

grandchildren. And the sons of Manasseh's son Machir were held on Joseph's knees. ²⁴ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will take care of you. He will bring you from this land to the land that He promised to Abraham, to Isaac

and to Jacob." ²⁵ Then Joseph made the sons of Israel promise. He said, "God will take care of you. And you will carry my bones from here." ²⁶ So Joseph died after living 110 years. They made his body ready, and he was put in a grave in Egypt.

EXODUS

Children of Israel Suffer in Egypt

1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob. Each one came with those of his house: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, ³ Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, ⁴ Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. ⁵ There were seventy people in Jacob's family. But Joseph was already in Egypt. ⁶ Joseph and all his brothers died and all their families of that time. ⁷ But the sons of Israel had many children, and the people became many in number. There were so many that the land was filled with them.

⁸ Then a new king came into power over Egypt. He did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, "See, the people of Israel are too many and too powerful for us. ¹⁰ Come, let us be wise in how we act towards them, or they will become more in number. If there is a war, they might join with those who hate us. They might fight against us and then leave the land."

¹¹ So they put men in power over them to make them work hard. And they built the store-cities Pithom and Raamses for Pharaoh the king. ¹² But the more the Egyptians made them suffer, the more they became until they spread throughout the land. So the Egyptians were afraid of the people of Israel. ¹³ The Egyptians made the people of Israel work very hard. ¹⁴ They made their lives bitter with hard work building with stones and with all kinds of work in the field. They made them work very hard.

¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew nurses. The name of one was Shiphrah. The name of the other was Puah. ¹⁶ He said, "When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth, and see the baby before the mother does, if it is a son, kill him. But if it is a daughter, let her live." ¹⁷ But the nurses feared God. They did not do what the king of Egypt told them. They let the boys live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called the nurses and said to them, "Why have you done this, and let

the boys live?" ¹⁹ The nurses answered Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women. They are strong. They give birth before the nurse comes to them." ²⁰ So God was good to the nurses. And the people became many and strong. ²¹ Because the nurses feared God, He gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh told all his people, "Throw every son who is born to the Hebrews into the Nile. But keep every daughter alive."

2 Now a man of the family of Levi married a daughter of Levi. ² She was going to have a baby, and she gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months. ³ But the time came when she could hide him no longer. So she took a basket made from grass, and covered it with tar and put the child in it. And she set it in the grass by the side of the Nile. ⁴ His sister stayed to watch and find out what would happen to him.

⁵ Then the daughter of Pharaoh came to wash herself in the Nile. Her young women walked beside the Nile. She saw the basket in the tall grass and sent the woman who served her to get it. ⁶ She opened it and saw the child. The boy was crying. She had pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Should I go and call a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me. And I will pay you." So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰ The child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter. And he became her son. She gave him the name Moses, saying, "Because I took him out of the water."

¹¹ One day after Moses had grown up, he went out to his brothers and saw how hard they worked. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people, ¹² so he looked this way and that way. He did

not see anyone, so he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.¹³ The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He said to the man who did the wrong, “Why are you hitting your neighbor?”¹⁴ But the man said, “Who made you a ruler and a judge among us? Do you plan to kill me like you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid. He thought, “For sure the thing I have done is known.”

¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard what had happened, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses ran away from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. He sat down there by a well.¹⁶ Now the religious leader of Midian had seven daughters. They came to get water, and filled the barrels used to water their father’s flock.¹⁷ The shepherds came and tried to make them go away. But Moses stood up and helped them. He gave water to their flock.¹⁸ When they came to their father Reuel, he said, “Why have you returned so soon today?”¹⁹ They answered, “An Egyptian saved us from the shepherds. He even got the water for us and gave water to the flock.”²⁰ He said to his daughters, “Where is he? Why have you left the man? Ask him to have something to eat with us.”²¹ Moses was willing to stay with the man, and he gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses.²² She gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Gershom. For he said, “I have been a stranger in a strange land.”

²³ Now after a long time, the king of Egypt died. The people of Israel were sad in their spirit because of being servants. They cried for help. And because of their hard work their cry went up to God.²⁴ God heard their crying and remembered His agreement with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.²⁵ God saw the people of Israel and He cared about them.

Moses and the Burning Bush

3 Now Moses was taking care of the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the religious leader of Midian. He led the flock to the west side of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.² There the Angel of the Lord showed Himself to Moses in a burning fire from inside a bush. Moses looked and saw that the bush was burning with fire, but it was not being burned up.³ So Moses said, “I must step aside and see this great thing, why the bush is not being burned up.”

⁴ The Lord saw him step aside to look. And God called to him from inside the

bush, saying, “Moses, Moses!” Moses answered, “Here I am.”⁵ God said, “Do not come near. Take your shoes off your feet. For the place where you are standing is holy ground.”⁶ He said also, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Then Moses hid his face. For he was afraid to look at God.⁷ The Lord said, “I have seen the suffering of My people in Egypt. I have heard their cry because of the men who make them work. I know how they suffer.⁸ So I have come down to save them from the power of the Egyptians. I will bring them out of that land to a good big land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite.⁹ Now the cry of the people of Israel has come to Me. I have seen what power the Egyptians use to make it hard for them.¹⁰ Now come, and I will send you to Pharaoh so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.”

¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I to go to Pharaoh and bring the people of Israel out of Egypt?”¹² God said, “But I will be with you. And this will be something special for you to see to know that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this mountain.”

¹³ Then Moses said to God, “See, I am going to the people of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they might say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What should I say to them?”¹⁴ And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”¹⁵ Again He said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever. By this name I am to be remembered by all people for all time.¹⁶ Go and gather together the leaders of Israel. Say to them, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has shown Himself to me. And He said, ‘I have visited you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt.¹⁷ I promise to bring you out of the suffering of Egypt to the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, to a land flowing with milk and honey.’”¹⁸ They will listen to what you say. Then you and the leaders of Israel will go to the king of Egypt

and say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So now we ask you to let us travel three days to the desert to give gifts on an altar in worship to the Lord our God.’¹⁹ But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go, except by a powerful hand.²⁰ So I will put out My hand and trouble Egypt with all the powerful works I will do there. After that he will let you go.²¹ And I will give these people favor in the eyes of the Egyptians. When you go, you will not go empty handed.²² But each woman will get from her neighbor and the woman who lives in her house, things made of silver and gold, and clothes that you will put on your sons and daughters. You will take the best of things from the Egyptians.”

Moses Is Given Special Power

4 Then Moses answered, “What if they will not believe me or listen to me? They might say, ‘The Lord has not shown Himself to you.’”² The Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” Moses said, “A stick.”³ Then the Lord said, “Throw it on the ground.” So Moses threw it on the ground, and it became a snake. And Moses ran from it.⁴ But the Lord said to Moses, “Put out your hand and take it by its tail.” So Moses put out his hand and caught it. And it became a stick in his hand.⁵ The Lord said, “By seeing this they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has shown Himself to you.”

⁶ The Lord said to him, “Put your hand inside your coat.” So Moses put his hand inside his coat. When he took it out, his hand had a bad skin disease and was white as snow.⁷ Then God said, “Put your hand inside your coat again.” So Moses put his hand inside his coat again. When he took it out of his coat, he saw that it had become like his other flesh.⁸ God said, “If they will not listen to you or believe you when they are shown the first thing, they may believe when this is shown to them.”⁹ But they might not believe even these two things or listen to what you say. So then take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. And the water you take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

¹⁰ Moses said to the Lord, “Lord, I am not a man of words. I have never been. Even now since You spoke to Your servant, I still am not. For I am slow in talking and it is difficult for me to speak.”¹¹ Then

the Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes a man not able to speak or hear? Who makes one blind or able to see? Is it not I, the Lord?”¹² So go now. And I will be with your mouth. I will teach you what to say.”

¹³ But Moses said, “O Lord, I ask of You, send some other person.”

¹⁴ Then the anger of the Lord burned against Moses. He said, “Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know he can speak well. Also, he is coming to meet you. And when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.¹⁵ You must speak to him and put the words in his mouth. I will be with your mouth and his mouth. I will teach you what you are to do.¹⁶ He will speak to the people for you. He will be a mouth for you. And you will be as God to him.¹⁷ You will take this special stick in your hand. And you will use it to make the special things happen for the people to see.”

Moses Returns to Egypt

¹⁸ Then Moses left and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, “I ask of you, let me return to my brothers in Egypt to see if they are still alive.” And Jethro said to Moses, “Go in peace.”¹⁹ The Lord said to Moses in Midian, “Return to Egypt. For all the men who wanted to kill you are dead.”²⁰ So Moses took his wife and sons and put them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. Moses also took the special stick of God in his hand.

²¹ The Lord said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, make sure you show Pharaoh all the works that I have placed in your power. But I will make his heart hard so that he will not let the people go.²² Then say to Pharaoh, ‘The Lord says this: “Israel is My son, My first-born.”²³ And I say to you, ‘Let My son go. Let him work for Me.’ But if you will not let him go, I will kill your son, your first-born.””

²⁴ The Lord met Moses at a resting place on the way and would have put him to death.²⁵ But Zipporah took a knife and cut off her son’s piece of skin and threw it at Moses’ feet. And she said, “For sure you are a husband of blood to me.”²⁶ Then the Lord let him alone. Zipporah said, “You are a husband of blood,” because of the religious act of becoming a Jew.

²⁷ The Lord said to Aaron, “Go to meet Moses in the desert.” So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him.²⁸ Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord with which He had sent him.

And he told him about all the special works that the Lord had told him to do. ²⁹ Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the leaders of the people of Israel. ³⁰ Aaron spoke all the words which the Lord had spoken to Moses. Then he did all the special works for the people to see. ³¹ So the people believed. When they heard that the Lord cared about the people of Israel and had seen their suffering, they bowed to the ground and worshipped.

