

12.07b Feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread; Firstborn; Pillar of Cloud and Fire (Exodus 12:36–13:22; Leviticus 23:4–8; Numbers 28:16–25; Deuteronomy 16:1–8)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- “Life of Moses” Series 1 Flash-a-Cards from A Beka Book and/or pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- (optional) *Herein Is Love Commentary Series; Exodus, A Commentary for Children*, by Nancy Ganz, Shepherd Press, 2002. Thoughts gained from this book will be noted by (Ganz).

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *rite*: a religious ceremony
- *to redeem/redemption*: to buy back; to free from bondage, usually because of a price paid
- *to sanctify or consecrate*: to set apart; to make holy—separate from other things or people or from sin
- *exodus*: to go out or to leave; think: *exit*; the book of Exodus tells of Israel’s exit from Egypt

Scripture (NASB)

Exodus 12:37 Now the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, aside from children. 38 A mixed multitude also went up with them, along with flocks and herds, a very large number of livestock. 39 They baked the dough which they had brought out of Egypt into cakes of unleavened bread. For it had not become leavened, since they were driven out of Egypt and could not delay, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

40 Now the time that the sons of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. 41 And at the end of four hundred and thirty years, to the very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

42 It is a night to be observed for the LORD for having brought them out from the land of Egypt; this night is for the LORD, to be observed by all the sons of Israel throughout their generations.

13:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me.”

3 Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you went out from Egypt, from the house of slavery; for by a powerful hand the LORD brought you out from this place. And nothing leavened shall be eaten. 4 On this day in the month of Abib, you are about to go forth. 5 It shall be when the LORD brings you to the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, that you shall observe this rite in this month. 6 For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the LORD. 7 Unleavened bread shall be eaten throughout the seven days; and nothing leavened shall be seen among you, nor shall any leaven be seen among you in all your borders. 8 You shall tell your son on that day, saying, ‘It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’ 9 And it shall serve as a sign to you on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead, that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth; for with a powerful hand the LORD brought you out of Egypt. 10 Therefore, you shall keep this ordinance at its appointed time from year to year.

11 “Now when the LORD brings you to the land of the Canaanite, as He swore to you and to your fathers, and gives it to you, 12 you shall devote to the LORD the first offspring of every womb, and the first offspring of every beast that you own; the males belong to the LORD. 13 But every first offspring of a donkey you shall

redeem with a lamb, but if you do not redeem it, then you shall break its neck; and every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. 14 And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is this?’ then you shall say to him, ‘With a powerful hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. 15 It came about, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore, I sacrifice to the LORD the males, the first offspring of every womb, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem.’ 16 So it shall serve as a sign on your hand and as phylacteries on your forehead, for with a powerful hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt.”

17 Now when Pharaoh had let the people go, God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines, even though it was near; for God said, “The people might change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.” 18 Hence God led the people around by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea; and the sons of Israel went up in martial array from the land of Egypt. 19 Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, “God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones from here with you.” 20 Then they set out from Succoth and camped in Etham on the edge of the wilderness. 21 The LORD was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. 22 He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

Leviticus 23:4 “These are the appointed times of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at the times appointed for them. 5 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is the LORD’s Passover. 6 Then on the fifteenth day of the same month there is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. 7 On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work. 8 But for seven days you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any laborious work.”

Numbers 28:16 ‘Then on the fourteenth day of the first month shall be the LORD’s Passover. 17 On the fifteenth day of this month shall be a feast, unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days. 18 On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work. 19 You shall present an offering by fire, a burnt offering to the LORD: two bulls and one ram and seven male lambs one year old, having them without defect. 20 For their grain offering, you shall offer fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for a bull and two-tenths for the ram. 21 A tenth of an ephah you shall offer for each of the seven lambs; 22 and one male goat for a sin offering to make atonement for you. 23 You shall present these besides the burnt offering of the morning, which is for a continual burnt offering. 24 After this manner you shall present daily, for seven days, the food of the offering by fire, of a soothing aroma to the LORD; it shall be presented with its drink offering in addition to the continual burnt offering. 25 On the seventh day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work.

