

Free at Last!

Genesis 15:14; Exodus 12:1-41; Psalm 105:36-38; Hebrews 11:28

"What are you doing with that blood, Daddy?" the little boy asks.

"I am putting the blood from the lamb on the doorposts," his father explains. "Tonight, an angel of destruction is coming. The oldest child in every house will die."

The little boy looks frightened. *He* is the oldest child in his house!

"But when the angel sees the blood of the lamb on our doorway," his father says, "the angel will pass over. He will not come into our house."

The little boy looks down the path between the houses. Every doorway on his street has dark stains of blood on it. That is good! The angel will not come into all those houses. The children of Israel will be safe behind the blood.

Inside the houses, the mothers are busy roasting the lamb. That is what they must all eat for supper. And they must eat standing up, with their shoes on, and with their walking sticks in their hands. They must be ready, for tonight they will leave Egypt. Yes, tonight! Moses has told them.

Night falls, and it becomes dark. The hours go by, and then, at midnight, a great cry comes from every house of the people of Egypt. The angel of destruction has come, and the oldest child in every house has died. How sad the people of Egypt are, and



how afraid! So many punishments have already come from the Lord. What might the Lord do next?

Look! Over there! Some servants are hurrying from the palace of Pharaoh. Where are they going on this dark night?

They have a message for Moses. "Get up! Leave my country! You and your children and your animals."

At last Pharaoh has changed his mind! He says the people of Israel may go!

Everywhere, you can hear the people of Egypt saying the same thing. "Go! Leave our country," they tell the slaves. "Hurry!"

The people of Israel are ready. They have their coats and shoes on; their walking sticks are in their hands. It will be a long walk to the new country of Canaan. Quickly they wrap up their bread, and they knock on the doors of their Egyptian neighbours. They would like clothing to take with, silver, and gold: payment for all their years of work.

The people of Egypt give them anything they want. "Here! Take it! Now hurry out of our country!"

And so the people of Israel begin the long journey: hundreds and thousands of men, women, and children. They are all strong and healthy. Not one of them is sick or weak. Flocks of sheep and herds of cattle also go along. Even some people from Egypt go with; these people have seen the power of the true God and would like to join the people of Israel.

1. What was the boy's father putting on the doorposts of his house? What animal did this blood come from?

2. What happened in the houses where there was no blood to hide behind?

3. Pharaoh didn't put blood on his palace doorway and his son died. Now would he let the people of Israel go?

4. A little lamb had to die so the blood could go on the doorway and keep the children safe. John talks about another Lamb that will die to keep people safe. Read John 1:29. Who is this other Lamb? Where will Jesus die? On the _____.