Moses and Aaron Talk to Pharaoh

5 After this, Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “The Lord, the God of Israel, says this: ‘Let My people go, that they may have a special supper to honor Me in the desert.’” ² But Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey Him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord. And I will not let Israel go.” ³ Then they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. We ask of you, let us travel into the desert three days, to give a gift on an altar in worship to the Lord our God. Or He may send death to us by disease or by the sword.” ⁴ But the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Return to your work!” ⁵ Then Pharaoh said, “See, the people of the land are now many. And you would have them stop working!”

⁶ That same day Pharaoh told the men who made the people work, ⁷ “Do not give the people straw for making clay blocks any more. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. ⁸ But have them make the same number of clay blocks as before, and no less. They are crying, ‘Let us go and give a gift in worship to our God,’ because they are lazy. ⁹ Let more work be given to the men so they will not have time to listen to lies.”

¹⁰ So the men who made the people work went out and said to the people, “This is what Pharaoh says: ‘I will not give you straw. ¹¹ You go and get straw for yourselves where you can find it. But you will not work any less than before.’” ¹² So the people went out through all the land of Egypt to gather what they could use for straw. ¹³ The men who made them work made them hurry, saying, “Finish your full day’s work as you did when there was straw.” ¹⁴ And the Hebrew men who had been made to rule over the people by Pharaoh’s work-leaders were beaten. They were asked, “Why have you not made as

many clay blocks yesterday or today as you made before?”

¹⁵ Then the Hebrew men who made the people work went to Pharaoh and cried, “Why do you act this way toward your servants? ¹⁶ There is no straw given to your servants. Yet they still say to us, ‘Make clay blocks!’ See, your servants are being beaten. But your own people are to blame.” ¹⁷ But Pharaoh said, “You are lazy, very lazy. So you say, ‘Let us go and give a gift on an altar in worship to the Lord.’” ¹⁸ Go now and work. You will be given no straw. Yet you must make the same number of clay blocks.” ¹⁹ The Hebrew men who made the people work knew that they were in trouble because they were told, “You must make the same number of clay blocks each day.” ²⁰ When they came from Pharaoh, they met Moses and Aaron who were waiting for them. ²¹ They said to Moses and Aaron, “May the Lord look upon you and judge you. For you have caused us to be hated by Pharaoh and his servants. You have put a sword in their hand to kill us.”

God’s Promise to Israel

²² Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, “O Lord, why have You hurt these people? Why did you ever send me? ²³ For since I went to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has hurt these people. You have not set Your people free at all.”

6 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh. For he will be made to let them go because of My strong hand. By My strong hand, he will make them go out of his land.”

God Calls Moses

² God said to Moses, “I am the Lord. ³ I showed Myself as God All-powerful to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But I did not make Myself known to them by My name, the Lord. ⁴ I also made My agreement with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land where they were strangers. ⁵ I have heard the crying of the people of Israel, because they are being held by the Egyptians. And I have remembered My agreement. ⁶ So say to the people of Israel, ‘I am the Lord. I will take you away from the hard work and suffering in Egypt. I will take you away from being their servants. I will make you free by the strength of My arm and by the great things I will do to punish the guilty. ⁷ Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God. And

you will know that I am the Lord your God. I will bring you out from under the heavy loads of the Egyptians. ⁸ I will bring you to the land I promised to give to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I will give it to you for your own. I am the Lord.” ⁹ So Moses said this to the people of Israel. But they did not listen to Moses because of their broken spirit and how hard they were made to work.

¹⁰ Then the Lord said to Moses, ¹¹ “Go and tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of his land.” ¹² But Moses said to the Lord, “See, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then will Pharaoh listen to me? I am not able to speak well.” ¹³ But the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron. He told them to tell the people of Israel and Pharaoh king of Egypt that they were to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

The Family of Moses and Aaron

¹⁴ These are the leaders of their fathers’ families. The sons of Reuben, Israel’s first-born: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. These are the families of Reuben. ¹⁵ The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman. These are the families of Simeon. ¹⁶ These are the names of Levi’s sons by their family groups: Gershon, Kohath and Merari. Levi lived 137 years. ¹⁷ The sons of Gershon by their families: Libni and Shimei. ¹⁸ The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. Kohath lived 133 years. ¹⁹ The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. These are the families of the Levites by their family groups. ²⁰ Amram married his father’s sister Jochebed. She gave birth to his sons, Aaron and Moses. Amram lived 137 years. ²¹ The sons of Izhar: Korah, Nepheg and Zichri. ²² The sons of Uzziel: Mishael, Elzaphan and Sithri.

²³ Aaron married Elisheba, the daughter of Amminadab, the sister of Nahshon. She gave birth to his sons, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ²⁴ The sons of Korah: Assir, Elkanah and Abiasaph. These are the families of the Korahites. ²⁵ Aaron’s son Eleazar married one of the daughters of Putiel. She gave birth to his son Phinehas. These are the heads of the fathers’ houses of the Levites by their families.

