

Forging A Nation Of God Worshippers – Part 1

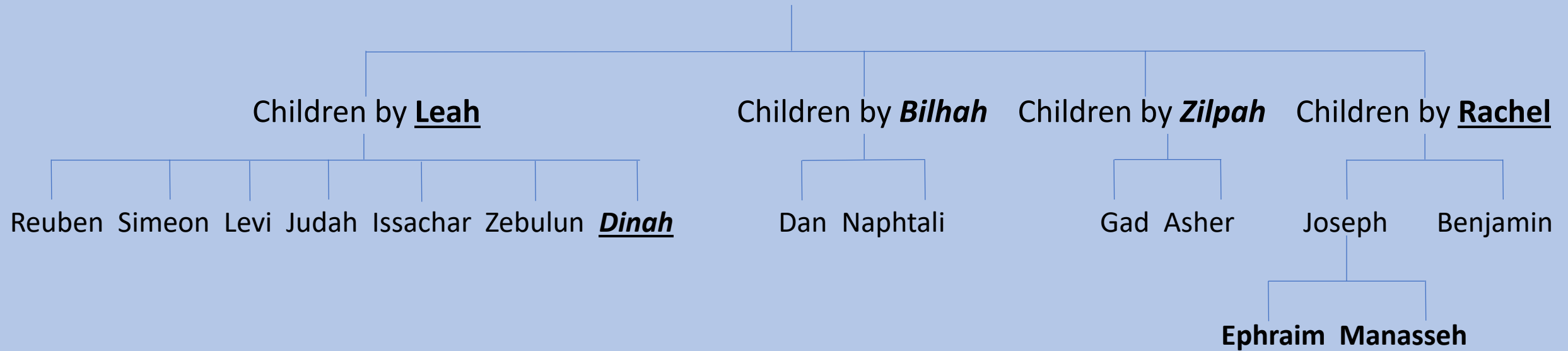


The Story of
Moses and Joshua



Life Before Egyptian Bondage

Jacob



These are the children/offspring of Jacob (also known as Israel) who will become known as the Israelites, and this is their story

A Summary of Key Events

- Joseph's brothers despised him, given his favored position by their father Jacob.

“Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him”
(Genesis 37:3-4)

- Joseph was sold to a band of Ishmaelites and eventually taken to Egypt where he would become a slave to Potiphar, a captain of the guard for the Pharaoh of Egypt. (Genesis 37:18-36)

A Summary of Key Events

- Joseph initially finds favor with Potiphar
- Joseph refuses to be seduced by Potiphar's wife who falsely accuses him of impropriety and Joseph ends up being thrown into prison
- Joseph was blessed by the Lord while he was in prison, and he became favorably disposed to the prison warden and is put in charge
- The Lord blessed Joseph with the ability to interpret dreams and this was brought to the attention of Pharaoh.

A Summary of Key Events

- Joseph interprets a significant dream for Pharaoh which will one day make Egypt a wealthy nation and save them from famine (Genesis 41)
- Pharaoh will put Joseph in charge of the whole land Egypt
- The famine impacts Jacob and his family in the land of Canaan, so much so that Jacob sends his sons to buy grain from Egypt
- Through a series of events, Joseph and his brothers will be reconciled, and this will result in Jacob and his entire family (children and grandchildren) settling in the land of Egypt – approximately 70 in all. (Genesis 42-46)

A Summary of Key Events

Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Your father and your brothers have come to you, and the land of Egypt is before you; **settle your father and your brothers in the best part of the land. Let them live in Goshen.** And if you know of any among them with special ability, put them in charge of my own livestock.” (Genesis 47:5)

- The Israelites (a name they became identified as) continued to acquire property and increased in number (Genesis 47:27)
- Jacob made a formal request of Joseph that he not be buried in Egypt but that he would be buried in the land where his father and grandfather were buried.

A Summary of Key Events

- Jacob prays a blessing upon Joseph and his 2 sons (Ephraim and Manasseh):

*Then he blessed Joseph and said, “May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked faithfully, **the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day**, the Angel who has delivered me from all harm - may he bless these boys. May they be called by my name and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and may they increase greatly on the earth.” (Genesis 47:5)*

- Jacob will gather his children together and pronounce his final words (some good words and some not so good) describing what awaits them in their future. It will show the overall spiritual condition (some positive and some negative) of Jacob’s family and reveal their ultimate need for God and His guidance. This deliverance will come from a man not yet born named Moses.