18:15 Everything that opens the womb of all flesh, whether man or beast, which they offer to the LORD, shall be yours. Nevertheless, the firstborn of man you shall redeem, and the firstborn of unclean animals you shall redeem. 16 And their redemption price (at a month old you shall redeem them) you shall fix at five shekels in silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs. 17 But the firstborn of a cow, or the firstborn of a sheep, or the firstborn of a goat, you shall not redeem; they are holy. You shall sprinkle their blood on the altar and shall burn their fat as a food offering, with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

Deuteronomy 16:1 “Observe the month of Abib and celebrate the Passover to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night. 2 You shall sacrifice the Passover to the LORD your God from the flock and the herd, in the place where the LORD chooses to establish His name. 3 You shall not eat leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat with it unleavened bread, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), so that you may remember all the days of your life the day when you came out of the land of Egypt. 4 For seven days no leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory, and none of the flesh which you sacrifice on the evening of the first day shall remain overnight until morning. 5 You are not allowed to sacrifice the Passover in any of your towns which the LORD your God is giving you; 6 but at the place where the LORD your God chooses to establish His name, you shall sacrifice the Passover in the

evening at sunset, at the time that you came out of Egypt. 7 You shall cook and eat it in the place which the LORD your God chooses. In the morning you are to return to your tents. 8 Six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a solemn assembly to the LORD your God; you shall do no work on it.

Introduction/Review:

On the four hundred thirtieth anniversary of Jacob/Israel's moving to Egypt while Joseph was second ruler under Pharaoh, on the very day, God led His people out of Egypt. He did it with signs and wonders called plagues. How many plagues were there? [Ten.] Name some of the first nine plagues. [Water turned to blood; frogs; lice or gnats; flies; murrain; boils; hail; locusts; darkness.] What was the last, the tenth plague? [The death of the firstborn of every household and of cattle.] God judged all the gods of Egypt with these plagues. [If you wish, briefly review the chart of Egyptian gods found below.]

The last plague was called *Passover*. Why did it have this name? [Because God *passed over* the houses that had blood on the doorposts and lintel and did not strike the firstborn of those houses.] Pharaoh forced the children of Israel out of Egypt after this plague. The people left with riches given to them by the Egyptians, with their animals, and with all they had.

This event—when God passed over the houses of His people—was so significant that a special feast was to be celebrated every year to remember it. What do you suppose the feast was named? [Passover.] We spoke of this feast in our last lesson, but today we will repeat some of the information and add a bit more.

Story:

Passover

God's instructions were clear for future Passovers. Every year "in the month of Abib, the first month, when the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night, you shall sacrifice specific animals at sunset to the LORD your God on the fourteenth day of the month. Do this in one city, not in any of your other towns." (We know that city was Jerusalem, where the Temple would be erected.) God continued, "You shall roast and eat it in the place which the LORD your God chooses. In the morning you are to return to your tents."

That was Passover. Year by year Passover was to remind the children, "It is because of what the LORD did for us when we came out of Egypt, for with a powerful hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt." [Teacher, if you display the "Feast of Passover" page found below, it is suggested that you first draw sandals on the feet of the barefoot man at the right side of the picture.]

Unleavened Bread

In connection with Passover, another feast, lasting seven days, was to be observed. [Show the "Feast of Unleavened Bread" page found below.] It was called the Feast of Unleavened Bread. God's instructions for this feast follow:

"On the fifteenth day of the month Abib, you shall not do ordinary labor—no work. You will have already eaten unleavened bread with the Passover. For the six days after Passover you shall eat unleavened bread, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste) so that you may remember all the days of your life the day when you came out of the land of Egypt. During those six days no leaven shall be seen with you in all your land. On the seventh day you shall meet to worship the LORD your God; you shall do no work on the seventh day."

Firstborn

God established another rite in remembrance of His delivering His people from Egypt. This one had to do with the firstborn—the ones who were spared from death when the Egyptian firstborn were slain—and was about redemption. God said to Moses, "Sanctify—separate from others—give to Me every firstborn male both of man and beast; it belongs to Me."

