An illustration showing a large swarm of brown locusts on the left, eating green grass. In the center and right, several green frogs are shown in a pinkish-red, watery environment. The background is a dark, stormy sky with rain falling and a lightning bolt striking down.


No one had ever seen hail like it. It flattened the crops and killed the cattle out in the fields. The hail fell everywhere—except in Goshen.

Next came swarms of locusts, which ate up every green thing. And after that, pitch-darkness for three days. But the king still tried to bargain with God. He would not let the people go.

Then the most terrible thing of all happened. In a single night the eldest son of every family in Egypt died—from the king's son and heir to the son of his lowest slave.

But in Goshen the Israelites were safe. God had told them what to do.

Every Israelite family killed a lamb that night, and splashed some of the blood on the doorposts of the house. They roasted the lamb and ate it with herbs and flat loaves of bread, made quickly without yeast. And death 'passed over' their houses. (That is why for ever after, once a year, the people of Israel ate this special 'Passover' meal, and remembered how God had saved them.)

An illustration showing several green frogs on a sandy bank next to a pinkish-red body of water. In the background, a brown bull is lying down. The sky is dark with rain falling and a lightning bolt striking down.

Next day the Egyptians could not wait to get rid of the Israelites. They even gave them gold and silver jewelry and fine clothes to take with them.

But still the king tried to stop them. As soon as they had gone he called out the army. The soldiers leapt into their swift, light chariots and raced after the Israelites.

By the time the Israelites reached the lakes and marshes near the border, the Egyptian army was close behind. There was water in front of them, and soldiers behind them. The people were terrified.

But Moses stretched out his arm, and God sent an east wind. All night it blew, clearing a pathway through the water for the Israelites to cross in safety.

But when the Egyptians tried to follow, the water rushed back and the king's whole army was drowned. So God saved his people and led them out of Egypt to freedom.