Jacob/Israel's Final words to his sons

- **Reuben** (firstborn and once excelling in power and honor) would no longer excel in these things because of his sin by sleeping with Bilhah (Jacob's wife)
- **Simeon** and **Levi** committed acts of murder (in anger and vengeance) and would be judged for their actions
- **Judah** (4th child in order) received the blessings that would have gone first to Reuben and would (through his offspring) produce a line of kings/rulers whose lineage would one day come the Messiah (Prince of Peace and Lion of Judah)
- **Zebulun** would produce offspring who favored the sea and live as far north as Sidon (modern day Lebanon)
- **Issachar** – would probably tend the land and become laborers

Jacob/Israel's Final words to his sons

- **Dan** - will provide “justice for his people” (not clear as to the meaning of this) and is also compared to a viper/snake (not a favorable description)
- **Gad** - seems to be favorably disposed as a warrior type
- **Asher** - seems to be favorably disposed as a cook or a baker
- **Naphtali** - Nothing negative just a free-living soul and perhaps the first hippy
- **Joseph** – called a fruitful vine, blessed by God and a prince among his brothers
- **Benjamin** – compared to a ravenous wolf and (as we will see from his future offspring) will produce some of the mightiest Israelite warriors the world has ever seen.

The Death of Jacob, Joseph and his other sons

“When Jacob had finished giving instructions to his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed, breathed his last and was gathered to his people.” (Genesis 49:33)

Joseph stayed in Egypt, along with all his father’s family. **He lived a hundred and ten years and saw the third generation of Ephraim’s children.** Also the children of Makir son of Manasseh were placed at birth on Joseph’s knees. Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die. **But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.**” And Joseph made the Israelites swear an oath and said, “God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place.” So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt. (Genesis 50:22-26)

Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them. (Exodus 1:6)



Life During Egyptian Bondage

There's A New Sheriff in Town

Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. “Look,” he said to his people, “**the Israelites have become far too numerous for us.** Come, we must deal shrewdly with them, or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.” So, **they put slave masters over them to oppress them** with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But **the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread;** so, the **Egyptians came to dread the Israelites** and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.
(Exodus 1:8-14)

The Israelites have gone from being an extended family to becoming a Nation

Abraham was told this day would come

Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.” (Genesis 15:13-16)

God had plans to deliver His chosen people and the man who would lead them out from Egypt was **Moses**.

Highlights of the Birth of Moses and His Early Years

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. (Exodus 2:1-4)

- It was necessary to hide Moses because of the edict given by Pharaoh to drown all males born to Hebrew women
- God had other plans for Moses and his mother (Jochebed) and he (Moses) would be placed in the care of Pharaoh's daughter until it was his (Moses) time to **deliver the Israelites** from Egyptian bondage – thus fulfilling the words God gave to Abraham in Genesis 15:13-16.

Highlights of the Birth of Moses and His Early Years

- Here is what John MacArthur says about Jochebed in his Commentary on Hebrews;

“Jochebed nursed Moses and trained him and taught him Israel’s promises from God – that they were to inherit the land of Canaan and be a great nation and bless the world. She instilled in him God’s promise of a great deliverer, the messianic hope in which Abraham had rejoiced (John 8:56). His mother helped build in him the faith that was to become characteristic of his life”.

- Never underestimate your value as a friend, a spouse, a parent, a grandparent or even a great grandparent – God can and will use you in ways you may not even be aware of!

“God needs our obedience, not our help, our trust, not our counsel. He makes the plans; we walk in them by faith.” (John MacArthur; Commentary on Hebrews, pg. 349)

Highlights of the Birth of Moses and His Early Years

- Moses was probably born in 1526 B.C
- Moses wasn't named by his birth parents but by an Egyptian princess (Exodus 2:10)
- The writer of Hebrews describes him (Moses) as a "beautiful child". (Hebrews 11:23)
- Stephen declares that he (Moses) was well pleasing to God (Acts 7:20)
- Moses was raised in the Egyptian culture and benefited from all their wealth and power. Given his status as the son of Pharaoh's daughter, he was considered a Prince of Egypt.
- Moses was highly educated, well skilled, and a man of power in word and deeds (Acts 7:22), but he would soon turn his back on Egypt and follow the call of God.



Moses answers God's Call

A proper rejection of the world

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. (Hebrews 11:24-28)

A proper rejection of the world

“For forty years he (Moses) enjoyed the riches of Egypt. For the rest of his life, he forsook them, because they interfered with his obedience to God and would have prevented his receiving immeasurably greater riches when it came time for eternal rewards.” (John MacArthur; Commentary on Hebrews)

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” (II Corinthians 4:17)

Moses meets God (The Great I AM)

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to **Horeb, the mountain of God**. There the **angel of the Lord** appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.” When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

(Exodus 3:1-6)

Moses meets God (The Great I AM)

The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and **I am concerned about their suffering**. So, I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to **bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey**—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. **So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.**” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” **And God said, “I will be with you.** And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, **you will worship God on this mountain.** (Exodus 3:7-12)

Moses meets God (The Great I AM)

Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘**What is his name?**’ Then what shall I tell them?” God said to Moses, “**I am who I am.** This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘**I am has sent me to you.**’” God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘**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, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.**” “Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey. (Exodus 3:13-17)

Moses meets God (The Great I AM)

The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God.’ But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. So, I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go. “**And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people**, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians. (Exodus 3:18-22)

A Summary of Exodus 3

- This chapter contains one of the greatest and most powerful testimonies of the Holiness of God in the entire Bible.
- Mount Horeb was designated as a **Holy Place**. It was the place where God revealed Himself to Moses – It was **Holy Ground**.
- Twice in this chapter God is referred to as the **God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob** and affirms the significance of that relationship to Moses and the other Israelites/Hebrews.
- This relationship between God and His people was very special and their cries of suffering were met with compassion and kindness from the **God of all comfort**.