²⁶ It was the same Aaron and Moses to whom the Lord said, “Bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their family groups.” ²⁷ They were the ones

who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt about bringing the people of Israel out of Egypt. It was the same Moses and Aaron.

²⁸ On the day when the Lord spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt, ²⁹ the Lord said to Moses, “I am the Lord. Tell Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you.” ³⁰ But Moses said to the Lord, “See, I am not able to speak well. How then will Pharaoh listen to me?”

Aaron Speaks for Moses

7 The Lord said to Moses, “See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh. Your brother Aaron will be the one who speaks for you. ² You will speak all that I tell you. Your brother Aaron will tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel leave his land. ³ But I will make Pharaoh’s heart hard. So I will do many powerful works for the people to see in the land of Egypt. ⁴ Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay My hand on Egypt. By great acts that will punish the Egyptians, I will bring out My family groups, My people, the sons of Israel, from the land of Egypt. ⁵ The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I put My hand upon Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them.” ⁶ So Moses and Aaron did what the Lord told them to do. ⁷ Moses was eighty years old and Aaron was eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh.

Aaron’s Special Walking Stick

⁸ The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ⁹ “When Pharaoh says to you, ‘Prove yourselves by doing a powerful work,’ then you say to Aaron, ‘Take your special stick and throw it down in front of Pharaoh so that it will become a snake.’” ¹⁰ So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh. They did just as the Lord had told them. Aaron threw his stick down in front of Pharaoh and his servants and it became a snake. ¹¹ Then Pharaoh called for his wise men and wonder-workers. They did the same thing using their secret ways. ¹² For each one threw down his stick and it became a snake. But Aaron’s special stick ate their sticks. ¹³ Yet Pharaoh’s heart was hard. He did not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.

Water Becomes Blood

¹⁴ The Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is not changed. He will not let the people go. ¹⁵ Go to Pharaoh in the morning when he is going out to the water. Wait for him beside the Nile River. Take in your

hand the special stick that became a snake. ¹⁶ And say to him, “The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, “Let My people go, so they may worship Me in the desert. But see, you have not yet listened.” ¹⁷ So the Lord says, “By this you will know that I am the Lord. I will hit the water of the Nile with the special stick that is in my hand. And the water will be changed to blood. ¹⁸ The fish that are in the Nile will die. And the Nile will have a bad smell. The Egyptians will not be able to drink water from the Nile.” ’ ’ ¹⁹ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, “Take your special stick and put your hand out over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, their pools, and all their man-made lakes of water, so they will become blood. There will be blood through all the land of Egypt, even in pots of wood and pots of stone.’ ”

²⁰ Moses and Aaron did what the Lord had told them. Aaron raised the special stick and hit the water of the Nile in front of Pharaoh and his servants. And all the water in the Nile was turned into blood. ²¹ The fish that were in the Nile died. And the Nile had a bad smell. So the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. The blood was through all the land of Egypt. ²² But the wonder-workers of Egypt did the same thing using their secret ways. And Pharaoh’s heart was hard. He did not listen to them, just as the Lord had said. ²³ Then Pharaoh turned and went into his house, without even thinking what had happened. ²⁴ And all the Egyptians dug around the Nile for water to drink. For they could not drink the water of the Nile. ²⁵ Seven days passed after the Lord had hit the Nile.

Frogs Cover the Land

8 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, “The Lord says this: “Let My people go, so they may worship Me. ² But if you will not let them go, I will bring trouble to your whole country with frogs. ³ The Nile will be full of frogs. They will come up and go in your house and in your room and on your bed. They will come in the houses of your servants and on your people. They will come in your stoves and in your bread dough. ⁴ The frogs will come up on you and your people and all your servants.” ’ ’ ⁵ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Put out your hand with your special stick over the rivers and over the pools. Make frogs

come up on the land of Egypt.’ ” ⁶ So Aaron put his hand out over the waters of Egypt. And the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. ⁷ But the wonder-workers did the same thing using their secret ways. They made frogs come up on the land of Egypt.

Frogs Destroyed

⁸ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “You pray to the Lord to take the frogs away from me and my people. And I will let the people go, so they may give a gift in worship to the Lord.” ⁹ Moses said to Pharaoh, “The honor is yours to tell me when I should pray for you and your servants and your people, that the frogs may be sent away from you and your houses and stay only in the Nile.”

¹⁰ Pharaoh said, “Tomorrow.” And Moses said, “May it be as you say. You will know that there is no one like the Lord our God. ¹¹ The frogs will go away from you and your houses and your servants and your people. They will stay only in the Nile.” ¹² Then Moses and Aaron went away from Pharaoh. And Moses cried to the Lord about the frogs that He had brought against Pharaoh. ¹³ The Lord did as Moses said. The frogs died in and around the houses and the fields. ¹⁴ The people gathered them together, and the land had a bad smell. ¹⁵ But when Pharaoh saw that there was rest from the trouble, he made his heart hard. He did not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.

