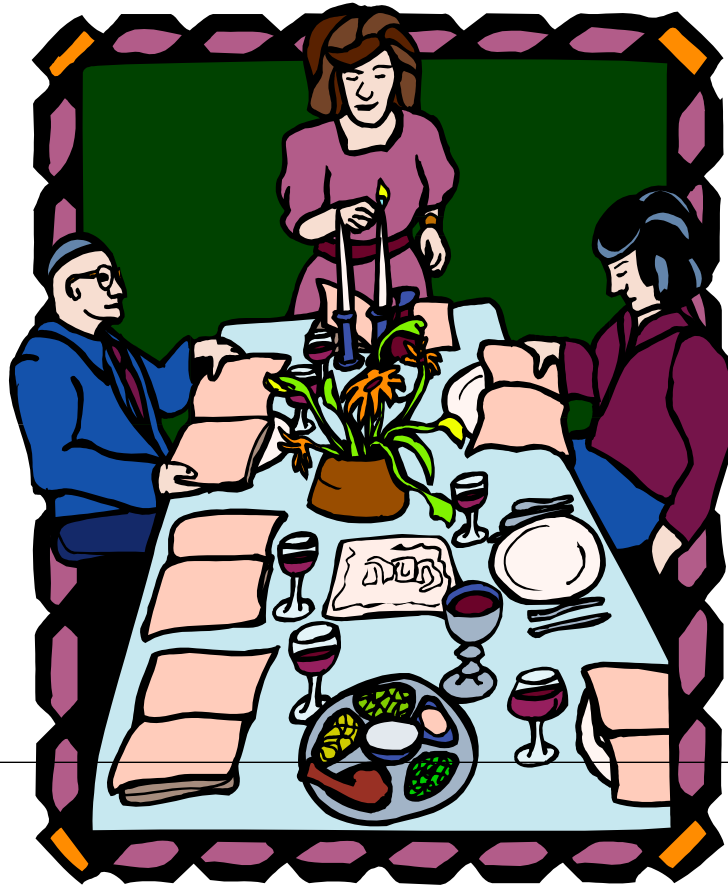


# PASSOVER



*PASSOVER, OR IS THE JEWISH SPRING  
FESTIVAL - IT CELEBRATES THE  
FREEDOM OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE FROM  
SLAVERY IN EGYPT*





A long time ago a cruel Pharaoh was king over Egypt, where the Jewish people lived. He did not like them and he made them his slaves.

