

# 10 Plagues

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Source: 30 Minute Haggadah

# THE 10 PLAGUES

Moses returned to Egypt...

and went to see the Pharaoh with his brother Aaron, as his spokesperson. "Let my people go!" Moses demanded. But Pharaoh had a hardened heart and refused. Through Moses, God brought forth ten plagues on the people of Egypt. The plagues at first amused the Pharaoh, but soon frightened him. The Pharaoh promised to free the slaves several times, but God hardened the Pharaoh's heart many times, and each time he agreed to free the Israelite slaves, Pharaoh went back on his word.

After the ninth plague, God said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Toward midnight I will go forth among the Egyptians, and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the millstones; and all the firstborn of the cattle. And there shall be a loud cry in all the land of Egypt such as has never been or will ever be again..."

God then instructed Moses to tell his people to take a lamb from among their flocks and sacrifice it at twilight; taking some of the blood to paint a mark on the two doorposts and lintel of their homes. Moses was further instructed by God to have his people roast the lamb over a fire and eat it with unleavened bread and with bitter-herbs that same night.

At midnight, God brought forth the tenth and most devastating plague; the killing of the firstborn. In every Egyptian household, the firstborn child suddenly took ill and died, but the plague "passed over" the homes of the Israelite slaves. It was then that the Pharaoh finally agreed to free the Israelites.

While we celebrate the freeing of the Israelites from slavery, God has instructed us to take no pleasure in the suffering of the Egyptians. To commemorate their suffering, each person dips their little finger into their wine and places a drop on their plate as we recite the ten plagues that God brought down upon the Egyptians.



SEDER