

Yahweh Prepares Israel for the Exodus (1 Nisan [March/April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 12:1–20, 43–49

Instructions Concerning the Passover

- 1 And Yahweh said to Moses and to Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,
- 2 “This month *will be* the beginning of months; it *will be* for you the first of the months of the year.
- 3 Speak to all the community of Israel, saying, ‘On the tenth of this month, they will each take for themselves a lamb for the family, a lamb for the household.
- 4 And if the household is too small for a lamb, he and the neighbor nearest to his house will take *one* according to the number of persons; you will count out portions of the lamb according to how much each one can eat.
- 5 The lamb for you must be a male, without defect, in its first year; you will take *it* from the sheep or from the goats.
- 6 “You will keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, and all the assembly of the community of Israel will slaughter it at twilight.
- 7 And they will take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on the lintel on the houses in which they eat it.
- 8 And they will eat the meat on this night; they will eat it fire-roasted and *with* unleavened bread on bitter herbs.
- 9 You must not eat any of it raw or boiled, boiled in the water, but rather roasted with fire, its head with its legs and with its inner parts.
- 10 And you must not leave any of it until morning; anything left from it until morning you must burn in the fire.
- 11 And this is how you will eat it—*with* your waists fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you will eat it in haste. It *is* Yahweh’s Passover.
- 12 “And I will go through the land of Egypt during this night, and I will strike all of the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and I will do punishments among all of the gods of Egypt. I *am* Yahweh.
- 13 And the blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and I will see the blood, and I will pass over you, and there will not be a destructive plague among you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Instructions Concerning the Feast of Unleavened Bread

- 14 “And this day will become a memorial for you, and you will celebrate it as a religious feast for Yahweh throughout your generations; you will celebrate it as a lasting statute.
- 15 You will eat unleavened bread for seven days. Surely on the first day you shall remove yeast from your houses, because anyone *who* eats *food with* yeast from the first day until the seventh day—that person will be cut off from Israel.
- 16 It will be for you on the first day a holy assembly and on the seventh day a holy assembly; no work will be done on them; only what is eaten by every person, it alone will be prepared for you.
- 17 “And you will keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because on this very day I brought out your divisions from the land of Egypt, and you will keep this day for your generations as a lasting statute.
- 18 On the first *day*, on the fourteenth day of the month, in the evening, you will eat unleavened bread until the evening of the twenty-first day of the month.
- 19 For seven days yeast must not be found in your houses, because anyone eating food with yeast will be cut off from the community of Israel—*whether* an alien or a native of the land.
- 20 You will eat no *food with* yeast; in all of your dwellings you will eat unleavened bread.”

Additional Instructions Concerning Participation in the Passover

- 43 And Yahweh said to Moses and Aaron, “This *is* the statute of the Passover: No foreigner may eat it.
- 44 But any slave of a man, an acquisition by money, and you have circumcised him, then he may eat it.
- 45 A temporary resident and a hired worker may not eat it.
- 46 It will be eaten in one house; you will not bring part of the meat out from the house to the outside; and you will not break a bone of it. [cf. [John 19:36](#)]
- 47 All of the community of Israel will prepare it.
- 48 And when an alien dwells with you and he wants to prepare *the* Passover for Yahweh, every male belonging to him must be circumcised, and then he may come near to prepare it, and he will be as the native of the land, but any uncircumcised *man* may not eat it.
- 49 One law will be for the native and for the alien who is dwelling in your midst.”

Eighth Plague—Locusts (c. 2–7 Nisan [March/April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 10:1–20

- 1 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I have made his heart insensitive and the heart of his servants in order to put these signs of mine in his midst,
- 2 so that you will tell in the ears of your child and your grandchild that I dealt harshly with *the* Egyptians and *so that you will tell about* my signs that I have done among them, and so you will know that I *am* Yahweh.”
- 3 And Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh, and they said to him, “Thus says Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews, ‘Until when will you

refuse to submit before me? Release my people so that they may serve me.

4 But if you *are* refusing to release my people, look, I *am* about to bring locusts into your territory tomorrow.

5 And they will cover the surface of the land, and no one will be able to see the land, and they will eat the remainder of what is left—what is left over for you from the hail—and they will eat every sprouting tree *belonging* to you from the field.

6 And your houses will be full, and the houses of all your servants and the houses of all Egypt, *something* that your fathers and your grandfathers never saw from the day they were on the earth until this day.” And he turned and went out from Pharaoh.

7 And the servants of Pharaoh said to him, “Until when will this be a snare for us? Release the men so that they may serve Yahweh their God. Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?”

8 And Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Serve Yahweh your God. Who are the ones going?

9 And Moses said, “With our young and with our old we will go; with our sons and with our daughters, with our sheep and goats and with our cattle we will go because *it is* the feast of Yahweh for us.”

10 And he said to them, “Let Yahweh be thus with you *as soon* as I release you and your dependents. See that evil is before your faces.

11 No indeed; *just* the men go and serve Yahweh, since this *is what you are* seeking.” And he drove them out from the presence of Pharaoh.

12 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt with the locusts so that they may come up over the land of Egypt, and let them eat all the vegetation of the land, all that the hail left behind.”

