



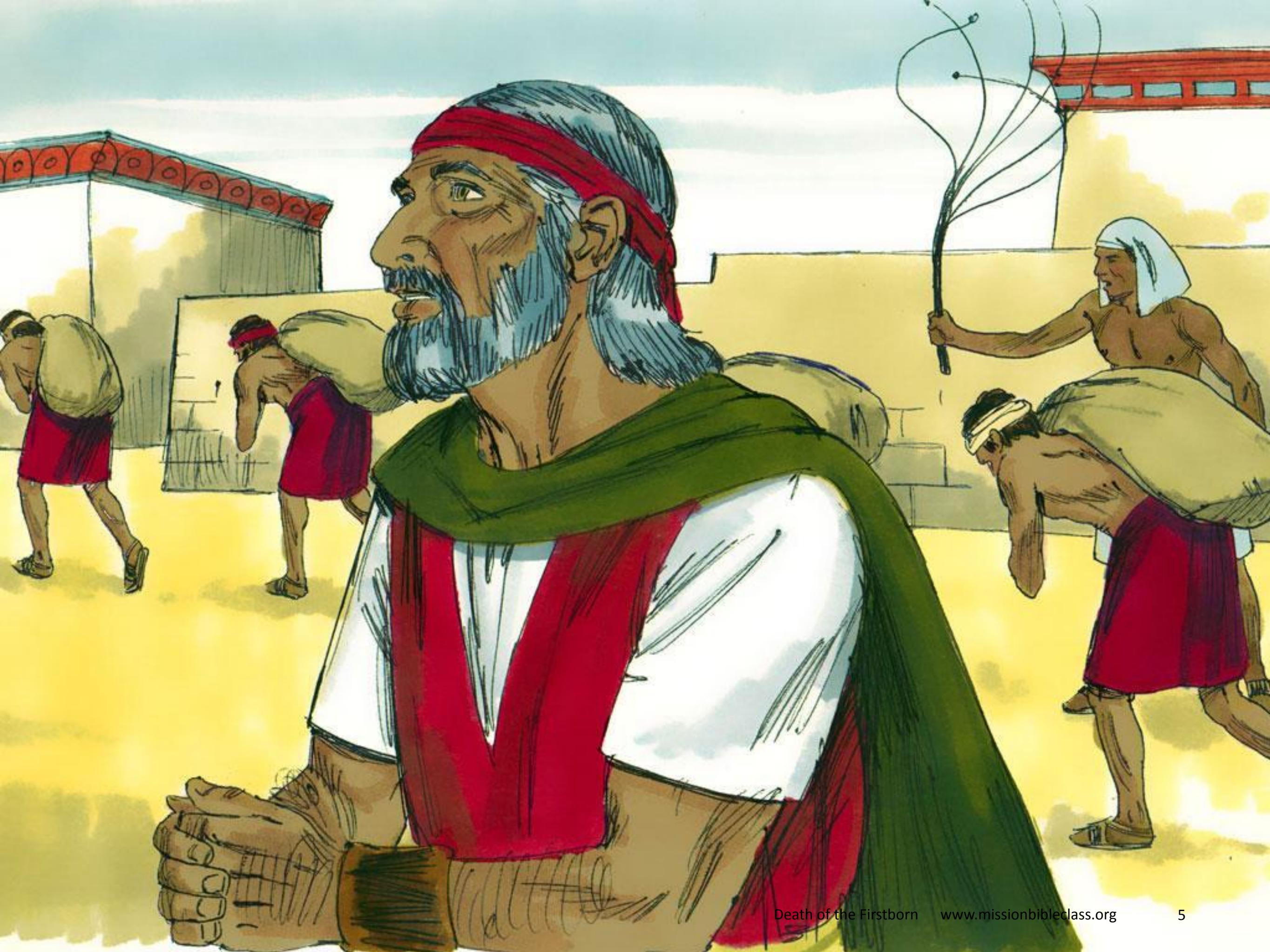
Death of the Firstborn and the Passover

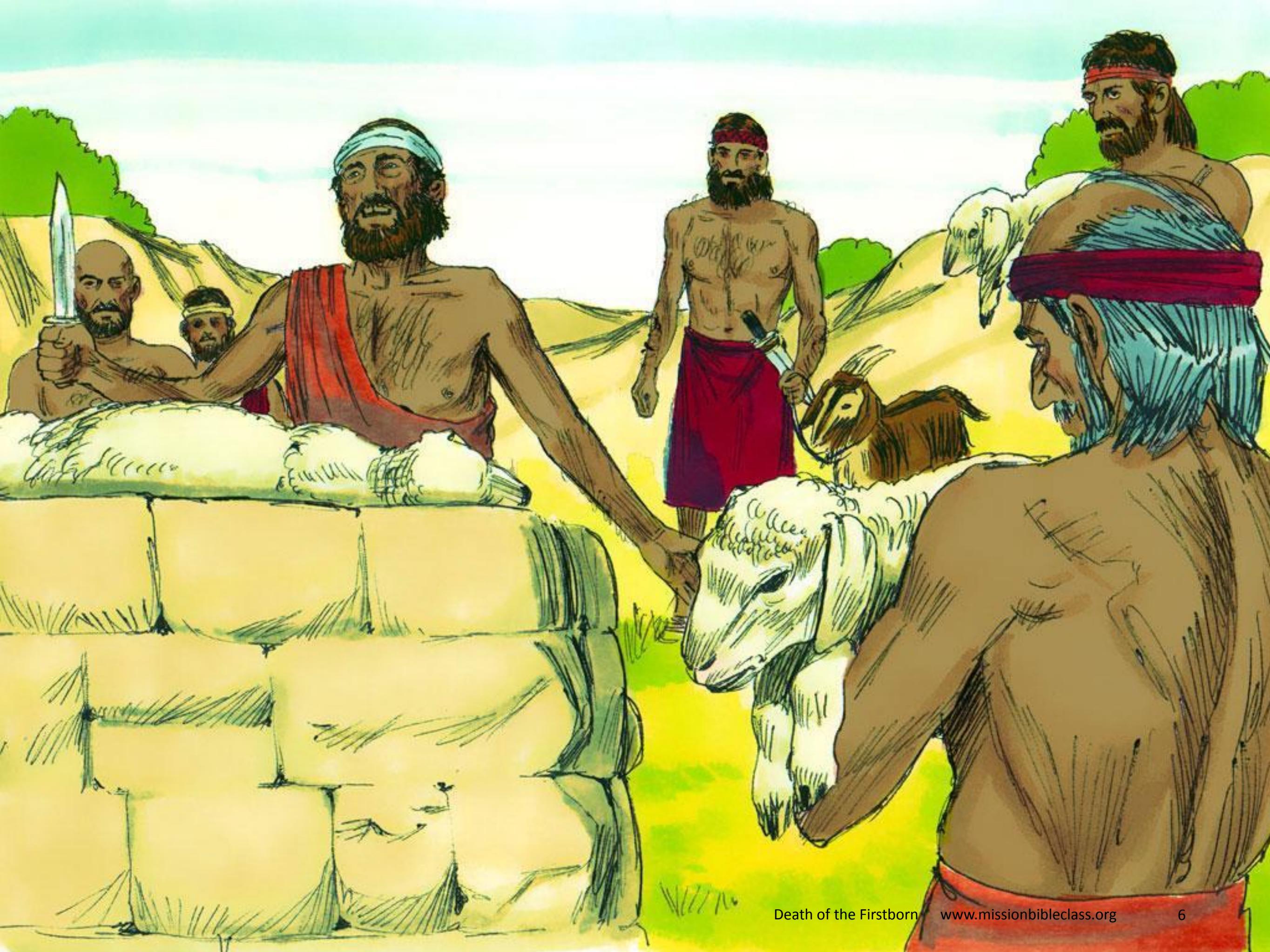
Exodus 11-12:51





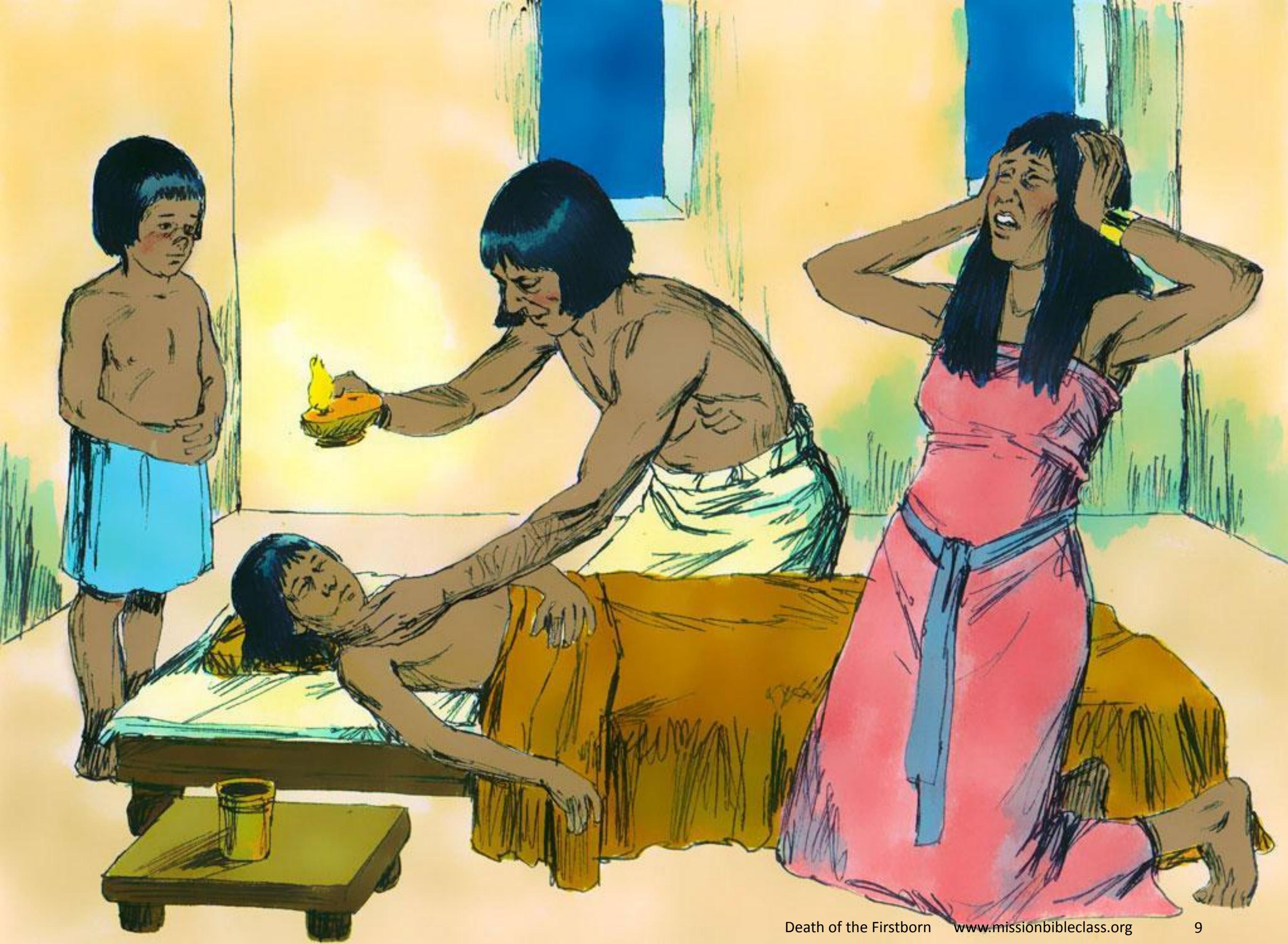


















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Cover: Death of the Firstborn and the Passover

Exodus 11-12:51

2. God's people, the Israelites, had been in Egypt for 430 years. They were treated badly and had to work very hard for no money. They were slaves to the king of Egypt (the Pharaoh).

3. God did not want his people to be slaves and stay in Egypt. He wanted them to be able to come and go as they liked so that they could be free to worship him and have their own land.

