

## The Israelites leave Egypt (Exodus 6 - 14) Part 2

*God had promised that he would get his people out of slavery in Egypt. Pharaoh would not let the Israelites leave Egypt. He wanted to keep them there as his slaves. He had not listened to God. He would not listen to God. Moses and Aaron had delivered messages and Pharaoh had seen God's warnings. God had sent nine warnings already – river water had become blood, there had been frogs, gnats, flies, a cattle disease, a skin infection, hailstones, locusts and complete darkness.*

*Moses delivered one final warning and then he turned and left the palace. God had given him very important instructions and he needed to speak to the Israelite leaders.*

Moses called all the Israelite leaders together. Moses said to them, "Listen carefully! Tonight the angel of death will pass through Egypt killing the oldest son in every family in the land. If you and your families are to be kept safe, this is what God says you must do. You must choose a healthy young sheep or goat from your flock. You must look after it in your home from the tenth day of this month to the fourteenth day. Then, as night comes on the fourteenth day, you must kill it and put the blood over the door of your house and on the door-posts. Cook the meat for a special dinner that night and the whole family must stay indoors all night. The blood on the doors will be the sign to God that you are his obedient people and the angel of death will not harm you. You are to explain to your children that this is God's Passover Feast when God will pass over your homes and protect you. The sheep or goat will die in the place of the oldest Israelite son who will be saved. The Israelite leaders left and passed on the instructions from God to all the people.

The people did as Moses had told them – they followed God's instructions and they waited through the night inside their homes. The Israelites had lived in Egypt for 430 years. God told them that he was rescuing them and they trusted God and did as he said.

At midnight, all the first-born sons in Egypt died, including Pharaoh's oldest son. In every Egyptian house there was loud crying because in every family there had been a death. Pharaoh sent for Moses and said, "Get out of my country, go and worship your God, take your sheep and goats and leave".

So God's people the Israelites left Egypt. They set out on foot into the desert. God wanted to lead the people a special way, to keep them safe and trusting Him. God led them by a pillar of cloud during the day and by a pillar of fire at night. The pillar of cloud never left them during the day and the pillar of fire never left them at night.

So he led them through the desert towards the Red Sea. BUT.....Pharaoh had another change of mind and he called the leaders of his army to him. "What have we done? We have let the people of Israel leave. We have lost our slaves! Get my chariot and get the army ready; we're going to war against the Israelites."

The officers immediately obeyed. 600 chariots were made ready and they chased the Israelites. God's people had just arrived at the Red Sea when someone saw the Egyptian army in the distance chasing after them. They were very, very frightened.

The Israelites panicked and said to Moses, "Moses, what have you done to us? Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die here?"

Moses stood in front of them and said, "Don't be afraid! The Lord God will save you today."

The pillar of cloud suddenly moved behind the Israelites so that the Egyptians couldn't see them. Then God told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea. Moses did as God said and, as he stretched out his hand, a great wind blew back the sea so that there was dry ground in front of God's people instead of water. The Israelites all walked across.

The Egyptian army followed them on to the dry path God had made but God made the wheels of their chariots break. When all of God's people were across the Red Sea, God told Moses to stretch out his hand again. Immediately the waves came back and all Egypt's army drowned.

So God saved his people from the Egyptians that day. God's people saw that God had saved them and praised God and trusted him.