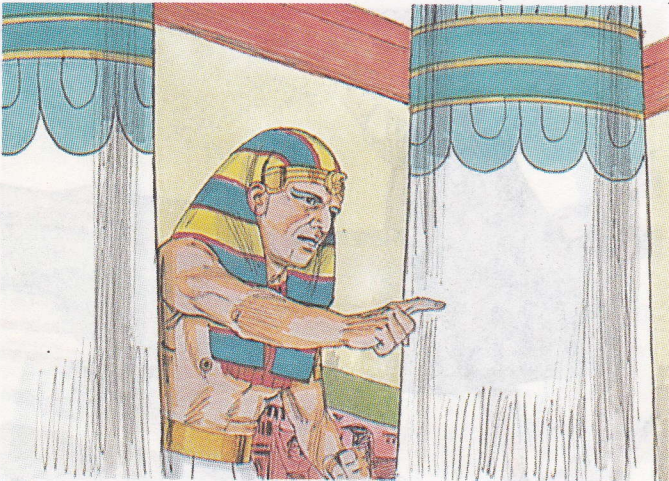
**2** So the Lord told Moses to raise his hand toward the sky. There was total darkness throughout Egypt for three days. The Egyptians could not see each other, and no one left his house during that time.



**3** In the area where the Israelites lived, however, there was light. Pharaoh called Moses and said, "You may go worship the Lord. Your women and children may go, too. But all your animals must stay here."



**4** Moses answered, "No, we must take our animals with us. We must select the animals with which to worship the Lord. But until we get there, we won't know what animals we are supposed to offer in sacrifice."



**5** Pharaoh was very angry. "Get out of my sight! Don't let me ever see you here again! On the day I do, you will die!" Moses left him saying, "All right. You will not see me again."



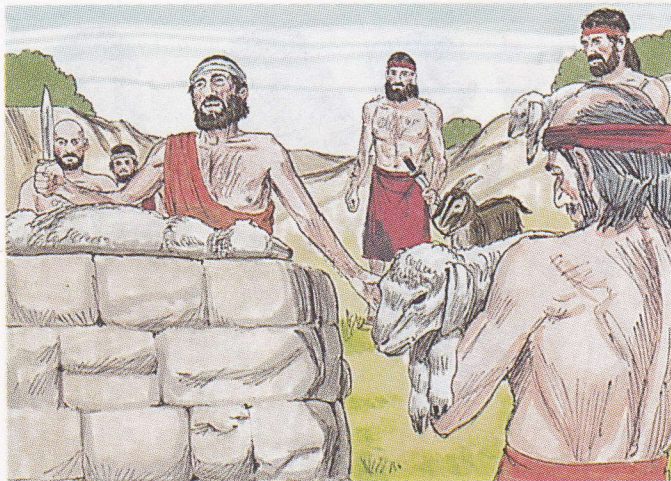
**6** The Lord said to Moses, "I will send only one more punishment on Egypt. After that, the Pharaoh will let you leave."



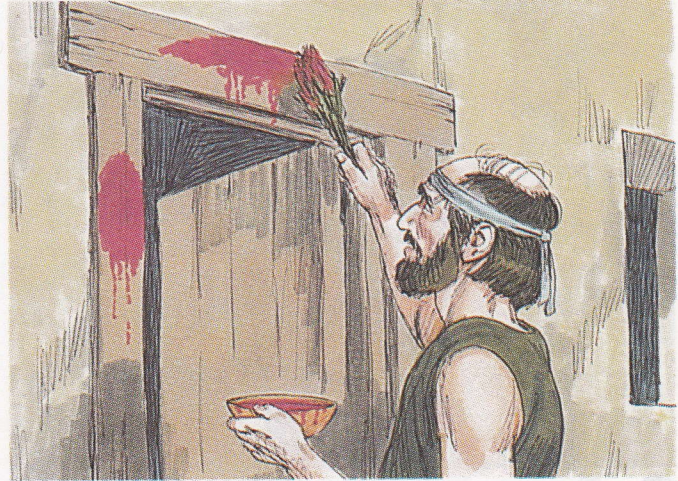
**7** Moses delivered God's final message. "At midnight I will go through Egypt, and every firstborn son will die. Then you will know that I, the Lord, make a distinction between my people and the Egyptians."



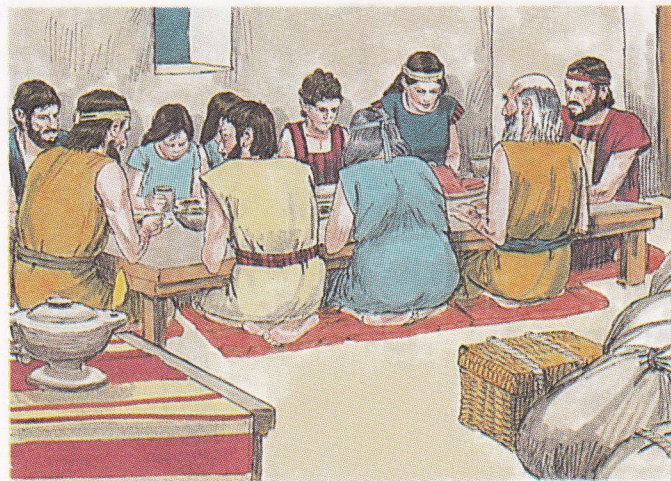
**8** Moses continued, "All your officials will come to me and bow down and beg me to take my people and go away. After that I will leave." Then in great anger Moses left the still stubborn Pharaoh.



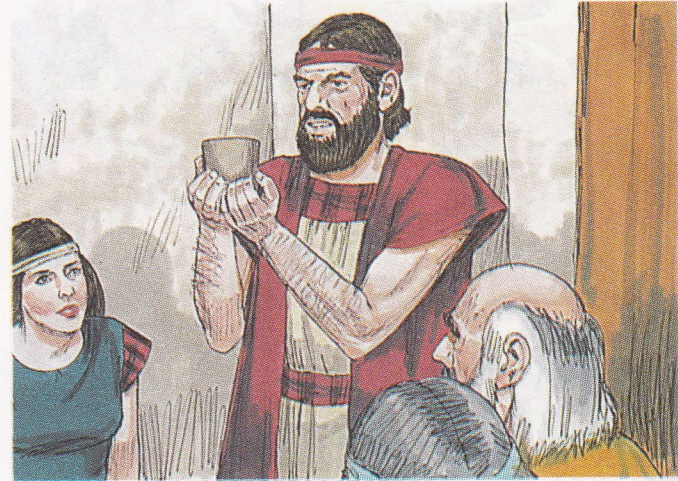
**9** Moses and the people prepared for their escape according to the Lord's instructions. They made ready for a celebration called the "Passover." First each family killed a young lamb or goat.



**10** Then the fathers took some of the blood of the goat or lamb and smeared it on the doorposts and the beams above the doors of their houses, just as the Lord told them to do.



**11** That night each family roasted its lamb or goat and ate it, along with bitter herbs and bread made without using yeast. Each person dressed for travel, ready to leave Egypt.



**12** God told the Israelites to repeat the Passover celebration every year to remind them of this special night—the night God "passed over" their houses when he killed the firstborn sons of the Egyptians.