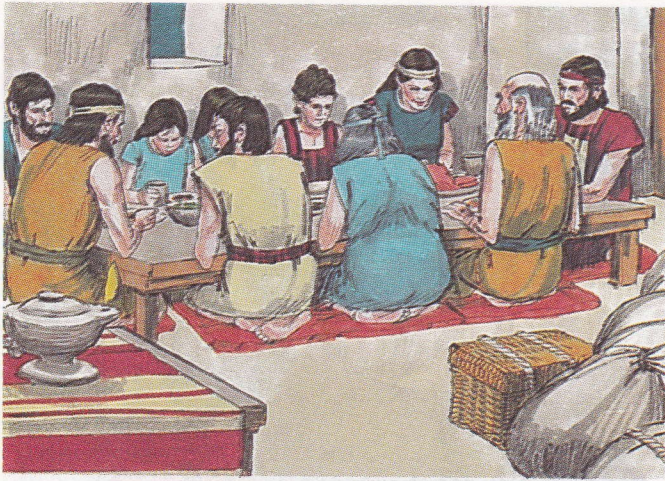
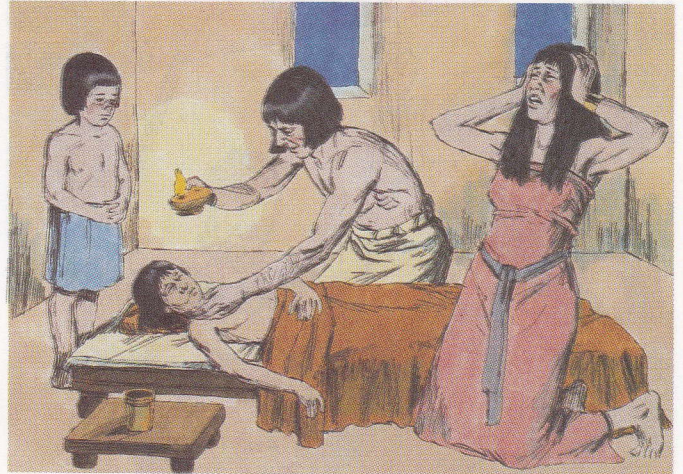


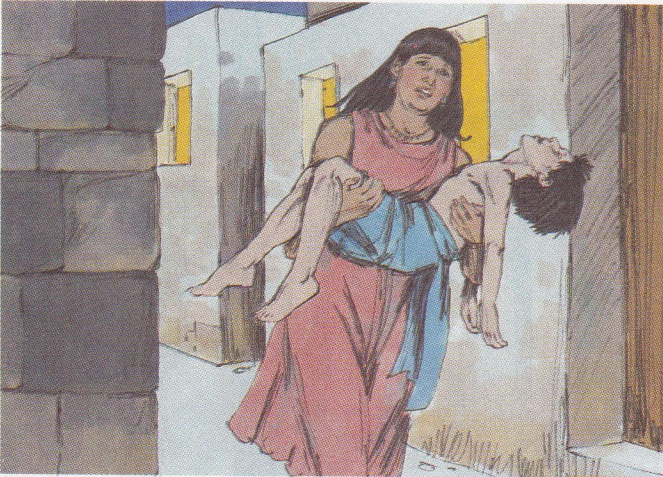
# The Israelites Leave Egypt



**1** In accordance with God's directions, the Israelites had smeared blood on their doorposts. That evening they celebrated the Passover feast in their homes. They were ready to leave Egypt.



**2** At midnight the Lord passed through the land and killed the firstborn son of every Egyptian family. Pharaoh and his officials were awakened by loud crying.