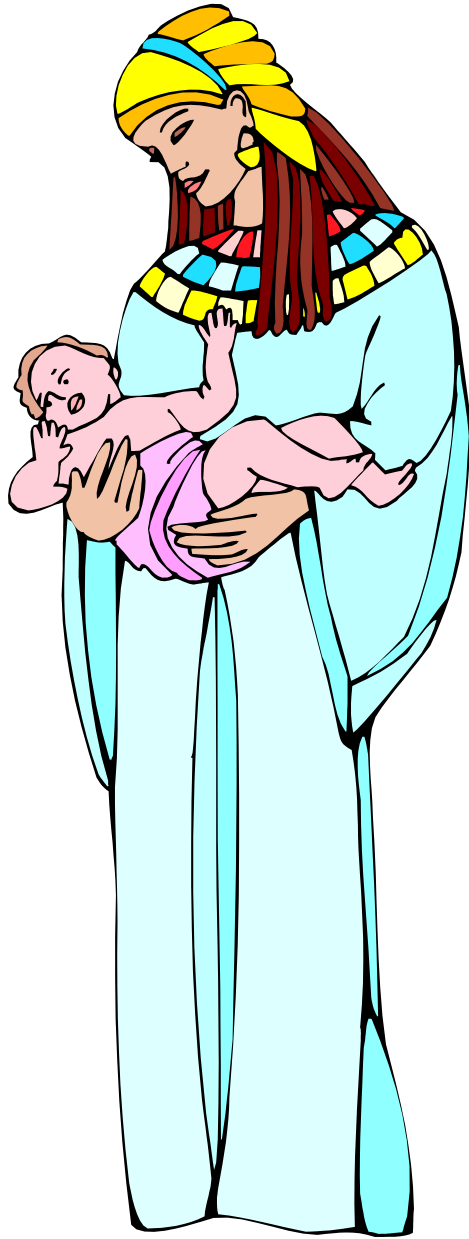


The Pharaoh made the Jews build cities for him. The work was hard and heavy and he set cruel taskmasters over them, who beat them if they did not work hard.



The Pharaoh was afraid that the number of Jewish people in his country would increase, so he ordered that all the Jewish baby boys should be killed.

One Jewish mother decided to try to save her son by putting him in a basket in the river Nile so that a kind person might find him.

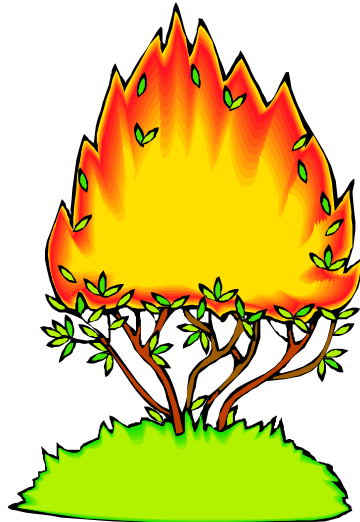


The Pharaoh's daughter found the baby and took him to her palace as her son. She called him Moses. His sister, Miriam, who was watching from nearby, arranged for Moses' mother to be his nurse. No-one knew that he was Jewish.



When Moses grew up he went out one day and saw a taskmaster beating a Jewish slave. He was so angry that he in turn attacked the taskmaster, then he was so frightened that he ran away.

Moses ran into the desert where he saw a bush which was on fire, but did not seem to be burning. From the bush came the voice of God, which told him that he was the leader of the Jewish people and that he had to go to the Pharaoh to ask him to let them go.



*“Go to  
Pharaoh  
and tell  
him to  
LET MY  
PEOPLE  
GO!”*



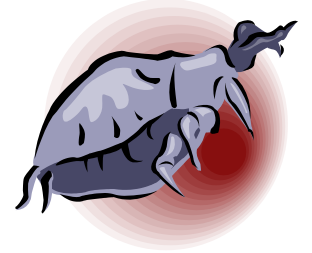
Pharaoh refused,  
so God sent  
plagues to his  
country.