How could this be done? How were people to give their firstborn sons and firstborn animals to God? [Display the “Consecration of Firstborn” page found below.]

God anticipated this question. He said, “When your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is this—to sanctify?’ then you shall say to him, ‘With a powerful hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. When Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, the LORD killed every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore, I sacrifice to the LORD the firstborn male animals, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

God was not asking His people to slay their firstborn sons; no, He said to redeem them. Remember that *to redeem* means to buy back or to pay a price in exchange for something. [Teacher, you may wish to use the story, “Little Boat Twice Owned,”* here for an example. If so, introduce with the words, “A story, not in the Bible, illustrates redemption.”] The firstborn sons were to be redeemed with a certain amount of money (five silver shekels, which equals about \$37.50 in 2019),** paid to the priest for use in God’s service (Numbers 18:15).

What about animals? God said firstborn clean animals, like sheep, cattle, and goats, were to be sacrificed to the Lord; they belonged to Him. Unclean animals, like donkeys, horses, pigs, dogs, and camels, were to be redeemed by a slain clean animal, or they were themselves slain but not offered as a sacrifice to God.

That will be all we will say about the feasts and rites God commanded at the very beginning of Israel’s exodus from Egypt. Let’s get back to the actual exodus.

Number of people

Remember, the children of Israel numbered about two and one-half million persons. [Show chart found below.] How do we get this number? Exodus 12:37 tells us about six hundred thousand men were in this company. If there was an equal number of women (600,000) and only two children in each family (1,200,000), then the total number is two million four hundred thousand (2,400,000). In addition, the Bible states a “mixed multitude” left too (Exodus 12:38). *Multitude* means very many, perhaps thousands, but the Bible does not give us a number. Two and one-half million people is about the population of Chicago, Illinois, or Houston, Texas (in 2019; <http://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/>).

Can you imagine all the people of these cities walking at one time out of one country into another? How was it possible for this many individuals and “a very large number of livestock” to move without total chaos? The Bible gives us the answer: “The sons of Israel went up in martial array from the land of Egypt” (Exodus 13:17). This means they marched like an army. We haven’t read about their practicing for this march, but somehow they left in an orderly arrangement.

Pillar of cloud and fire

How did they know where to go? Ah! This is wonderful! Listen. “The LORD was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way” (and, maybe, to shade them from the sun [Ganz]), “and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people” Exodus 13:21, 22). God Himself led His people! How did He do it? [A pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.]

Leading where?

Where did God lead them? God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines [on a map show a northeastern trajectory from Goshen], even though it was near. Why not take the shortest route? God said, “The people might change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.” Instead, God led the people around by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea [show this eastern trajectory]. So, they journeyed from Rameses to Succoth [locate on the map]. Then they set out from Succoth and camped in Etham on the edge of the wilderness [locate on the map].

An extra passenger

Now, we are going to have a surprise. Do you know who, besides God, went with the children of Israel? I'll give you a hint: He had said at the end of his life, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. God will surely visit you. When that happens, swear to me that you will carry up my bones from here." Who said that? It was Joseph! His family's descendants remembered the promise their fathers had made to Joseph and kept that promise. Moses took Joseph's coffin containing Joseph's bones with the people out of Egypt.

God had told Abraham that this exodus would happen, and it took place just as God had said.

*This visualized story may be purchased from <http://store.kjv1611.org/little-boat-twice-owned/>. An audio of the story is at <https://www.milestonebooks.com/item/23-307/>, and it is visualized in a YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeuhO7W3Hsw>. A shortened text of the story is found below.

**A silver shekel was a little more than half an ounce. Five shekels would thus equal about two and a half ounces. At \$14.85 per ounce (rounded to \$15), two and one-half ounces (times \$15) equals \$37.50.

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:
As the Passover lamb had to be perfect and the bread unleavened, so Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for the sin of His own.
Jesus is the Bread of Life: Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).
- Believers will act as if they are sanctified—set apart from the world and unto Christ.