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **God of all comfort**, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God” (II Corinthians 1:3-4)*

Moses and Aaron on a Mission

The Lord said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him.

And Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord with which he had sent him to speak, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do. Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. Aaron spoke all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. And **the people believed**; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, **they bowed their heads and worshiped.**

(Exodus 4:27-31)

Doing God's will is not always easy

- Life in Egyptian bondage was not easy and although God had plans to deliver the Israelites from that bondage there was going to be pain and struggles

“So, the taskmasters and the foremen of the people went out and said to the people, “Thus says Pharaoh, ‘I will not give you straw. Go and get your straw yourselves wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced in the least” (Exodus 5:10-11)

Then Moses turned to the Lord and said, “O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all.” (Exodus 5:22-23)

God's Care and Compassion for His Chosen People

Then the Lord said to Moses, “**Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh:** Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country.” God also said to Moses, “I am the Lord. I **appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob** as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord, I did not make myself fully known to them. **I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan**, where they resided as foreigners. Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and **I have remembered my covenant**. (Exodus 6:1-5)

- Note the direct connection to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- Note the covenant promise where they would possess the land of Canaan
- Although they are currently in bondage – God will deliver them as He promised He would. (Genesis 15:13-16)

God's Care and Compassion for His Chosen People

“Therefore, say to the Israelites: **‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you** with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. **I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God.** Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. **And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob.** I will give it to you as a possession. **I am the Lord.**” Moses reported this to the Israelites, **but they did not listen to him** because of their discouragement and harsh labor. Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites go out of his country.” But Moses said to the Lord, “If the Israelites will not listen to me, why would Pharaoh listen to me, since I speak with faltering lips (Exodus 6:6-12)



The Plagues of Egypt

The Plague of
Blood (Exodus
7:14-24)

The Plague of Frogs
(Exodus 7:25-8:15)

The Plague of
Gnats (Exodus
8:16-19)

The Plague of Flies
(Exodus 8:20-32)

The Plague on the
Egyptian Livestock
(Exodus 9:1-7)

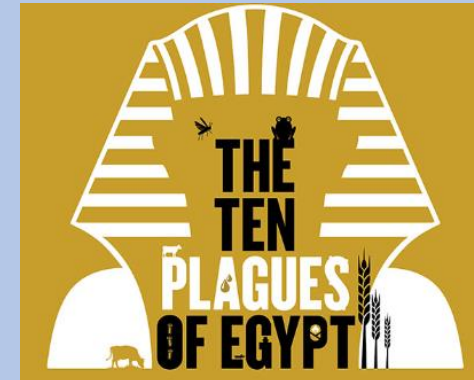
The Plague of Boils
(Exodus 9:8-12)

The Plague of Hail
(Exodus 9:13-35)

The Plague of
Locusts (Exodus
10:1-20)

The Plague of
Darkness (Exodus
10:21-29)

The Plague of
Death Upon the
Firstborn of Egypt
(Exodus 11:1-10)





The reason for the Celebration of the Passover

The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you



פסח

“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and **I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt.**

I am the Lord. **The blood will be a sign** for you on the houses where you are, and **when I see the blood, I will pass over you.** No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. **This is a day you are to commemorate;** for the generations to come **you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord**—a lasting ordinance. For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do” (Exodus 12:12-16)

Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants.
When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ then tell them, ‘It is the **Passover sacrifice to the Lord**, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” **Then the people bowed down and worshiped.**
The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.
(Exodus 12:24-28)

At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.
(Exodus 12:29-30)

The Passover Celebration

- This would become one of their first “official” acts of worship
- The blood served as an “atonement” (making them “at one” with God) because they chose, by faith, to trust in God’s protection and do as God instructed Moses to tell them.
- This was to be a lasting ordinance – something they were to commemorate every year to remind them (a remembrance) of what God did for them.
- What other celebration in the New Testament has direct correlation to this Passover celebration in the Old Testament?

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” (Matthew 26:26-28)



The Exodus From Egypt

During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested. Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me.” The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. “For otherwise,” they said, “we will all die!”

So, the people took their dough before the yeast was added and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians. (Exodus 12:31-36)

Ironically – the Egyptians, who were most likely descendants of Ham (one of Noah’s three sons) found themselves outside of the blessings of God. The Israelites, descendants of Shem and because God chose Abraham, found themselves under the protection and blessing of God.

Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure. (Genesis 15:13-16)

The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds. With the dough the Israelites had brought from Egypt, they baked loaves of unleavened bread. The dough was without yeast because they had been driven out of Egypt and did not have time to prepare food for themselves. Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord's divisions left Egypt. Because the Lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the Lord for the generations to come.
(Exodus 12:37-42)

And the journey back to the Land of
Promise begins!