Dust Turned to Lice

¹⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Put out your special stick and hit the dust of the earth. It will become lice through all the land of Egypt.’ ” ¹⁷ And they did so. Aaron put out his hand with his stick and hit the dust of the earth. And there were lice on man and animal. All the dust of the earth became lice through all the land of Egypt. ¹⁸ The wonder-workers tried to cause lice to come by using their secret ways. But they could not. So there were lice on man and animal. ¹⁹ Then the wonder-workers said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hard. He did not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.

Flies Cover All the Land

²⁰ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Get up early in the morning and wait for Pharaoh as he goes out to the water. Say to

him, “The Lord says this: “Let My people go, so they may worship Me. ²¹ For if you will not let My people go, I will send many flies upon you and upon your servants and upon your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies, and also the ground will be covered with them. ²² But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen where My people are living so no flies will be there. Then you may know that I, the Lord, am in the land. ²³ I will divide My people from your people. Tomorrow you will see this happen.” ’ ” ²⁴ And the Lord did so. And there came a great many flies flying all over inside the house of the Pharaoh and in the houses of his servants. The land was destroyed because of the many flies in all the land of Egypt.

²⁵ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Go and give a gift in worship to your God here in the land.” ²⁶ But Moses said, “It is not right to do this. For the Egyptians hate what we would give in worship to the Lord our God. If the Egyptians see us giving this gift and doing what they think is sinful, will they not throw stones at us? ²⁷ We must travel three days to the desert and give a gift in worship to the Lord our God, as He tells us to do.”

²⁸ So Pharaoh said, “I will let you go, so you may give a gift to the Lord your God. But do not go very far away. Pray for me.”

²⁹ Then Moses said, “I am leaving you. I will pray to the Lord that the many flies may leave Pharaoh and his servants and his people tomorrow. But do not let Pharaoh lie again by not letting the people go to give a gift on an altar to the Lord.”

The Flies Are Destroyed

³⁰ So Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the Lord. ³¹ And the Lord did as Moses asked. He took the many flies away from Pharaoh and his servants and his people. Not one was left. ³² But Pharaoh made his heart hard this time also. He did not let the people go.

Animals Owned by Egyptians Die

9 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says this: “Let My people go, so they may worship Me. ² For if you will not let them go, and still hold them, ³ the hand of the Lord will come with a very bad disease on your animals in the field: on the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the cattle and the flocks. ⁴ But the

Lord will divide the animals of Israel from the animals of Egypt. So nothing will die of all that belongs to the people of Israel!’ ”

⁵ The Lord made a time for this, saying, “Tomorrow the Lord will do this in the land.” ⁶ So the Lord did this on the next day. All the animals of Egypt died. But not one of the animals died that belonged to the people of Israel. ⁷ Pharaoh learned that not one of the animals of Israel was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hard. He did not let the people go.

Bad Sores Come on Egyptians and Their Animals

⁸ Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Fill your hands with ashes from a stove. Let Moses throw them toward the sky in front of Pharaoh. ⁹ And it will become fine dust over all the land of Egypt and will become bad sores on man and animal through all the land of Egypt.” ¹⁰ So they took ashes from a stove. Moses stood in front of Pharaoh and threw the ashes toward the sky. And it became sores on man and animal. ¹¹ The wonder-workers could not stand in front of Moses because of the sores. For the sores were on the wonder-workers and on all the Egyptians. ¹² But the Lord made the heart of Pharaoh hard. He did not listen to them, just as the Lord had said to Moses.

Large Hail and Fire

¹³ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Get up early in the morning and stand in front of Pharaoh and say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says this: “Let My people go, so they may worship Me. ¹⁴ For this time I will send all My troubles on you and your servants and your people. So you may know that there is no one like Me in all the earth. ¹⁵ For by now I could have put out My hand and hit you and your people with much trouble and great suffering. You would then have been destroyed from the earth. ¹⁶ But I have let you live so you could see My power and so My name may be honored through all the earth. ¹⁷ But you still use your power against My people by not letting them go. ¹⁸ About this time tomorrow I will send a very heavy hail such as has never been seen in Egypt from the day it began until now. ¹⁹ Have your cattle and whatever you have in the field brought to a safe place. For the hail will come down upon every man and animal that is in the field and is not brought home. And they will die.’ ”

²⁰ Any of the people of Egypt who feared the word of the Lord made his servants and animals run to the houses. ²¹ But he who did not listen to the word of the Lord left his servants and animals in the field.