Activities:

- Play dough: Clean animals—sheep, goats, cattle; Unclean animals—horses, pigs, donkeys, camels, dogs
- Snack:
Cut-out cookies of the above animals
Or unleavened bread (see Lesson 12.07a for a link to a recipe)
- If not presented during the lesson above, tell the story, "The Little Boat Twice Owned."
- Sing stanzas 1–4 of "Moses Gets out of Egypt," found in Lesson 12.01b or on the Songs page at teachingthebibletochildren.org, where an audio and a visual are available.
- Sing and do the finger play for "The Matzah-Making Song" found below.
- Sing stanzas 1 and 2 of "On Passover" found below.
- Show students different kinds of leaven: yeast; baking powder; baking soda
- Review questions: (Game: Print and back with paper towel the page found below of words and animals. For each correct answer a student places the animal under either the "Clean" or "Unclean" category. Answers: Clean—sheep, goat, cow; Unclean—horse, donkey, camel, dog, pig.)
 1. How many men of Israel left Egypt? [600,000.]
 2. How long had Jacob/Israel's descendants lived in Egypt? [430 years.]
 3. What feast was to be celebrated on the fourteenth evening of the first month? [Passover.]
 4. What seven-day feast began with Passover? [Feast of Unleavened Bread.]
 5. Why did God want the firstborn consecrated to Him? [Because the firstborn had been spared when the Egyptian firstborn were slain.]

6. Which firstborn were redeemed? [Human sons; unclean animals.]
7. How was a clean firstborn animal consecrated to God? [It was sacrificed to God.]
8. Whose bones were carried out of Egypt in a coffin? [Joseph's.]

Memory Verse[s]: (NASB)

- Exodus 12: 22—[God] did not take away the pillar of cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

Handwork:

- Print enough pages of flames found below to give each student two flame images. Cut out roughly around the images and glue one image below the other to simulate a pillar of fire. Provide craft sticks (like Popsicle® sticks) and fiber fill. Students will glue their fire pillar to the top half of the craft stick and with a permanent marker write “Night” on the stick below the fire images. Spreading out the fiber fill on the back of the fire pillar, students will glue it. On that side of the pillar, students will write “Day” on the craft stick. (This photo was found at <http://ourjewishlittleplace.blogspot.com/2013/01/parashah-beshalach-2-pillar-of-cloud.html?spref=pi>.)



rite

redeem/redemption

sanctify/consecrate

exodus

“On all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD” (Exodus 12:12).

The Plague

1. Water to Blood

2. Frogs

3. Lice (or gnats)

4. Flies

5. Murrain

6. Boils

7. Hail with Fire

8. Locusts

9. Darkness

10. Death of Firstborn

The Egyptian God

Khnum: ram god; guardian of the Nile

Hapi: spirit of the Nile

Osiris: bloodstream of the Nile

Heqet: wife of *Khnum*; a woman's body with a frog head; gave the breath of life; Egyptians would not kill frogs

Set: god of the desert (dust)