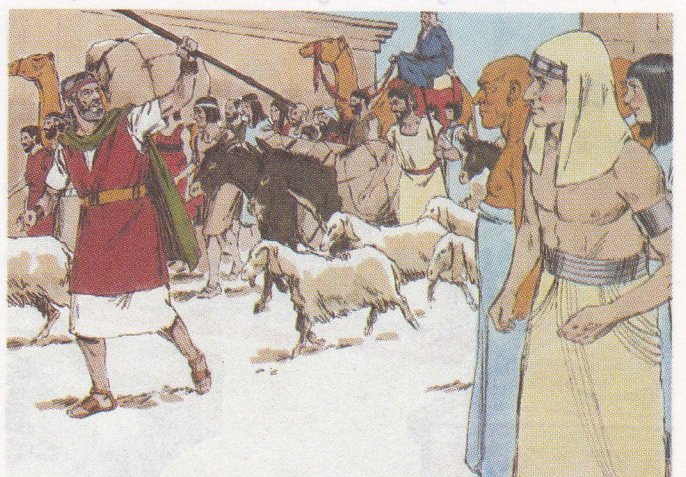
**3** There was not one home in Egypt in which a son had not died. But the Lord did not harm the firstborn sons of the Israelites, who had marked their doorposts with blood.



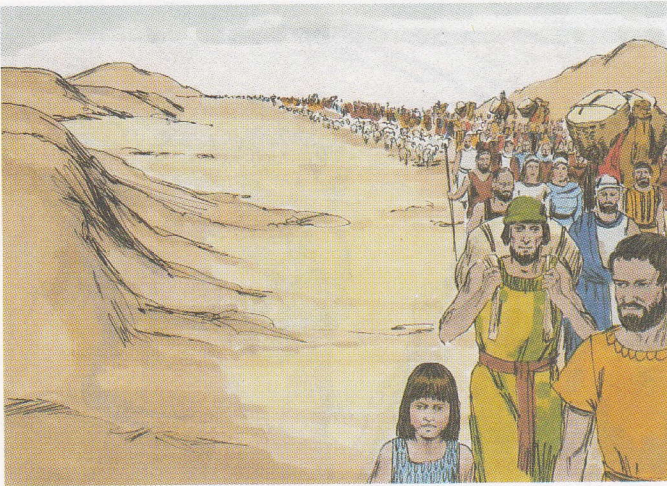
**4** That night Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron. "Get out, you and your people!" Pharaoh cried. "Leave my country, and worship the Lord as you wish. Take your animals and leave!"



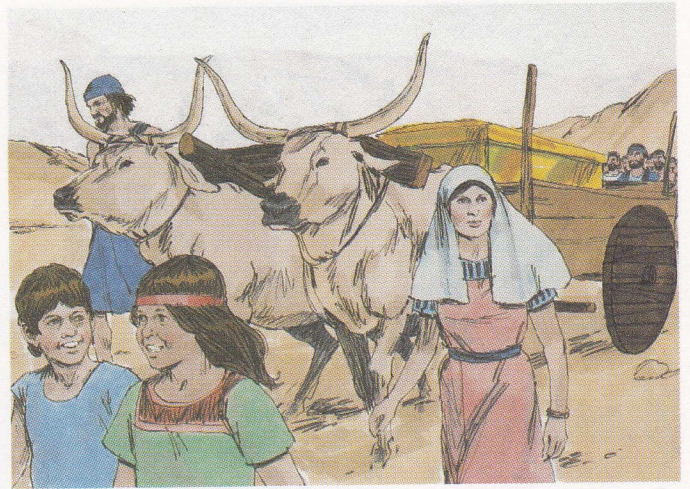
**5** All the Egyptians urged the Israelites to hurry and get out of the country. "We will all be dead if you don't." They gave the Israelites gold and silver jewelry and fine clothing.



