

Celebration of the First Passover (14 Nisan [April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 12:21–28, 50

21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and take for yourselves lambs according to your families, and slay the Passover *lamb*.
 22 You shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, and apply some of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and the two doorposts; and none of you shall go outside the door of his house until morning.
 23 For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite *you*.
 24 And you shall observe this event as an ordinance for you and your children forever.
 25 When you enter the land which the LORD will give you, as He has promised, you shall observe this rite.
 26 And when your children say to you, ‘What does this rite mean to you?’
 27 you shall say, ‘It is a Passover sacrifice to the LORD who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.’” And the people bowed low and worshiped.
 28 Then the sons of Israel went and did *so*; just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.
 50 Then all the sons of Israel did *so*; [[Heb 11:28](#)] they did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.

Tenth Plague—Death of Firstborn (15 Nisan [April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 12:29–36

29 Now it came about 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 cattle.
 30 Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead.
 31 Then he called for Moses and Aaron at night and said, “Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the sons of Israel; and go, worship the LORD, as you have said.
 32 Take both your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and go, and bless me also.”
 33 The Egyptians urged the people, to send them out of the land in haste, for they said, “We will all be dead.”
 34 So the people took their dough before it was leavened, *with* their kneading bowls bound up in the clothes on their shoulders.
 35 Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for they had requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing;
 36 and the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

The Exodus of Israel from Egypt (15 Nisan [April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 12:37–42, 51

Numbers 33:1–5

40 Now the time that the sons of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years.
 41 And at the end of four hundred and thirty years, to the very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.
 51 And on that same day the LORD brought the sons of Israel

1 These are the journeys of the sons of Israel,

out of the land of Egypt
by their hosts.

42 It is a night to be observed for the LORD for having brought them out from the land of Egypt; this night is for the LORD, to be observed by all the sons of Israel throughout their generations.

37 Now the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, aside from children.

38 A mixed multitude also went up with them, along with flocks and herds, a very large number of livestock.

39 They baked the dough which they had brought out of Egypt into cakes of unleavened bread. For it had not become leavened, since they were driven out of Egypt and could not delay, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

by which they came out from the land of Egypt by their armies,
under the leadership of Moses and Aaron.

2 Moses recorded their starting places according to their journeys by the command of the LORD, and these are their journeys according to their starting places.

3 They journeyed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the next day after the Passover the sons of Israel started out boldly in the sight of all the Egyptians,

4 while the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn whom the LORD had struck down among them. The LORD had also executed judgments on their gods.

5 Then the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses and camped in Succoth.

Instructions Concerning Consecration of Firstborn (15 Nisan [April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 13:1–16

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me.” [\[Luke 2:22–24\]](#)

3 Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you went out from Egypt, from the house of slavery; for by a powerful hand the LORD brought you out from this place. And nothing leavened shall be eaten.

4 On this day in the month of Abib, you are about to go forth.

5 It shall be when the LORD brings you to the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, that you shall observe this rite in this month.

6 For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the LORD.

7 Unleavened bread shall be eaten throughout the seven days; and nothing leavened shall be seen among you, nor shall any leaven be seen among you in all your borders.

8 You shall tell your son on that day, saying, ‘It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’

9 And it shall serve as a sign to you on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead, that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth; for with a powerful hand the LORD brought you out of Egypt.

10 Therefore, you shall keep this ordinance at its appointed time from year to year.

11 “Now when the LORD brings you to the land of the Canaanite, as He swore to you and to your fathers, and gives it to you,

12 you shall devote to the LORD the first offspring of every womb, and the first offspring of every beast that you own; the males belong to the LORD.

13 But every first offspring of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, but if you do not redeem *it*, then you shall break its neck; and every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.

14 And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is this?’ then you shall say to him, ‘With a powerful hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

15 It came about, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore, I sacrifice to the LORD the males, the first offspring of every womb, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem.’

16 So it shall serve as a sign on your hand and as phylacteries on your forehead, for with a powerful hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt.”