Uatchit: fly god

Hathor: cow head or headdress with horns

Apis: bull god

Sekhmet: a lion-headed goddess with power over disease

Sunu: the pestilence god

Isis: goddess of healing

Nut: sky goddess

Shu: god of air

Osiris: god of vegetation

Set: storm god

Nut: sky goddess

Osiris: god of vegetation

Re: sun god

Horus: sun god

Nut: sky goddess

Hathor: sky goddess

Thoth: moon god

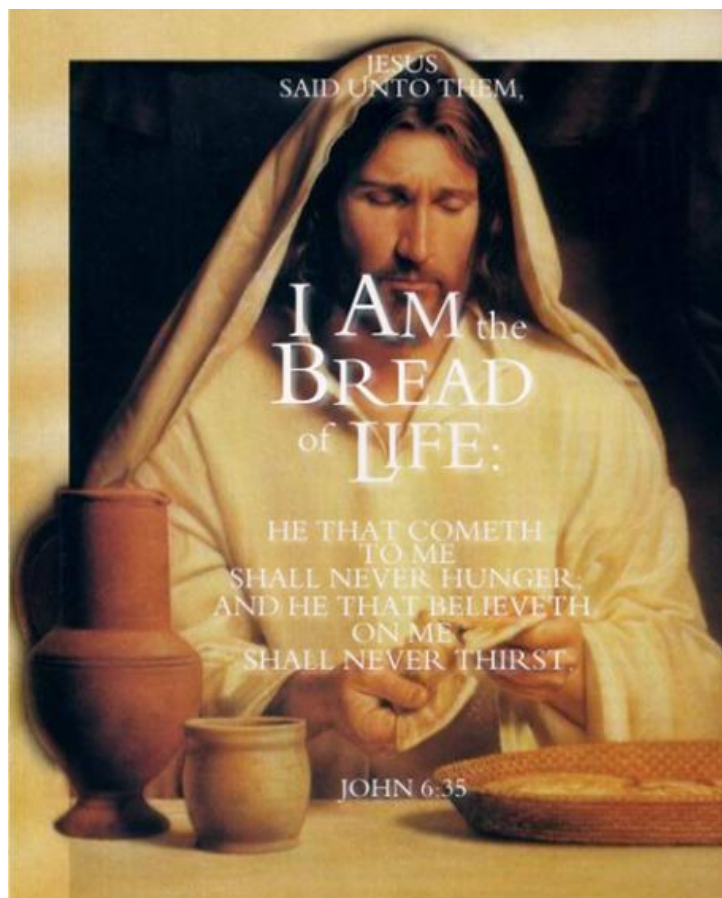
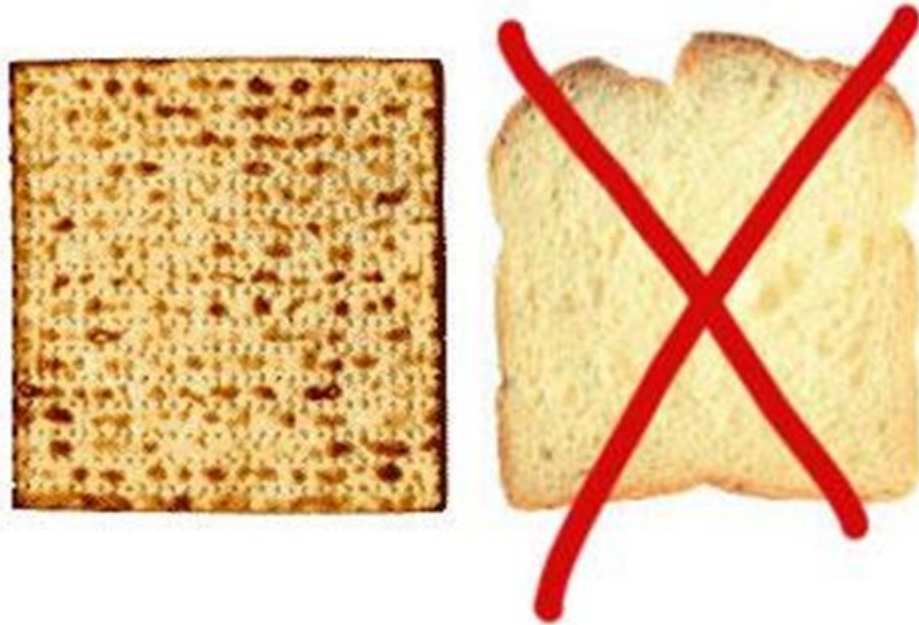
Isis: wife of *Osiris*; goddess of mothers; protected children

Min: god of reproduction

Pharaoh: a god in himself



Feast of Passover



Feast of Unleavened Bread

The Little Boat Twice Owned

There once was a little boy who built a boat, and it was his most prized possession. He took the boat out to the river to see if its majestic appearance would be matched by its ability to sail. And sail it did. It moved away from the shore so quickly that it stretched beyond the boy's reach and soon sailed out of sight. The boy returned home in tears; his prize gone, his hard work in vain.