²² The Lord said to Moses, "Put out your hand toward the sky and hail will fall on all the land of Egypt. Hail will fall on man and animal and every plant of the field through all the land of Egypt." ²³ Moses put out his special stick toward the sky. Then the Lord sent thunder and hail. And lightning struck the ground. The Lord poured hail on the land of Egypt. ²⁴ So there was hail and lightning striking through the hail without stopping. It was very bad, worse than had ever been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. ²⁵ The hail hit all that was in the field through all the land of Egypt, both man and animal. The hail hit every plant of the field and broke down every tree of the field. ²⁶ Only in the land of Goshen where the people of Israel were, there was no hail.

²⁷ Then Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron. He said to them, "I have sinned this time. The Lord is right. I and my people are guilty. ²⁸ Pray to the Lord. For there has been enough of God's thunder and hail. And I will let you go. You will stay here no longer." ²⁹ Moses said to him, "When I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the Lord. The thunder will stop. There will be no more hail. Then you may know that the earth is the Lord's. ³⁰ But I know that you and your servants do not yet fear the Lord." ³¹ The flax and the barley were destroyed. For these plants had just begun to grow. ³² But the other grains were not destroyed, because they grow later.

³³ So Moses left the city and Pharaoh. He spread out his hands to the Lord. And the thunder and the hail stopped. The rain no longer poured on the earth. ³⁴ But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder had stopped, he sinned again. He and his servants made their hearts hard. ³⁵ Pharaoh's heart was not changed. He did not let the people of Israel go, just as the Lord had said by Moses.

Locusts Come

10 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh. For I have made his heart and the heart of his servants hard, so that I may do My powerful works among them. ² You may tell your son and your grandson how I made it very hard for the Egyptians

and how I did My powerful works among them. So you may know that I am the Lord." ³ Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh. They said to him, "The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says this: 'How long will you hold your pride before Me? Let My people go, so they may worship Me. ⁴ If you will not let My people go, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country. ⁵ They will cover the land, so no one will be able to see the ground. They will eat what is left for you after the hail. They will eat every tree of yours that grows in the field. ⁶ They will fill your houses, and the houses of your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians. Your fathers and your grandfathers have never seen such a thing from the day they were born until this day.'" Then Moses turned and left Pharaoh.

⁷ Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long will this man bring trouble to us? Let the men go, so they may worship the Lord their God. Do you not yet understand that Egypt is destroyed?" ⁸ So Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh. He said to them, "Go and worship the Lord your God. But who will be going?" ⁹ Moses said, "We will go with our young and our old, our sons and our daughters, and our flocks and cattle. For we must make a special supper to the Lord." ¹⁰ Then Pharaoh said to them, "Let the Lord be with you if I ever let you go with your little ones! See, you have something bad in mind. ¹¹ No! You men go and worship the Lord. For that is what you want." And Moses and Aaron were sent away from Pharaoh.

¹² Then the Lord said to Moses, "Put out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts to come upon the land of Egypt. They will eat every plant of the land, all that the hail has left." ¹³ So Moses put out his special stick over the land of Egypt. And the Lord sent an east wind on the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. ¹⁴ The locusts came over all the land of Egypt and they stayed on the whole country of Egypt. There were very many. There had never been so many locusts. And there would never be so many again. ¹⁵ For they covered the whole land and made it dark. They ate every plant of the land, and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Nothing green was left on any tree or plant of the field through all the land of Egypt.

¹⁶ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in a hurry. He said, "I have sinned

against the Lord your God and against you.¹⁷ So now forgive my sin only this once. Pray to the Lord your God to take this death away from me.”¹⁸ So Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the Lord.¹⁹ And the Lord changed the wind to a very strong west wind. It lifted the locusts and sent them into the Red Sea. Not one locust was left in all the country of Egypt.²⁰ But the Lord made Pharaoh’s heart hard. He did not let the people of Israel go.

Darkness Covers the Land

21 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Put out your hand toward the sky. And there will be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness people will feel.”²² So Moses put out his hand toward the sky. And there was darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days.²³ The Egyptians did not see each other. No one got up from his place for three days. But all the people of Israel had light in their homes.²⁴ Then Pharaoh called to Moses, and said, “Go and worship the Lord. Your children may go with you also. Only let your flocks and your cattle stay.”²⁵ But Moses said, “You must let us have gifts to give in worship and gifts for burning, so we may give them to the Lord our God.²⁶ So our animals will go with us also. Not a foot of an animal will be left behind. For we will take some of them to use as we worship the Lord our God. And until we are there, we do not know which ones we will use in worshiping the Lord.”²⁷ But the Lord made Pharaoh’s heart hard. He was not willing to let them go.²⁸ Pharaoh said to Moses, “Go away from me! Make sure that you do not see my face again! For the day you see my face again, you will die!”²⁹ Moses said, “You are right. I will never see your face again.”

The First-Born Die

11 The Lord said to Moses, “I will bring trouble upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt one more time. After that he will let you go. He will not only let you go, but he will make you leave.² Tell the people that each man should ask his neighbor and each woman ask her neighbor for things made of silver and gold.”³ Then the Lord gave the people favor in the eyes of the Egyptians. And the man Moses was respected in the land of Egypt, in the eyes of Pharaoh’s servants and the people.

