



## Bo

*Shemot* (Exodus) 10:1 – 13:16

As *Parshat Bo* begins, Moses and Aaron criticize Pharaoh for refusing to allow the Israelites to leave, and promise that locusts, the eighth plague, would soon arrive. The plague is lifted when Pharaoh pleads with Moses and Aaron, but G-d once again hardens Pharaoh's heart and the Israelites are not freed. Then the plague of darkness falls without warning, with only the Israelites having light where they live.

G-d tells Moses that the next plague will be the last and Moses warns Pharaoh that G-d will triumph with the slaying of all the firstborn of Egypt.

Before the 10<sup>th</sup> plague is visited upon Egypt, Moses and Aaron teach the Jewish people the special laws of the Hebrew month of *Nissan*, as well as the laws of Passover. On the tenth day of the first month, (the month of *Nissan*) the people are to slaughter a lamb, smear its blood on their doorposts, and eat its roasted flesh hurriedly in remembrance of their speedy Exodus from Egypt. In the future, this festival is to be a time of remembrance. For seven days, they are to eat only unleavened bread (*Matzah*). The people are also commanded to teach these *mitzvot* to their children so that the festival will be a reminder to all generations that G-d freed the Israelites from Egypt.

With the arrival of the 10<sup>th</sup> plague, all the firstborn in the land of Egypt are struck down. Pharaoh summons Moses and Aaron and tells them to depart with the Israelites. Because of their haste in leaving Egypt, the people take their bread dough with them before it has a chance to rise. They also take spoils from the Egyptians. The Torah portion concludes noting that the Israelites had lived in Egypt for 430 years.



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