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Chronological Notes

1) My chronology places the Exodus on 15 Nisan 1446 BC.¹ For a defense of this view, see the following sources:

- Bruce K. Waltke, “Palestinian Artifactual Evidence Supporting the Early Date of the Exodus,” *Bibliotheca Sacra* 129 (Jan 1972): 33–47.
- Charles H. Dyer, “The Date of the Exodus Reexamined,” *Bibliotheca Sacra* 140:559 (Jul 1983): 226–242.
- William Shea, “Amenhotep II as Pharaoh of the Exodus,” *Bible and Spade* 16:2 (Spring 2003): 42–52.
- Bryant G. Wood, “The Rise and Fall of the 13th-Century Exodus-Conquest Theory,” *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 48:3 (Sept 2005): 475–489.
- Douglas Petrovich, “Amenhotep II and the Historicity of the Exodus-Pharaoh,” *The Master’s Seminary Journal* 17:1 (Spring 2006): 81–110.
- Rodger Young, “The Talmud’s Two Jubilees and Their Relevance to the Date of the Exodus,” *Westminster Theological Journal* 68 (2006): 71–83.
- Bryant G. Wood, “The Biblical Date for the Exodus is 1446 BC: A Response to James Hoffmeier,” *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 50:2 (June 2007): 249–258.
- Bryant G. Wood, “Recent Research on the Date and Setting of the Exodus,” *Bible and Spade* 21:4 (Fall 2003): 98–108.
- Eugene Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel, Second Edition*, (Baker Publishing, 2008), 83–92.
- Andrew E. Steinmann, *From Abraham to Paul*, (Concordia Publishing House, 2011), 45–65.

¹ The Jewish day was from sundown to sundown. The Passover was celebrated in the evening of 14 Nisan, just before sundown. At midnight, the early morning of 15 Nisan, the death angel struck (Exod 12:29). Thus Israel left Egypt on 15 Nisan, “the day after the Passover” (Num 33:3).

- 2) Numbers 33 contains a record of the journeys of Israel prior to their entrance into Canaan. This record has been harmonized with the narratives of Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Note that the names for the camps can refer to the region (Wilderness of Sin), the actual place (Succoth) or to an event that occurred at that particular camp (Marah).²

Order	Region Name	Place Name	Camp/Event Name	Exodus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
1	Land of Rameses	Rameses		12:37	33:5	
2		Succoth		12:37	33:5	
3	Wilderness of Etham/Shur	Etham		13:20	33:6	
4	Red Sea	Pi-hahiroth		14:2	33:7	
5	Wilderness of Etham/Shur		Marah	15:22–23	33:8	
6		Elim		15:27	33:9	
7	Red Sea				33:10	
8	Wilderness of Sin			16:1	33:11	
9		Dophkah			33:12	
10		Alush			33:13	
11		Rephidim	Massah/Meribah	17:1	33:14	
12	Wilderness of Sinai/Horeb	Mount Sinai		19:1–2	33:15	1:6, 19
13		Kibroth-hattaavah	Taberah		10:33–36; 11:3; 33:16	
14		Hazereth			11:35; 33:17	
15	Wilderness of Paran/Zin	Kadesh-barnea			10:12b; 12:16	1:19
16		Rithmah			33:18	
17		Rimmon-perez			33:19	
18		Libnah			33:20	
19		Rissah			33:21	
20		Khelathah			33:22	
21		Mount Shepher			33:23	
22		Haradah			33:24	
23		Makheloth			33:25	
24		Tahath			33:26	
25		Terah			33:27	
26		Mithkah			33:28	
27		Hashmonah			33:29	
28		Moseroth			33:30	10:6?
29		Bene-jaakan			33:31	10:6?
30		Hor-haggidgad			33:32	10:7?
31		Jotbathah			33:33	10:7?
32		Abronah			33:34	

² Most of the information in the table is sourced from R. Dennis Cole, "Numbers," *The New American Commentary*, (Broadman & Holman Publishing, 2000), 517–528.

Order	Region Name	Place Name	Camp/Event Name	Exodus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
33		Ezion-geber			33:35	
34	Wilderness of Paran/Zin	Kadesh-barnea	Meribah		20:1a, 13; 27:14; 33:36	
35	Edge of the Land of Edom	Mount Hor			20:22–23; 33:37–39	2:1–3
36		Zalmonah			33:41	
37		Punon			33:42	
38		Oboth			21:10; 33:43	
39	Desert facing Moab	Iye-abarim			21:11; 33:44	
40	Valley of Zered	Iyim			21:12; 33:45	2:13–14
41	Wilderness of Kedemoth	Arnon River Valley			21:13	2:24
			Beer?		21:16	
			Mattanah?		21:18	
			Nahaliel?		21:19	
			Bamoth?		21:19	
42		Dibon-gad			33:45	
43		Almon-diblathaim			33:46	
44	Abarim Mountains	Mount Nebo			33:47	
45	Plains of Moab	Beth-jeshimoth to Abel-shittim			22:1; 33:48–49	3:29