⁴ Moses said, “The Lord says this: ‘About midnight I will go through Egypt.⁵ And

all the first-born in the land of Egypt will die, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sits on his throne to the first-born of the servant-girl grinding the grain, and even the first-born of the cattle.⁶ There will be loud crying in all the land of Egypt, more than has ever been heard before or will ever be heard again.⁷ Not even a dog will make a sound against those of Israel, man or animal, so you may know that the Lord divides Egypt from Israel.’⁸ All these who are your servants will come to me and bow in front of me. They will say, ‘Go away, you and all the people who follow you.’ After that I will go.” And he went away from Pharaoh very angry.⁹ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you. So I will do more powerful works in the land of Egypt.”¹⁰ Moses and Aaron did all these great works in front of Pharaoh. But the Lord made Pharaoh’s heart hard. He did not let the people of Israel leave his land.

The Passover

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,² “This month will be the beginning of months. It will be the first month of the year to you.³ Speak to the people of Israel when they are gathered together. Tell them that on the tenth day of this month, every man must take a lamb for those of his father’s house, a lamb for each house.⁴ If those in the house are too few to eat a lamb, let him and his nearest neighbor take the right amount for the number of people. Divide the lamb by how much each can eat.⁵ Your lamb must be perfect, a male lamb one year old. You may take it from the sheep or the goats.⁶ Keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then all the people of Israel are to kill it in the evening.⁷ Then they must take some of the blood and put it on the wood pieces at the sides and top of the door of each house where they will eat it.⁸ They must eat the meat that same night, made ready over a fire. They will eat it with bread made without yeast and with bitter plants.⁹ Do not eat any of it if it is not cooked or if it is made ready by boiling. But cook it over a fire, its head, legs and inside parts.¹⁰ Do not save any of it until morning. Burn with fire whatever is left of it before morning.

¹¹ “Eat it with your shoes on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. And you must eat it in a hurry. It is the time the Lord will pass over.¹² For I will go through

the land of Egypt on that night. And I will kill all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and animal. I will punish all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. ¹³ But the blood will mark for you the houses where you live. When I see the blood I will pass over you. And no trouble will come upon you to destroy you when I punish the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This day will be for you to remember. You must remember it by having a special supper in honor to the Lord. All of you must keep it as a law forever. ¹⁵ Seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. On the first day you must get all the yeast out of your houses. Whoever eats anything with yeast from the first day until the seventh day will be taken away from Israel. ¹⁶ On the first day you must have a holy meeting of the people, and another holy meeting on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to get ready what every person must eat. You may do only that. ¹⁷ You must have the special supper of bread without yeast. For on this same day I brought your family groups out of the land of Egypt. So all of you must remember this day as a law forever.

¹⁸ “In the first month, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day, you must eat bread made without yeast. ¹⁹ There must be no yeast found in your houses for seven days. For whoever eats anything with yeast, that person, stranger or born in the land, will be cut off from the people of Israel. ²⁰ Do not eat anything with yeast. You must eat bread made without yeast in all your homes.”

²¹ Then Moses called for all the leaders of Israel. He said to them, “Go and choose lambs for your families, and kill the Pass-over lamb. ²² Take a small branch and put it in the blood in the pot. Spread some of the blood on the wood pieces on the top and sides of the door. Then none of you go outside the door of his house until morning. ²³ For the Lord will pass through to kill the Egyptians. But when He sees the blood around your door, the Lord will pass over the door. He will not let the one who destroys come into your houses to kill you. ²⁴ You must remember this as a law for you and your children forever. ²⁵ You must remember this special time when you go to the land that the Lord has promised to give you. ²⁶ When your children ask you, ‘What does this special time mean to you?’ ²⁷ you will say, ‘It is a Passover gift to the

Lord. Because He passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt. He killed the Egyptians but saved our homes.’” And the people bowed to the ground and worshiped. ²⁸ Then the people of Israel went and did what the Lord had told Moses and Aaron.

Death of the First-Born

²⁹ At midnight the Lord killed all the first-born in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sat on the throne to the first-born of the one who was held in prison, and all the first-born of the cattle. ³⁰ Pharaoh got up in the night, he and his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a loud cry in Egypt. For there was no home where there was not someone dead.

Children of Israel Leave Egypt

³¹ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron at night. He said, “Get up and go away from my people, both you and the people of Israel. Go and worship the Lord, as you have said. ³² Take your flocks and your cattle, as you have said, and go. And pray that good will come to me also.”

³³ The Egyptians were trying to make the people hurry out of the land. For they said, “We will all be dead.” ³⁴ So the people took their dough before yeast had been added. They tied their dough pots in their clothes on their shoulders. ³⁵ The people of Israel had done what Moses had said. They had asked the Egyptians for things made of silver and gold and for clothes. ³⁶ And the Lord had given the people favor in the eyes of the Egyptians. So the Egyptians let them have whatever they asked for. And they took the best things of Egypt.

