

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

Exodus 12:1–20, 43–49

Instructions Concerning the Passover

- 1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,
- 2 “This month is to be your beginning of months; it will be your first month of the year.
- 3 Tell the whole community of Israel, ‘In the tenth day of this month they each must take a lamb for themselves according to their families—a lamb for each household.
- 4 If any household is too small for a lamb, the man and his next-door neighbor are to take a lamb according to the number of people—you will make your count for the lamb according to how much each one can eat.
- 5 Your lamb must be perfect, a male, one year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.
- 6 You must care for it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then the whole community of Israel will kill it around sundown.
- 7 They will take some of the blood and put it on the two side posts and top of the doorframe of the houses where they will eat it.
- 8 They will eat the meat the same night; they will eat it roasted over the fire with bread made without yeast and with bitter herbs.
- 9 Do not eat it raw or boiled in water, but roast it over the fire with its head, its legs, and its entrails.
- 10 You must leave nothing until morning, but you must burn with fire whatever remains of it until morning.
- 11 This is how you are to eat it—dressed to travel, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. You are to eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover.
- 12 I will pass through the land of Egypt in the same night, and I will attack all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both of humans and of animals, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment. I am the LORD.
- 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, so that when I see the blood I will pass over you, and this plague will not fall on you to destroy you when I attack the land of Egypt.

Instructions Concerning the Feast of Unleavened Bread

- 14 This day will become a memorial for you, and you will celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—you will celebrate it perpetually as a lasting ordinance.
- 15 For seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. Surely on the first day you must put away yeast from your houses because anyone who eats bread made with yeast from the first day to the seventh day will be cut off from Israel.
- 16 On the first day there will be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there will be a holy convocation for you. You must do no work of any kind on them, only what every person will eat—that alone may be prepared for you.
- 17 So you will keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because on this very day I brought your regiments out from the land of Egypt, and so you must keep this day perpetually as a lasting ordinance.
- 18 In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month, in the evening, you will eat bread made without yeast until the twenty-first day of the month in the evening.
- 19 For seven days yeast must not be found in your houses, for whoever eats what is made with yeast—that person will be cut off from the community of Israel, whether a foreigner or one born in the land.
- 20 You will not eat anything made with yeast; in all the places where you live you must eat bread made without yeast.”

Additional Instructions Concerning Participation in the Passover

- 43 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “This is the ordinance of the Passover. No foreigner may share in eating it.
- 44 But everyone’s servant who is bought for money, after you have circumcised him, may eat it.
- 45 A foreigner and a hired worker must not eat it.
- 46 It must be eaten in one house; you must not bring any of the meat outside the house, and you must not break a bone of it. [cf. [John 19:36](#)]
- 47 The whole community of Israel must observe it.
- 48 “When a foreigner lives with you and wants to observe the Passover to the LORD, all his males must be circumcised, and then he may approach and observe it, and he will be like one who is born in the land—but no uncircumcised person may eat of it.
- 49 The same law will apply to the person who is native-born and to the foreigner who lives among you.”

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

Exodus 10:1–20

- 1 The LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, in order to display these signs of mine before him,
- 2 and in order that in the hearing of your son and your grandson you may tell how I made fools of the Egyptians and about my signs that I displayed among them, so that you may know that I am the LORD.”
- 3 So Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh and told him, “Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews: ‘How long do you refuse to humble yourself before me? Release my people so that they may serve me!’
- 4 But if you refuse to release my people, I am going to bring locusts into your territory tomorrow.

5 They will cover the surface of the earth, so that you will be unable to see the ground. They will eat the remainder of what escaped—what is left over for you—from the hail, and they will eat every tree that grows for you from the field.

6 They will fill your houses, the houses of your servants, and all the houses of Egypt, such as neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have seen since they have been in the land until this day!” Then Moses turned and went out from Pharaoh.

7 Pharaoh’s servants said to him, “How long will this man be a menace to us? Release the people so that they may serve the LORD their God. Do you not know that Egypt is destroyed?”