13 And Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and Yahweh drove an east wind into the land all that day and all night. The morning came, and the east wind had brought the locusts.

14 And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and they settled in all the territory of Egypt, very severe. Before it there were not locusts like them, nor will there be after it.

15 And they covered the surface of all the land, and the land was dark *with them*, and they ate all the vegetation of the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left, and no green was left in the trees nor in the vegetation of the field in all the land of Egypt.

16 And Pharaoh hurried to call Moses and Aaron, and he said, “I have sinned against Yahweh your God and against you.

17 And now forgive my sin surely this time, and pray to Yahweh your God so that he may only remove from me this death.”

18 And he went out from Pharaoh, and he prayed to Yahweh.

19 And Yahweh turned a very strong west wind and lifted up the locusts and thrust them into the Red Sea, and not one locust remained in all the territory of Egypt.

20 And Yahweh hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not release the Israelites.

Ninth Plague—Darkness (c. 8–10 Nisan [April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 10:21–23

21 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the heavens so that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt and so that *a person can* feel darkness.”

22 And Moses stretched out his hand toward the heavens, and there was darkness of night in all the land of Egypt *for* three days.

23 No one could see his brother, and because of it no one could move from where they were *for* three days, but there was light for the Israelites in their dwellings.

Moses Warns Pharaoh About the Final Plague (c. 11–13 Nisan [April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 10:24–29; 11:1–10

God Tells Moses About the Tenth and Final Plague (flashback)

11:1 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Still one plague I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt; afterward he will release you from here. At the moment of his releasing, he will certainly drive you completely out from here.

2 Speak in the ears of the people, and let them ask, a man from his neighbor and a woman from her neighbor, *for* objects of silver and objects of gold.”

3 And Yahweh gave the people favor in the eyes of Egypt. Also the man Moses *was* very great in the land of Egypt, in the eyes of the servants of Pharaoh and in the eyes of the people.

Pharaoh Bargains With Moses

10:24 And Pharaoh called Moses and said, “Go, serve Yahweh. Only your sheep and goats and your cattle must be left behind. Your dependents may also go with you.”

25 And Moses said, “Even *if* you yourself put into our hand sacrifices and burnt offerings and we offer *them* to Yahweh our God, 26 our livestock must also go with us. Not a hoof can be left because we must take from them to serve Yahweh our God. And we will not know *with* what we are to serve Yahweh until we come there.”

27 And Yahweh hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he was not willing to release them.

Moses Warns Pharaoh About the Tenth Plague (flashback)

11:4 And Moses said, “Thus says Yahweh, ‘About the middle of the night I *will* go out through the midst of Egypt, 5 and every firstborn in the land of Egypt will die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne to the firstborn of the slave woman who *is* behind the pair of millstones and every firstborn animal.

6 And there will be a great cry of distress in all the land of Egypt, the like of which has not been nor will be again.

7 But against all the Israelites, from a man to an animal, a dog will not *even* bark, so that you will know that Yahweh makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.’

8a And all of these your servants will come down to me and bow to me, saying, ‘Go out, you and all the people who *are* at your feet.’ And afterward I will go out.”

Pharaoh Refuses to Listen

10:28 And Pharaoh said to him, “Go from me. Be careful not to see my face again, because on the day of your seeing my face you will die.”

29 And Moses said, “That is right. I will not again see your face.”

11:8b And he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.

Summary Statement

11:9 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that my wonders may multiply in the land of Egypt.”

10 And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and Yahweh hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not release the Israelites from his land.

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

Exodus 12:21–28, 50

21 And Moses called all the elders of Israel, and he said to them, “Select and take for yourselves sheep for your clans and slaughter the Passover sacrifice.

22 And take a bunch of hyssop and dip *it* into the blood that *is* in the basin and apply *some* of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and the two doorposts. And you will not go out, anyone from the doorway of his house, until morning.

23 And Yahweh will go through to strike Egypt, and he will see the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, and Yahweh will pass over the doorway and will not allow the destroyer to come to your houses to strike *you*.

24 “And you will keep this event as a rule for you and for your children forever.

25 And when you come into the land that Yahweh will give to you, as he said, you will keep this religious custom.

26 And when your children say to you, ‘What *is* this religious custom for you?’

27 you will say, ‘It *is* a Passover sacrifice for Yahweh, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when he struck Egypt; and he delivered our houses.’” And the people knelt down and they worshiped.

28 And the Israelites went, and they did as Yahweh had commanded Moses and Aaron; so they did.

50 And all the Israelites did as Yahweh had commanded Moses and Aaron; so they did. [[Heb 11:28](#)]

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

Exodus 12:29–36

29 And in the middle of the night, Yahweh struck all of the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh sitting on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who *was* in the prison house and every firstborn of an animal.

30 And Pharaoh got up *at* night, he and all his servants and all Egypt, and a great cry of distress was in Egypt because there was not a house where there was no one dead.

31 And he called Moses and Aaron *at* night, and he said, “Get up, go out from the midst of my people, both you as well as the Israelites, and go, serve Yahweh, as you have said.