*blood*

*darkness*

*boils*

*lice*



*wild animals*

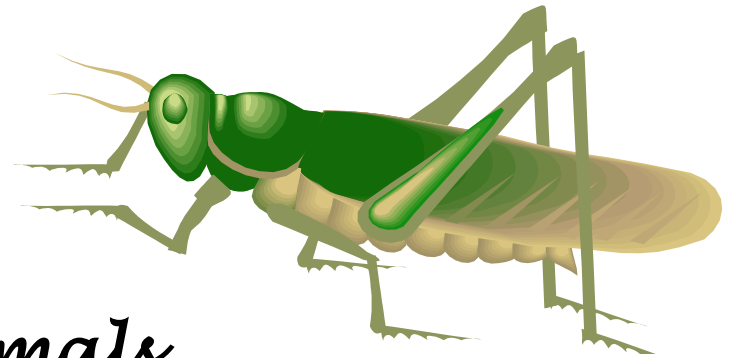
*hail*

*frogs*

*locusts*

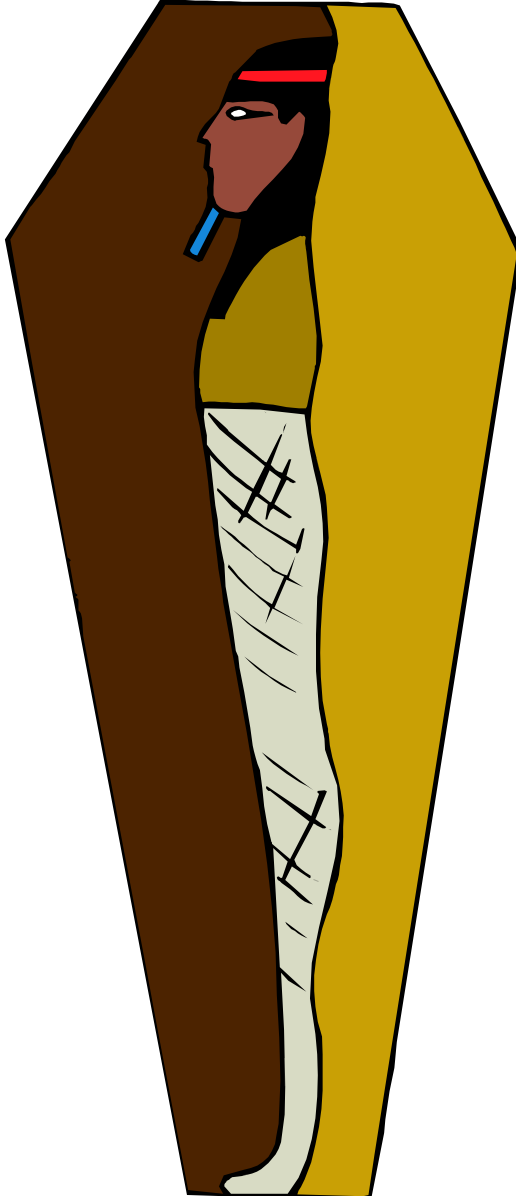


*sick animals*



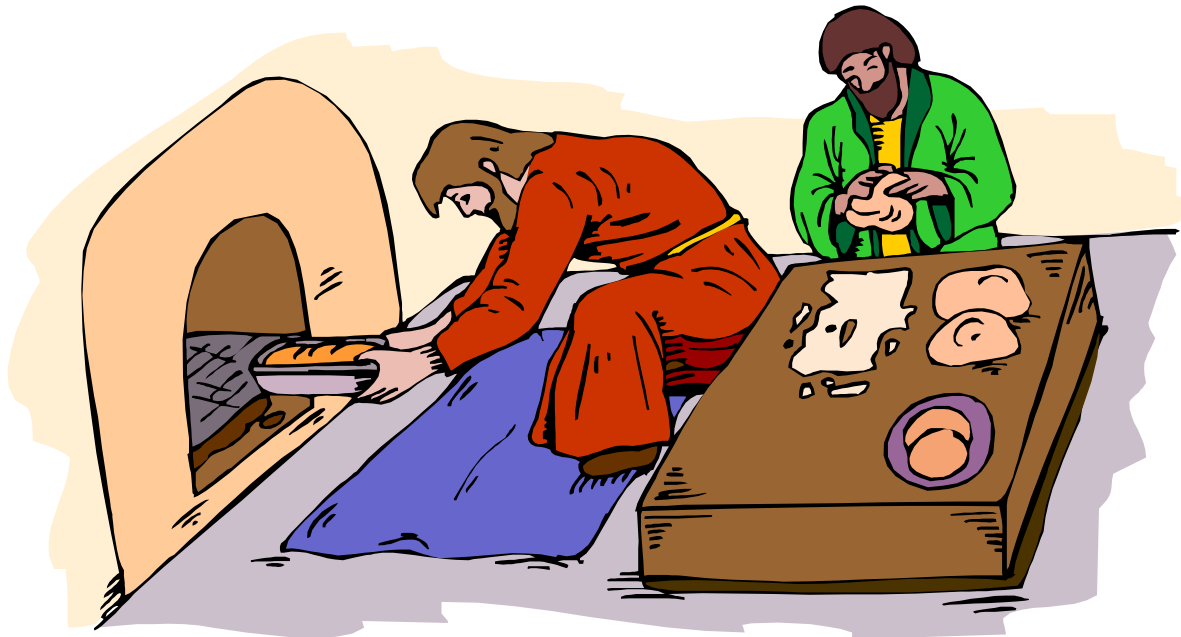


After each plague Pharaoh said yes, but then changed his mind. This happened nine times, so in the end God decided to send a plague so terrible that he would not refuse.