One day the little boy walked down the street, his hands stuck in his pockets. Suddenly he saw his boat displayed in a store window. The boy couldn't move quickly enough as he opened the heavy door and ran to the counter. Out of breath he said, "My boat! You found my boat! May I please have back the boat I made?"

"Two dollars. That's the price. Give me two dollars, son, and the boat is yours," the clerk said.

The boy ran out of the store and back home. He counted his pennies, but it wasn't enough. He performed odd jobs for his mother and their neighbor over the next few days. Finally he counted: \$1.98, \$1.99, \$2.00. Without a word, he ran out the door. The boy laid two dollars in change on the counter, and the clerk handed over the boat. The boy clutched it to his chest and said, "Little boat, little boat, twice I have loved you. First I made you, now I bought you."

Exodus 12:37

How Many People?

Men	600,000
Women	600,000
Children	1,200,000
Total	2,400,000
Mixed Multitude	?









The Matzah-Making Song (and finger play) (tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Roll, roll, roll your dough (one hand palm up, other hand above it, palm down making circular motions).

Make it nice and round (make a circle with fingers).

Make it flat (one hand palm up, slap other hand down on it),

Poke lots of holes (one hand palm up, with fingers on the other hand pretend to poke holes in palm up hand),

And bake it 'til it's brown (both palms up, touching on sides, move forward, as if putting a tray in the oven).

(by Lisa Cornell, found on the internet)

On Passover (tune: "London Bridge")

Moses freed the Jewish slaves, Jewish slaves, Jewish slaves,

Moses freed the Jewish slaves, On Passover.

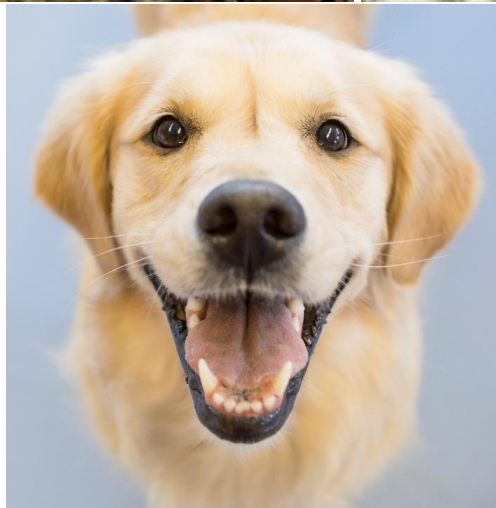
He told Pharaoh, "Let them go, let them go, let them go,"