32 Take both your sheep and goats as well as your cattle, and go, and bless also me.”

33 And *the* Egyptians urged the people *in order* to hurry their release from the land, because they said, “All of us *will* die!”

34 And the people lifted up their dough before it had yeast; their kneading troughs *were* wrapped up in their cloaks on their shoulder.

35 And the Israelites did according to the word of Moses, and they asked from *the* Egyptians *for* objects of silver and objects of gold and *for* clothing.

36 And Yahweh gave the people favor in the eyes of *the* Egyptians, and they granted *their* requests, and they plundered *the* Egyptians.

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

Exodus 12:37–42, 51	Numbers 33:1–5
<p>40 And the period of dwelling of the Israelites that they dwelled in Egypt <i>was</i> four hundred and thirty years.</p> <p>41 And at the end of four hundred and thirty years, on this exact day, all of Yahweh’s divisions went out from the land of Egypt.</p> <p>51 And it was on exactly this day Yahweh brought the Israelites out from the land of Egypt by their divisions.</p> <p>42 It <i>is</i> a night of vigils <i>belonging</i> to Yahweh for bringing them out from the land of Egypt; it <i>is</i> this night <i>belonging</i> to Yahweh <i>with</i> vigils for all of the Israelites throughout their generations.</p> <p>37 And the Israelites set out from Rameses to Succoth; the men <i>were</i> about six hundred thousand on foot, besides dependents.</p> <p>38 And also a mixed multitude went up with them and sheep and goats and cattle, very numerous livestock.</p> <p>39 And they baked the dough that they had brought out from Egypt <i>as</i> cakes, unleavened bread, because it had no yeast when they were driven out from Egypt, and they were not able to delay, and also they had not made provisions for themselves.</p>	<p>1 These <i>were</i> the journeys of the Israelites, who went out from the land of Egypt according to their divisions, by the hand of Moses and Aaron.</p> <p>2 Moses wrote down their movements according to their journeys on the command of Yahweh, and these <i>are</i> their journeys according to their movements.</p> <p>3 They set out from Rameses on the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the next day after the Passover the Israelites went out boldly in the sight of all the Egyptians</p> <p>4 while the Egyptians <i>were</i> burying all the firstborn among them whom Yahweh struck. Yahweh <i>also</i> executed punishments among their gods.</p> <p>5 Then the Israelites set out from Rameses, and they camped in Succoth.</p>

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

Exodus 13:1–16

1 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Consecrate to me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the Israelites, among humans and among domestic animals; it belongs to me.” [\[Luke 2:22–24\]](#)

3 And Moses said to the people, “Remember this day when you went out from Egypt, from a house of slaves, because with strength of hand Yahweh brought you out from here, and *food with* yeast will not be eaten.

4 Today you are going out in the month of Abib.

5 And when Yahweh brings you to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Hivites and the Jebusites—which he swore to your ancestors to give to you, a land flowing with milk and honey—you will perform this service in this month.

6 Seven days you will eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day *will be* a feast for Yahweh.

7 Unleavened bread will be eaten the seven days; *food with* yeast will not be seen for you; and yeast will not be seen for you in all your territory.

8 And you shall tell your son on that day, saying, ‘This *is* because of what Yahweh did for me when I came out from Egypt.’

9 And it will be as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes so that the law of Yahweh will be in your mouth, that with a strong hand Yahweh brought you out from Egypt.

10 And you will keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year.

11 “And when Yahweh brings you to the land of the Canaanite, as he swore to you and to your ancestors, and he gives it to you,

12 you will hand over every first offspring of a womb to Yahweh, and every first offspring dropped by a domestic animal that will belong to you, the males *will be* for Yahweh.

13 And every first offspring of a donkey you will redeem with small livestock, and if you will not redeem *it*, then you will break its neck, and every firstborn human among your sons you will redeem.

14 And when your son asks you in the future, saying, ‘What *is* this?’ you will say to him, ‘With strength of hand Yahweh brought us out from Egypt, from a house of slaves.

15 And when Pharaoh was stubborn to release us, Yahweh killed every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from firstborn human to firstborn domestic animal. Therefore I *am* sacrificing to Yahweh every first offspring of a womb, the males, and every firstborn of my

sons I redeem.’

16 And it will be as a sign on your hand and as symbolic ornaments between your eyes that with strength of hand Yahweh brought us out from Egypt.”

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Chronological Notes

- 1) The instructions concerning the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are recorded after the fact in Exodus 12. Clearly, God had told the Israelites what to do at the beginning of the month so they had time to prepare (see the command to choose a lamb on 10 Nisan in Exodus 12:3). Exactly how many plagues had passed before Nisan (the first month of the Hebrew calendar) is not known—I place it after the 7th plague which seems reasonable given the time involved in the final plagues.
- 2) The verses of Exodus 11:1–10 are a flashback to earlier events. My arrangement follows the order suggested by Davis.¹
- 3) My chronology places the Exodus on 15 Nisan 1446 BC.² 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 John J. Davis, *Moses and the Gods of Egypt, Second Edition*, (BHM Books, 1986), 139–40.

² 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).