8 So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Go, serve the LORD your God. Exactly who is going with you?”

9 Moses said, “We will go with our young and our old, with our sons and our daughters, and with our sheep and our cattle we will go, because we are to hold a pilgrim feast for the LORD.”

10 He said to them, “The LORD will need to be with you if I release you and your dependents! Watch out! Trouble is right in front of you!

11 No! Go, you men only, and serve the LORD, for that is what you want.” Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh’s presence.

12 The LORD said to Moses, “Extend your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up over the land of Egypt and eat everything that grows in the ground, everything that the hail has left.”

13 So Moses extended his staff over the land of Egypt, and then the LORD brought an east wind on the land all that day and all night. The morning came, and the east wind had brought up the locusts!

14 The locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and settled down in all the territory of Egypt. It was very severe; there had been no locusts like them before, nor will there be such ever again.

15 They covered the surface of all the ground, so that the ground became dark with them, and they ate all the vegetation of the ground and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Nothing green remained on the trees or on anything that grew in the fields throughout the whole land of Egypt.

16 Then Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you!

17 So now, forgive my sin this time only, and pray to the LORD your God that he would only take this death away from me.”

18 Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD,

19 and the LORD turned a very strong west wind, and it picked up the locusts and blew them into the Red Sea. Not one locust remained in all the territory of Egypt.

20 But the LORD 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 The LORD said to Moses, “Extend your hand toward heaven so that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness so thick it can be felt.”

22 So Moses extended his hand toward heaven, and there was absolute darkness throughout the land of Egypt for three days.

23 No one could see another person, and no one could rise from his place for three days. But the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.

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 The LORD said to Moses, “I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt; after that he will release you from this place. When he releases you, he will drive you out completely from this place.

2 Instruct the people that each man and each woman is to request from his or her neighbor items of silver and gold.”

3 (Now the LORD granted the people favor with the Egyptians. Moreover, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, respected by Pharaoh’s servants and by the Egyptian people.)

Pharaoh Bargains With Moses

10:24 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, “Go, serve the LORD—only your flocks and herds will be detained. Even your families may go with you.”

25 But Moses said, “Will you also provide us with sacrifices and burnt offerings that we may present them to the LORD our God?

26 Our livestock must also go with us! Not a hoof is to be left behind! For we must take these animals to serve the LORD our God. Until we arrive there, we do not know what we must use to serve the LORD.”

27 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he was not willing to release them.

Moses Warns Pharaoh About the Tenth Plague (flashback)

11:4 Moses said, “Thus says the LORD: ‘About midnight I will go throughout Egypt,

5 and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, to the firstborn son of the slave girl who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle.

6 There will be a great cry throughout the whole land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again.

7 But against any of the Israelites not even a dog will bark against either people or animals, so that you may know that the LORD distinguishes between Egypt and Israel.’

8a All these your servants will come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Go, you and all the people who follow you,’ and after that I will go out.”

Pharaoh Refuses to Listen

10:28 Pharaoh said to him, “Go from me! Watch out for yourself! Do not appear before me again, for when you see my face you will die!”

29 Moses said, “As you wish! I will not see your face again.”

11:8b Then Moses went out from Pharaoh in great anger.

Summary Statement

11:9 The LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.”

10 So Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the LORD 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 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel, and told them, “Go and select for yourselves a lamb or young goat for your families, and kill the Passover animals.

22 Take a branch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and apply to the top of the doorframe and the two side posts some of the blood that is in the basin. Not one of you is to go out the door of his house until morning.

23 For the LORD will pass through to strike Egypt, and when he sees the blood on the top of the doorframe and the two side posts, then the LORD will pass over the door, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

24 You must observe this event as an ordinance for you and for your children forever.

25 When you enter the land that the LORD will give to you, just as he said, you must observe this ceremony.

26 When your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’—

27 then you will say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the LORD’s Passover, when he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt, when he struck Egypt and delivered our households.’” The people bowed down low to the ground,

28 and the Israelites went away and did exactly as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.

