### Exodus

## Chapter 12

[Plague #10 – Death of the firstborn]  
  
1Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron there in the land of Egypt, and said:  
  
 2‘This will be your 1st month. It’s to be the first one [in your] year.  
  
 3‘So, tell the whole gathering of the children of IsraEl that on the 10th day of this month, each man should select a lamb for his household (depending on the size of his family). 4And if there are just a few in his house (too few [to eat a whole] lamb), they may go to [the home of] a nearby neighbor.  
  
 ‘They are to figure out how many people there’ll be, and then calculate how much lamb they’ll eat.  
  
 5‘So, choose a perfect male yearling lamb from [your herd] of lambs and kids, 6and keep it nearby until the 14th day of this month.  
  
 ‘Then the whole gathering of the children of IsraEl must slaughter [their lambs] towards the evening, 7and they must gather the blood and splash it on the top and both sides of the doorframes of the houses where they’ll be eating [the lamb].  
  
 8‘Then that night, they must roast the flesh over a fire and eat it with fermentation-free bread and bitter herbs.  
  
 9‘Now, you must not eat it raw or boiled in water, just roasted over a fire with the head, feet, and extremities. 10Nothing should be left over until morning, and you shouldn’t break any of its bones.  
  
 ‘Then, any leftovers must be burned in the fire.  
  
 11‘And this is how you must eat it:  
  
 ‘With your thighs covered for work, your sandals on your feet, and your walking sticks in your hands.  
  
 ‘You must eat it quickly, because it’ll be Jehovah’s Passover. 12For I’ll go throughout the land of Egypt that night and strike all the firstborn in that land (both the men and their animals), and I’ll bring My vengeance upon all the gods of Egypt… I am Jehovah!  
  
 13‘Now, this blood will be the sign that you’re inside of each house; for when I see the blood, I’ll protect you, and you won’t be a part of the plague of destruction when I strike the land of Egypt.  
  
 14‘You must always remember this day and keep it as a feast to Jehovah through all your generations… [observance of] this feast will be the law throughout the ages.  
  
 15‘You must eat fermentation-free bread for 7 days.  
  
 ‘And starting on the 1st day, you must remove all the fermentation from your homes. For if anyone eats fermentation between the 1st and 7th days, that person must be destroyed in IsraEl.  
  
 16‘The 1st day will be called holy, and the 7th day will be your holy day when you aren’t to do any hired work.  
  
 ‘The only work that you may do will be for the things that you require.  
  
 17‘You must observe this commandment, because this is the day that I will use My great power to bring you out of the land of Egypt… You must make this day a law throughout the ages for every generation!  
  
 18‘You must eat fermentation-free bread from the evening of the 14th day of the 1st month until the evening of the 21st day.  
  
 19‘Fermentation must not be found in your homes during those 7 days, and whoever eats anything with fermentation must have his life cut off from the gathering of IsraEl and he will be self-condemned in the land.  
  
 ‘This applies to the native residents of your land and your neighbors (converts). 20Yes, nobody should eat anything that has fermentation… Only fermentation-free bread may be eaten in any of your homes.’  
  
  
21Then Moses called all the elders of the children of IsraEl and told them:  
  
 ‘Go find yourselves a lamb (according to your family needs) and slaughter the Passover.  
  
 22‘Then [cut] bunches of hyssop branches and dip them into some of the blood next to the door, and touch it to the upper part and both sides of the door frame… With this blood that’s by the door.  
  
 ‘Thereafter, no one should go outside the door of his house until morning, 23for the Lord will pass over you [as He] strikes the Egyptians… He will see the blood on the doorframes and the Lord will pass over that door, then He won’t allow the destroyer to enter your homes to strike you.  
  
 24‘Now, keep this as a Law for yourselves and for your descendants throughout the ages!  
  
 25‘And when you enter the land that Jehovah has promised to give you, you must keep on doing this.  
  
 26‘Then if your sons should ever ask:  
  
 ‘Why are we doing this?’  
  
 27‘You should tell them:  
  
 ‘The Passover is a sacrifice to Jehovah for when He protected the homes of the children of IsraEl in Egypt and He struck the Egyptians, but [passed over] our homes.’  
  
28Well thereafter, the people bowed to their faces, then the children of IsraEl went and did exactly as Jehovah had instructed Moses and Aaron.  
  
  
29It was midnight when Jehovah struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt… From the firstborn of PharaOh that was sitting on the throne, to the firstborn of the female slave that was sitting in a dungeon, and to the firstborn of all the cattle.  
  
30So, PharaOh woke up that night (as did his servants and all the Egyptians) and there was a lot of screaming throughout the entire land of Egypt; for someone had died in every home.  
  
31As a result, PharaOh called Moses and Aaron that night and told them this:  
  
 ‘Get up and leave us, both you and the children of IsraEl! Go and serve your God Jehovah as you’ve asked, 32and take your sheep and bulls with you.  
  
 ‘But please bless me… I beg you!’  
  
33All the Egyptian people also urged them to leave their land quickly, because they were saying:  
  
 ‘We’re all going to die!’  
  
34So the children of IsraEl took all their bread dough that hadn’t fermented yet and wrapped it in cloths, and carried it on their shoulders.  
  
35Then, following Moses’ instructions, they asked the Egyptians for clothing, as well as for items of silver and gold. 36And because Jehovah had caused the Egyptians to view them favorably, they [gave them these things]… So they plundered the Egyptians.  
  
  
37Then the children of IsraEl got up and left RaMesse, traveling towards to SocChoth (some 600,000 men on foot) with everything they owned, 38along with a huge number of others who left with them, as well as with their sheep, bulls, and many cattle.  
  
39[And when they got there], they baked the dough that they’d brought from Egypt into fermentation-free loaves (there was still no fermentation in the dough), because the Egyptians hadn’t allowed them to stay any longer. For, since they’d been literally thrown out, they hadn’t been allowed enough time to properly prepare for their journey.  
  
40Now, even though it had been 430 years that the children of IsraEl lived in the land of CanaAn and in the land of Egypt, 41the whole army of Jehovah left the land of Egypt that [single] night!  
  
42And since this was [the night] that they kept watching for Jehovah to bring them out of the land of Egypt, all the children of IsraEl were to observe it as a night of watch to Jehovah throughout all their generations.  
  
43Then the Lord told Moses and Aaron:  
  
 ‘This is the Law regarding the Passover:  
  
 ‘No stranger may eat it, 44and any slave or servant that you buy must be circumcised before he can eat it.  
  
 45‘However, visitors and people you hire can’t eat it. 46It must be eaten in one house, because you can’t carry the flesh outside of the house… And no bones should be broken.  
  
 47‘The entire gathering of the children of IsraEl must continue to do this.  
  
 48‘And if any converts come and want to observe the Passover to Jehovah, you must circumcise all their males before they can [partake of] the sacrifice; for thereafter, they’ll be treated as residents in the land.  
  
 ‘However, no one uncircumcised may eat it.  
  
 49‘So, there’ll be just one Law, and it’ll apply to both the native residents and to those who come to be converts among you.’  
  
50Then the children of IsraEl did exactly as Jehovah had instructed Moses and Aaron... 51And that was the day Jehovah brought the children of IsraEl out of the land of Egypt with all their armies.  
  
[Editor note: God now begins to give the first laws to IsraEl. The story continues in Exodus 13:17.]