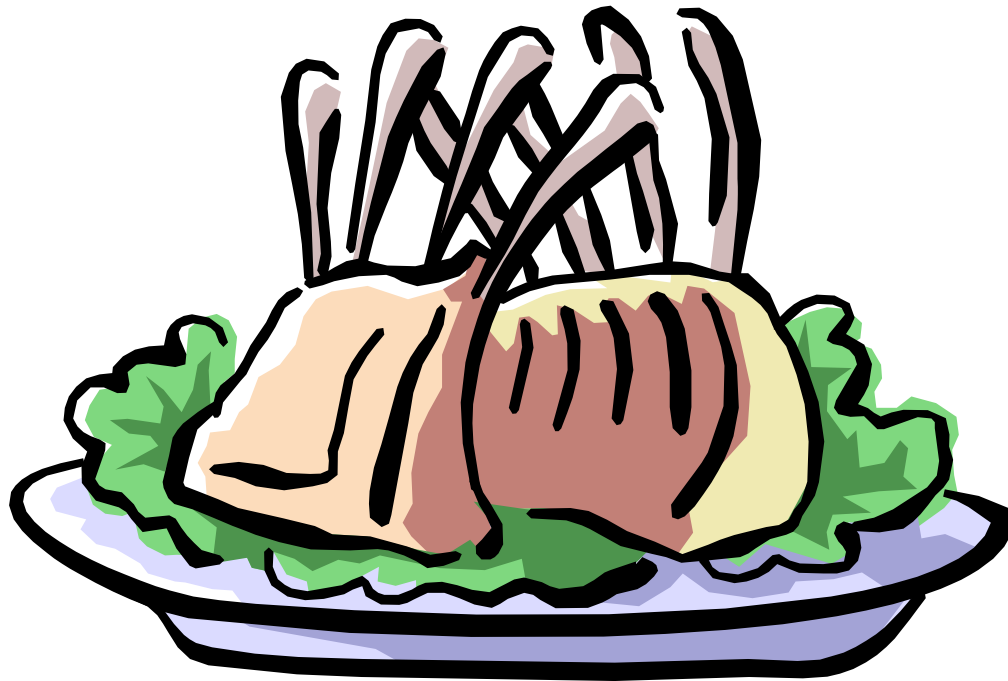


The tenth plague was the death of all the firstborn sons of the Egyptians.  
Pharaoh at last said yes.

Moses told the Jewish people to prepare to leave the country very quickly. They baked bread for the journey, but in such a hurry that the dough did not have time to rise, so the bread was flat.



They ate roast lamb and Moses told them to paint the blood of the lamb on their doorposts so that they would be recognised as Jewish houses where the firstborn sons would not die.



So the Jewish people began their journey out of Egypt. Pharaoh again changed his mind and sent his soldiers after them. They came to a big sea and thought that they were trapped but God told Moses to stretch his hand out over the sea, which parted so that they could walk across, and the waters closed after them to stop the Egyptians.



Lessons we can learn from the Passover story.

- *THE STORY OF PASSOVER TEACHES US TO VALUE FREEDOM,*

- *IT REMINDS US THAT PEOPLE SHOULD NOT TRY TO IMPOSE THEIR WILL OR BELIEFS ON OTHERS,*

- *IN SAD AND DIFFICULT TIMES IT REMINDS US THAT SPRING WILL ALWAYS COME AGAIN.*

