

I am a Hebrew child. We have been wandering in the desert for years, all my life. I was born during these wanderings. Every year, our year starts with the celebration of the Passover. It is our most important festival. We don't work for a week, the only work we do is preparing food. And on the Passover night our parents tell us the story of the Passover.

It all started when we were slaves in Egypt. God gave Moses the job of going to Pharaoh, that's the king of Egypt, and telling him to let my people go. Well, you can imagine how that went. But on top of that you've got to remember that Moses was pretty reluctant to go to Pharaoh. Can you send someone else? Says Moses. I'm not great with this public speaking thing. And God says, It's not about you Moses. This is something I'm going to do. I AM going to rescue my people. As a concession to Moses God says you can bring Aaron along, Moses' brother. He can be the spokesperson.

And so they come to Pharaoh and they demand that he let the people go. Pharaoh's response – Who is the Lord, I do not know the Lord.

You can imagine what Pharaoh is thinking. He looks around at his slaves; he looks at all the work that's got to be done. It's not as if these pyramids are going to build themselves. He thinks If I let these Israelites go, they're probably not coming back, even if it's just for a few days. So he says No. And he thinks if these Israelites have all this time to be thinking about going on holidays and going to festivals I think they might have a bit too much time on their hands. So he calls in the slavemasters and gives the orders and the workload is increased. Now, I don't know too much about ancient construction - about how much straw is needed. But before they would be provided with the straw. Now they have to get their own straw and still make the same number of bricks. It all seems like everything has gone wrong. The Israelites turn on Moses, what are you doing? And Moses turns on God – what are you doing?

But God is patient. Now if I was God I would say to Moses, "Hey I told you all this was going to happen." But no, he just patiently reminds Moses of what he is doing. "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham. I have heard the groaning of my people...I will bring you out...and will redeem you with my powerful hand and with mighty acts of judgement. I will free my people..and I will bring you to the land."

So at the end of the first scene Moses and Aaron have had a bit of a pep talk from the Lord, "It 's not about you; it's about what I am doing. The Israelites are still not having a bar of this; they're like, "Moses, you can go and get stuffed as far as we are concerned." But Moses and Aaron don't give up they go to Pharaoh. And then we have this repeated event. Time after time they come to Pharaoh and Pharaoh refuses to let them go and then time after time God performs these miraculous signs of judgement through Moses and Aaron. Initially there's a sort of rap battle as they trade mighty deeds. Turning staff into snakes, water into blood. Pharaoh's magicians say we can do that, they could even make trillions of frogs cover the land, all through people's houses, beds, everything. But pretty quickly the magicians can't copy these. And the plagues come one after another – there are gnats, then flies, all the livestock, boils, hail and storms. And it's only the Egyptians that get affected; the Hebrews, you know, my parents and the others, it doesn't affect them. So you get this weird things in the second last one there's complete darkness where all the Egyptians live and there's sunlight

where the Hebrews live. Which was a pretty cool plague because the chief god of the Egyptians was the sun god. Well, he was hidden for three days. It was like our God was saying to Pharaoh, “Who’s the real god and the most powerful God now?” Pharaoh tried to negotiate and kept on saying he would let them go if they would just get God to stop the plague. But everytime he changed his mind and refused to let us go.

Finally, God brought down one terrible plague on the Egyptians – every first born child of the Egyptians would die – just like the Egyptians had been doing to us.

And this is where our Passover comes in. God gave us special commands to have a special meal and to kill a sheep and put some of the blood on our doorposts. We were to stay inside ready to leave Egypt. On that night God’s angel flew over every house in Egypt. Any house that did not have the blood on their doorposts, the oldest child died. There was a terrible noise that night, people crying out in grief. And then Pharaoh did let us go and as we left we asked the Egyptians for silver and gold and they gave it to us just to get us out of their land. God’s promise to Abraham hundreds of years before came true.

But that’s not the end of the story. As God led us by a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day the Egyptians came after us. God opened up the Red Sea and we went across safely. The Egyptians followed us into the water. And as the last Israelite came out of the water God brought the waters crashing down on the Egyptians – they were all killed. God rescued us again. So at Passover we remember God’s great rescue of our people.

He is the great I am.