

Passover

Passover is a Jewish Festival. Jews remember how Moses led their ancestors out of slavery in Egypt. Today it is one of the most important Jewish festivals. These events are believed to have happened 1451 B.C., nearly three and a half thousand years ago.



- ① Some questions to discuss:
- ② What did you think of this story?
- ③ What was your favourite part of the story? And why?
- ④ Moses and the Jewish people were not well-treated in Egypt. How does that make you feel?
- ⑤ What do you think about the pharaoh changing his mind?



The mother of Moses was a Hebrew slave in Egypt, but Moses had been brought up in the pharaoh's household.

Moses and the Jewish people lived in the land of Egypt. They were slaves and they were not allowed to worship God.

God told Moses to ask the pharaoh to let the Jewish people go.

The Pharaoh refused.



Moses warned the pharaoh that God would send ten terrible plagues if he did not set the Jewish people free.

The pharaoh still refused.

God sent ten terrible plagues.



- The waters of the river turned to blood.
- Frogs rained down from the sky.
- People got lice, which made them itch terribly.
- Swarms of flies flew down.
- The cattle became ill and died.
- Boils appeared all over people's bodies.
- Giant hailstones pounded the land.
- A plague of locusts ate all the crops.
- Darkness fell for three days.
- Every firstborn son died.



The ten terrible plagues did not affect everyone.

God told Moses that his people should mark their doorposts with lamb's blood. This would allow the angel of death to 'pass over' their houses and spare the Jewish people from the plagues.

This is why the festival is called Passover.



At last the pharaoh gave in and told Moses and his people to leave at once.

They left in a great rush. They took clothes and food, but they did not even have enough time to let their bread rise. They could only eat unleavened bread during their escape.

That is why Jewish people always eat flat, unleavened Matzah bread at Passover.



After the Jewish people had fled, the pharaoh changed his mind. He did not want his slaves to escape!

He sent his army to chase Moses and the Jewish people.



The Jewish people reached the shores of the Red Sea, with the Egyptian army hot on their heels.

God parted the waves.

Moses led his people through the Red Sea.



When the Egyptian army tried to follow the Jewish people, God closed the path.

The waters of the Red Sea crashed over the Egyptian army, and washed them away.



Moses led his people out of Egypt and through the desert.

At Mount Sinai, God revealed the Ten Commandments to Moses.

After 40 years in the desert, the Jewish people finally reached the land of Canaan.

Ever since, the Jewish remember these events when they celebrate Passover.