50 So all the Israelites did exactly as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron. [[Heb 11:28](#)]

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

Exodus 12:29–36

29 It happened at midnight—the LORD attacked 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 prison, and all the firstborn of the cattle.

30 Pharaoh got up in the night, along with all his servants and all Egypt, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no house in which there was not someone dead.

31 Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron in the night and said, “Get up, get out from among my people, both you and the Israelites! Go, serve the LORD as you have requested!

32 Also, take your flocks and your herds, just as you have requested, and leave. But bless me also.”

33 The Egyptians were urging the people on, in order to send them out of the land quickly, for they were saying, “We are all dead!”

34 So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, with their kneading troughs bound up in their clothing on their shoulders.

35 Now the Israelites had done as Moses told them—they had requested from the Egyptians silver and gold items and clothing.

36 The LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, and they gave them whatever they wanted, and so they plundered Egypt.

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

Exodus 12:37–42, 51	Numbers 33:1–5
<p>40 Now the length of time the Israelites lived in Egypt was 430 years.</p> <p>41 At the end of the 430 years, on the very day, all the regiments of the LORD went out of the land of Egypt.</p> <p>51 And on this very day the LORD brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt by their regiments.</p> <p>42 It was a night of vigil for the LORD to bring them out from the land of Egypt, and so on this night all Israel is to keep the vigil to the LORD for generations to come.</p> <p>37 The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Succoth. There were about 600,000 men on foot, plus their dependents.</p> <p>38 A mixed multitude also went up with them, and flocks and herds—a very large number of cattle.</p> <p>39 They baked cakes of bread without yeast using the dough they had brought from Egypt, for it was made without yeast—because they were thrust out of Egypt and were not able to delay, they could not prepare food for themselves either.</p>	<p>1 These are the journeys of the Israelites, who went out of the land of Egypt by their divisions under the authority of Moses and Aaron.</p> <p>2 Moses recorded their departures according to their journeys, by the commandment of the LORD; now these are their journeys according to their departures.</p> <p>3 They departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the day after the Passover the Israelites went out defiantly in plain sight of all the Egyptians.</p> <p>4 Now the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn, whom the LORD had killed among them; the LORD also executed judgments on their gods.</p> <p>5 The Israelites traveled from Rameses and camped in Succoth.</p>

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

Exodus 13:1–16

- 1 The LORD spoke to Moses:
- 2 “Set apart to me every firstborn male—the first offspring of every womb among the Israelites, whether human or animal; it is mine.” [\[Luke 2:22–24\]](#)
- 3 Moses said to the people, “Remember this day on which you came out from Egypt, from the place where you were enslaved, for the LORD brought you out of there with a mighty hand—and no bread made with yeast may be eaten.
- 4 On this day, in the month of Abib, you are going out.
- 5 When the LORD brings you to the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites, and Jebusites, which he swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, then you will keep this ceremony in this month.
- 6 For seven days you must eat bread made without yeast, and on the seventh day there is to be a festival to the LORD.
- 7 Bread made without yeast must be eaten for seven days; no bread made with yeast shall be seen among you, and you must have no yeast among you within any of your borders.
- 8 You are to tell your son on that day, ‘It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’
- 9 It will be a sign for you on your hand and a memorial on your forehead, so that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth, for with a mighty hand the LORD brought you out of Egypt.
- 10 So you must keep this ordinance at its appointed time from year to year.
- 11 When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and to your fathers, and gives it to you,
- 12 then you must give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. Every firstling of a beast that you have—the males will be the LORD’S.
- 13 Every firstling of a donkey you must redeem with a lamb, and if you do not redeem it, then you must break its neck. Every firstborn of your sons you must redeem.
- 14 In the future, when your son asks you ‘What is this?’ you are to tell him, ‘With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the land of slavery.
- 15 When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to release us, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of people to the firstborn of animals. That is why I am sacrificing to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb, but all my firstborn sons I

redeem.’

16 It will be for a sign on your hand and for frontlets on your forehead, for with a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of 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).