

[Tell a story](#)
Exodus 12:21-51
by Julie Zhuk on 2022-04-16
[Comments](#)

This story is from the book of Bo. It takes place in Egypt. The Jews have been granted the green light from G-d to leave Egypt. It has been a long struggle for them just to get out.

Pharaoh keeps changing his mind at the last minute forcing them to stay. G-d has already given the Egyptians nine different plagues and their leader never seems to learn. These nine plagues lasted about a week and then they were done.

Every time G-d gave Pharaoh the option of letting the Jews go. Every time, Pharaoh would agree and then once again change his mind. The Jews have definitely had enough of the unbearable treatment they've been receiving.

To explain what G-d was feeling regarding this situation would be a complete understatement. He knew just what to do, how to punish the Egyptians for Pharaoh to finally give in and LET THE JEWS GO. It's important for us Jews to know that there is a difference between the first nine plagues and this last one.

One purpose that G-d had for the first nine plagues was for the Egyptians to come to recognize G-d is an eternal being. It was G-d's way of saying to the Egyptians, "Through this, you will know I am G-d." G-d knew that this one last plague was the one that would work. He explained to Moses that it would apply to the Jewish people so they would have to be careful. G-d explains to Moses the plan for the death of the firstborn.

G-d stretches the importance of the Jews staying home the night this plague would strike. We learn from the Talmud and Midrash that when a destroyer has power they can go after those who are righteous as well as those who are wicked. G-d told Moses that this plague would happen in the middle of the night, that way if any of the Egyptian's astrologers' timing would be off.

The destroyer would have power to kill anything from the outside and that was why Jews were told to stay home. Not only was this plague going to destroy families and create a lot of unnecessary deaths for the Egyptians, but the idea comes from the essence of G-d. G-d wanted people to know that He is higher than the world whether in the physical or spiritual world.

According to the kabbalah, when the hour strikes midnight the first half of the night is called "gevurah" in Hebrew. It means "strength". This part refers to the time of the night that gets darker. As it gets lighter, that part is referred to as "chessed" meaning loving-kindness.

These two things are complete opposites of each other. For them to come together and stick like a magnet is the hour of midnight. Since the plague was going to happen at midnight, it shows that G-d chose to love us over any nation. This also meant that the destroyer wouldn't be able to touch the Jewish people. This plague was the finale because the other ones didn't fully destroy anyone or anything. This one in particular was going to kill any firstborn Egyptian person and animal as well.

G-d didn't want to get rid of the Jews even those who may not have acknowledged Him at the time. G-d always wanted these types of Jews to at least know about Him, to give them a chance and see if they were willing to turn out like the followers of Moses. G-d told Moses and Aaron the importance of the month in this parsha, especially the tenth of this month. It is that day the Jews were to take a lamb for each household.

As well as using a lamb for an offering G-d allowed the Jews to use sheep. The Jews were told to take some of the blood from lamb and put two door posts and on the lintels and doorposts of their homes. There had been a tradition of having a bris for only the men in the Levi tribe. The rest of the Jewish men had undergone the procedure of having a bris.

G-d wanted them to use whatever remaining blood to put on the front of the door posts as well. Whatever was left from the lamb or sheep that was not used, the Jews were told to eat. They were told specifically to roast over a fire with unleavened bread. It was a lot of food and G-d told the Jews that whatever they didn't finish was to throw away by the morning.

G-d told the Jews when eating, keep their shoes on, have a staff on hand, and to eat at a hurried pace. It's that night in which G-d goes through the land of Egypt and smites every first-born man and beast in Egypt. It is during this time that G-d has wreaked his Judgement on the Egyptians. When G-d sees the blood on the Jews houses, he skips over them.

He will not plague the Jews or destroy them. This plague was only for the Egyptians. It is because of what G-d did, Jews should remember on this day. It is on this day for generations to come that Jews should celebrate their liberation from Egypt. Back in those days if any Jew ate bread, G-d made sure they were no longer part of the tribe of Israel. G-d told the Jews that the first and seventh day of Passover was crucial and no one should do any work. Finally, the night of the ninth plague came.

Pharaoh woke up in the middle of the night with an outcry. Every house in Egypt had the same issue as him, where the first born was dead. With everyone suffering from losing a loved one and now himself as well, he looked at Moses and told him to leave. The love G-d has for the Jewish people is hidden, until they do something with a physical act. Then it is revealed. Jews are known to do two things that can be described as a physical act.

When a baby boy is born, we wait till the 8th day to have a bris. We do this before the child is able to understand what is happening to him. The Jews showed great faith in G-d when Moses told them to go through with a bris, they did it immediately. The second thing they did was the Passover offering including the lamb or goat.

This animal was considered an Egyptian deity and the Jews had to take it into their homes four days early. They wanted the Egyptians to see the Jews having it and ask questions. G-d wanted the Jews to express how they planned to kill it and then sacrifice it to Him. The Jews taking these deity's and sacrificing to G-d showed how they truly believed in Him.