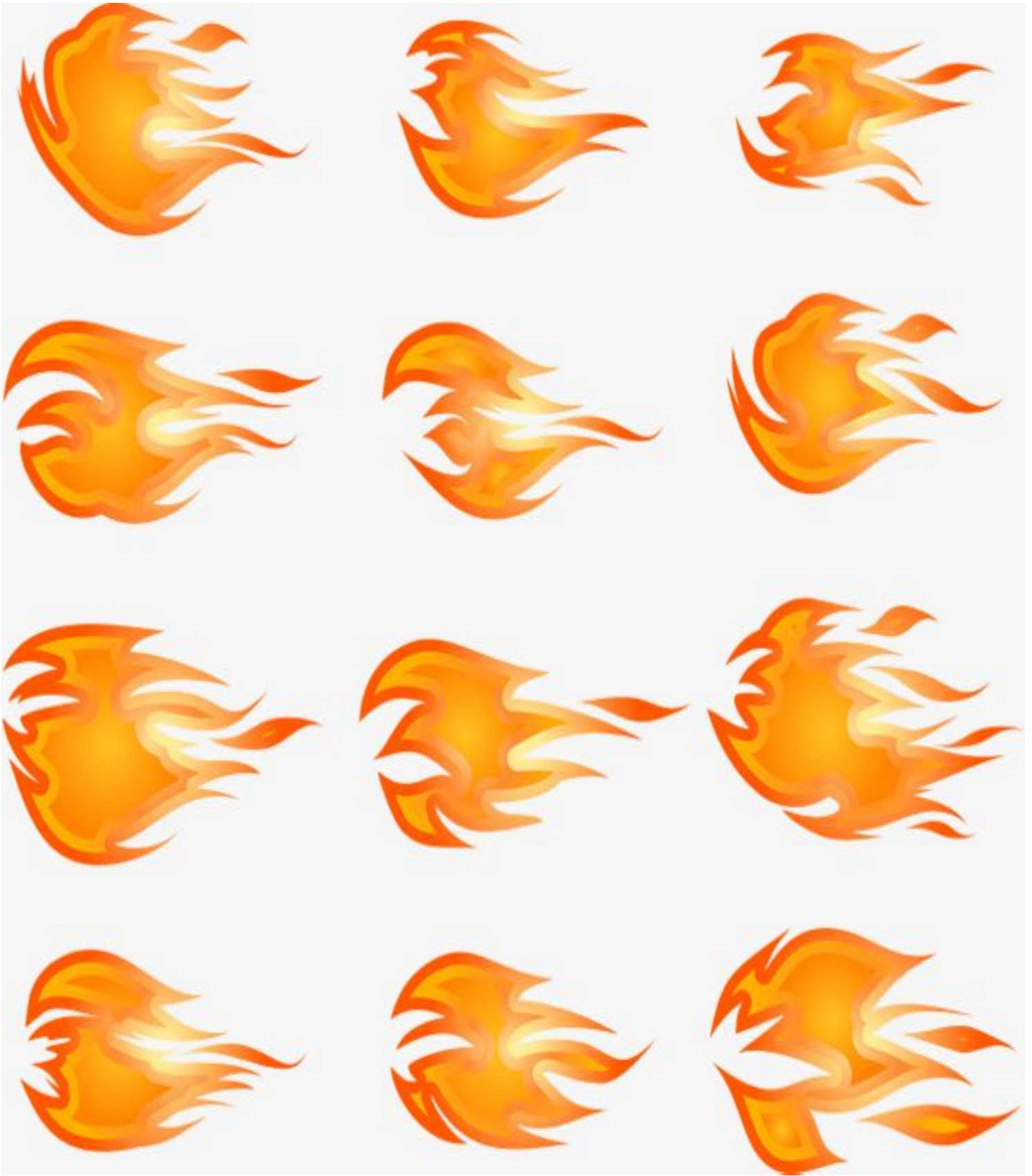
He told Pharaoh, "Let them go," On Passover.

(source from the internet is unknown)

Clean

Unclean



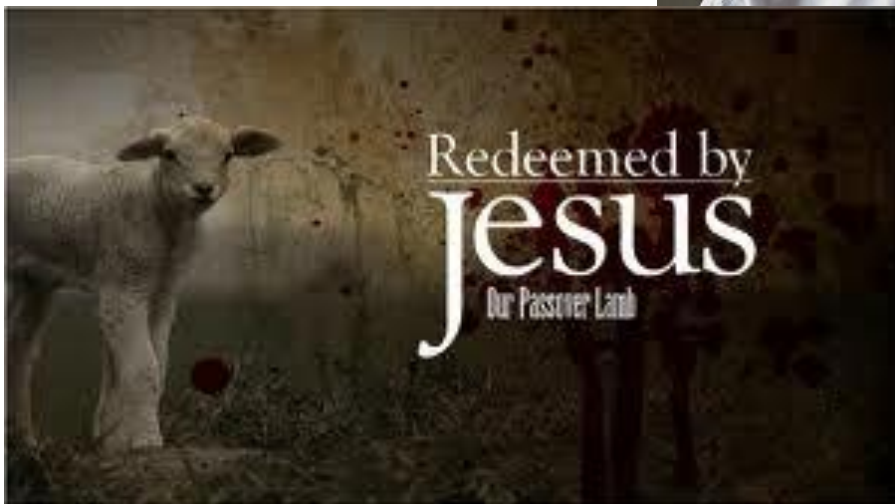


Clean Animals
(Offered as a Sacrifice)



Unclean Animals
(Redeemed or Slain)

Sons
(Redeemed)



Believers
(Redeemed by Jesus)

Consecration of Firstborn