³⁷ The people of Israel traveled from Rameses to Succoth. There were about 600,000 men on foot, and also the women and children. ³⁸ And a mixed group of people went with them, and very many flocks and cattle. ³⁹ They made the dough they had brought out of Egypt into loaves of bread without yeast. Yeast was not added to the dough because they had been sent out of Egypt and could not wait. They could not make ready any food for themselves.

⁴⁰ The people of Israel had lived in Egypt 430 years. ⁴¹ At the end of 430 years, on that same day, all of the Lord’s people left Egypt. ⁴² It was a night to be remembered for the Lord for having brought them out of the land of Egypt. This night is for the



**Brave Boys
are
Adventurous!**

Brave Boys are ADVENTUROUS

Open your Bible and you will find tons of adventure stories. Noah took a wild ride on an ark with two of every kind of animal. Moses took a long journey to Egypt to have a conversation with the pharaoh. David traveled far from home to battle a person everyone else was too afraid to fight—the giant Goliath.

Just like each of these guys, you are special to God. He has big plans for your life.

One part of your lifetime adventure includes telling people about Jesus. God has given you power to go and share the Good News about what Jesus has done for all people. Your adventure starts with taking that first step!

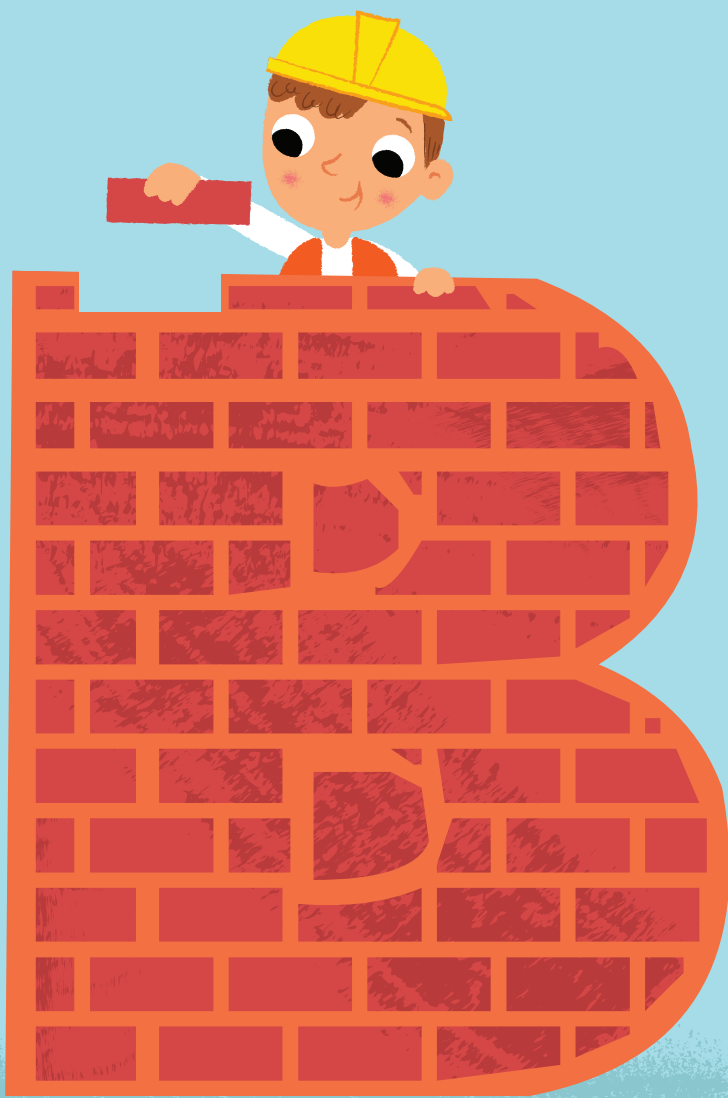


THINK ABOUT IT:

Where do you think God is calling you to go first in your adventure of telling others about Jesus?

*We thank God for the power Christ has given us.
He leads us and makes us win in everything.
He speaks through us wherever we go.*

2 CORINTHIANS 2:14



Brave Boys are
BOLD!

Brave Boys are **BOLD**

Every single day of your life, God will help you to be bold. Being *bold* means that, as you live for God, you are confident and courageous. When God helps you to be brave and bold, you will start to see changes in your life. You won't worry about what other people think, because you'll be focused on who God says you are—His brave boy!

Nehemiah was bold when he helped rebuild a wall around Jerusalem so God's people would be protected. Nehemiah was bold because he knew who he was working for. . . God!

You can be bold, because you are God's brave boy!



THINK ABOUT IT:

When is it a good time for
you to be bold? At school? At home?

[Paul] kept on preaching about the holy nation of God. He taught about the Lord Jesus Christ without fear. No one stopped him.

ACTS 28:31