



Sorry it has been a while since I wrote Part 1 of 'The Plagues', but events have progressed so rapidly that I am afraid I have not had either the time or the opportunity to put quill to papyrus.

God had sent nine awful plagues on the Egyptians but even though the Pharaoh had said each time that he would allow us to go into the wilderness and make sacrifices to our God, once the plagues had stopped he then changed his mind. I can understand it from the Pharaoh's point of view because it was pretty obvious that once he released us then it was quite unlikely that we would return. He would lose all of his slave workforce of several hundred men all on the same day.

After the nine plagues, the Lord told Moses that He was going to send a tenth and final plague and then the Pharaoh would not only release us but ask us all to go, taking our animals with us. The plague was that on a specific day about midnight, all of the first-born in the land of Egypt would die. This was going to apply to every household and would also include animals as well as people.

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Moses had given us special instructions as to what we were to do on that day. Each family was to take a lamb or kid and when the animal was killed we were to sprinkle some of its blood on the doorposts and lintel of our houses. We were to make some bread, but without the leaven so that we would not have to wait for the dough to rise, but were to eat some of it along with the roasted animal. Before we had the meal we were to get ready to leave, making sure that we were wearing our sandals and had our staffs ready. Everything was to be done in a hurry so that we would be able to leave immediately when the time came. The plague would only apply to the Egyptians. The blood on the doorposts would show that the house was occupied by Israelites so the occupants would not be affected by the plague.



Everything happened exactly as Moses had previously told us. That same night we were suddenly told to leave and had not even had chance to prepare any food to take with us, apart from the unleavened bread. What a sight that was to see! Including the women and children there were about a million of us, stretching out for several miles. It is a shame that we have not yet found a

way of taking a picture of events such as this as it would have been really good to have shown future generations pictures of so epic an event. We had few possessions but took with us what we were able to carry. It was difficult to travel at a very fast pace because of the young children and the elderly.

## AT LAST WE ARE ON OUR WAY!

After the Pharaoh had refused to let us go so many times I suppose I was not the only one who had been rather sceptical when Moses had announced to us that we would actually be leaving. After spending all of my life as a slave it was a strange feeling to be a free man. I must have made hundreds of bricks for the Egyptian buildings over the years and now – **NOT ONE MORE BRICK!** Our families have been in Egypt for four hundred and thirty years. None of us here today had ever been free men and women; the only lives we have known have been to be under the authority of the Pharaoh and his task-masters, who were appointed to ensure that we worked hard all of the time.

God is obviously determined that we should go to the Promised Land as He had predicted to Abraham all those years ago. I expect that it will only take us about three or four weeks before we arrive.



God has asked us to celebrate 'The Passover' each year throughout our generations as we remember when the Lord passed over our houses on



that fateful night. We are also asked to celebrate the 'Feast of the Unleavened Bread.' During the time of the feast we are not to eat any bread that contains leaven as we remember the day when the Lord brought us out of Egypt.

### Doodle Thoughts

One thing that we can see from reading about this exodus from Egypt is that God has His plans for our lives. Sometimes those plans seem to be a very long time before being fulfilled, but God will have His way; His delays are for a purpose. We may not always agree with the way God does things or with His timing, but He is the One in charge who sees the overall picture and has a reason for everything that He allows or plans.

*'I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me. When you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, says the Lord.'*