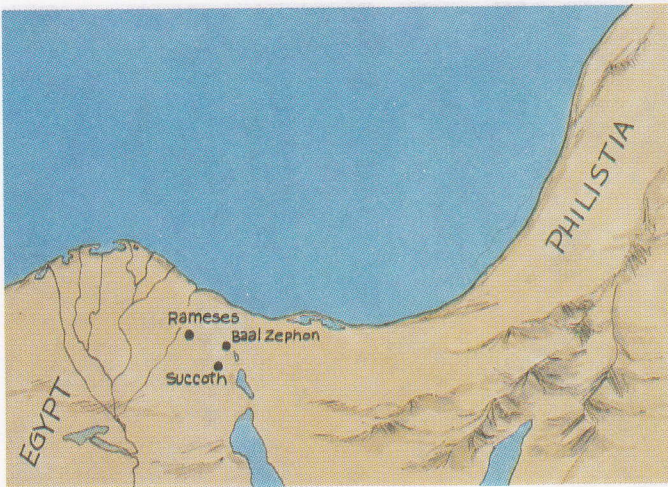
**6** The Israelites set out on foot. There were about 600,000 men, not counting the women and children. They also took their animals and many other people with them.



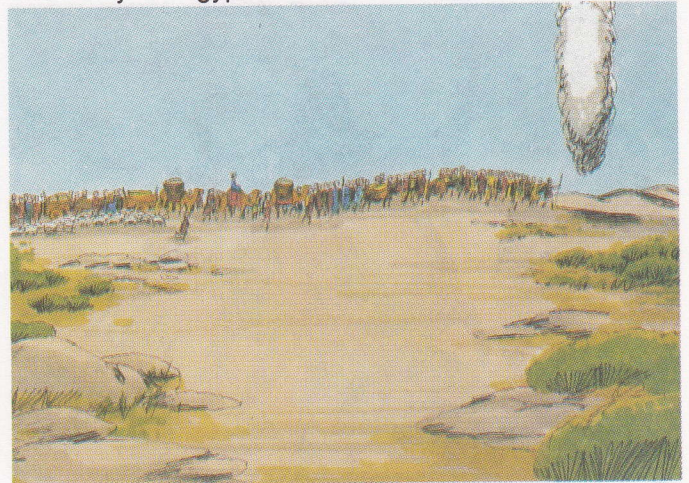
**7** The Israelites had lived in Egypt for 430 years. On the day the 430 years ended, all the tribes of the Lord's people left Egypt.



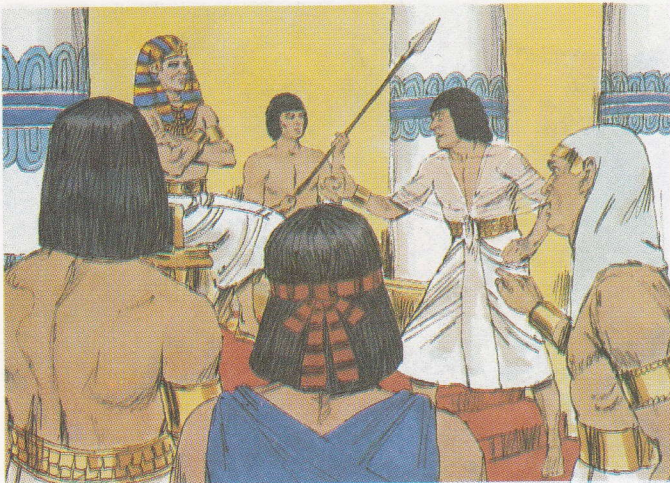
**8** Moses took with him the body of Joseph, who had ruled Egypt years before. Before he died, Joseph had made the Israelites promise to take along his remains when they left Egypt.



**9** The Lord did not lead them through the land of the fierce Philistines, lest they be afraid and want to return to Egypt. Instead, he led them through the desert toward the Red Sea.



**10** During the day the Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud to show them the way, and during the night he went in front of them in a pillar of fire. They could travel night and day.



**11** When the Pharaoh was told that the people had escaped, he changed his mind. He and his officials said, "What have we done? The Israelites have escaped! We have lost our slaves!"



**12** The Israelites moved closer to the Red Sea. Suddenly they saw Pharaoh and 600 soldiers coming toward them in war chariots. The Israelites were terrified!