God sent Moses and his brother Aaron to Pharaoh with a message. The message from God was "Let My People Go!"

4. Over and over Moses and Aaron took the same message to Pharaoh. But the answer was always the same. Pharaoh always said, "NO! I will not let the people go."

God even caused plagues to happen to Egypt. Nine plagues had happened so far. The Nile was turned to blood. Frogs, gnats and locusts invaded Egypt. Animals died and people got sick. There was a huge hailstorm and even three days of complete darkness.

Still Pharaoh refused to let the people go.

5. Finally, the time had come for one last plague. God told Moses that this plague, the 10th plague, would cause Pharaoh to let the people go. In fact, this time Pharaoh and the other Egyptian people would BEG for them to leave Egypt. The people would even give them their money and jewelry so they would leave faster.

This terrible last plague would be that death would pass THROUGH all of Egypt. It would mean the death of every firstborn person and animal in Egypt. If a person was the oldest in their family then they would die. This would be the saddest plague of all.

But God gave Moses special instructions for the Israelites. If the Israelites followed God's instructions then death would pass OVER them. Their firstborn children and animals would not die. Because death would pass over them this became known as PASSOVER.

6. The first instruction was that the people must prepare a Passover meal. This was a special meal so there were special instructions. For instance, they could not just eat any meat for the meal. They were to prepare a perfect year-old male sheep or goat. Everyone was to kill the sheep or goat on the same day and at the same time.

7. Then, they were to take the blood from the animal and use a hyssop branch to spread it on top and on the sides of their door posts. This blood had a very special purpose because it showed that the people inside were God's people. On the night that the Egyptian firstborn people and animals died death would know to PASS OVER the people in that house.

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8. There were other special instructions about the meal.

*Bread-In the seven days before the meal they were to only eat bread that did not have yeast in it. This is called unleaven bread. They weren't to even have yeast in their houses.

*Meat- The lamb meat was to be roasted over a fire along with bitter herbs.

*Clothing-They were to eat the Passover meal all dressed and ready to leave. God knew that his people would be leaving Egypt that very nice so he wanted them to be able to eat the meal quickly and be ready to go.

The Israelites obeyed God. They stayed inside and ate the meal just as God told them to. They knew that they would be safe because of the blood on their doorposts.

9. But the Egyptians were not safe. It was a terrible night for them! This is what the Bible says:

"At midnight the Lord killed all the firstborn sons in the land of Egypt. The firstborn of the king, who sat on the throne, died. Even the firstborn of the prisoner in jail died. Also all the firstborn farm animals died. The king, his officers and all the Egyptians got up during the night. Someone had died in every house. So there was loud crying everywhere in Egypt." Exodus 12:29-30 (ICB) International Children's Bible

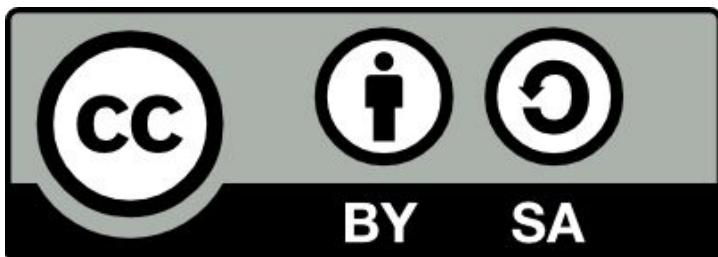
The people in Egypt knew that God was angry about the way they had treated his people. They were sad and upset and they wanted the Israelites to leave. They wanted them to leave quickly.

10. In the middle of the night Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron to the palace. Now, after the 10th plague, he had finally changed his mind. He told Moses and Aaron that the people could leave and that they could take all of their animals with them. Pharaoh wanted the Israelites to leave immediately.

11. So now was the time to get moving. There were thousands and thousands of Israelites and they all packed up and left Egypt that very night.

They had been working for nothing for many many years so Moses passed on God's message that they should ask the Egyptians for silver and gold and clothing. God softened the hearts of the Egyptians so that they gave the Israelites everything they asked for.

12. Finally, after 430 years in Egypt God's people left the country. They left quickly before Pharaoh and the people could change their minds again.



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