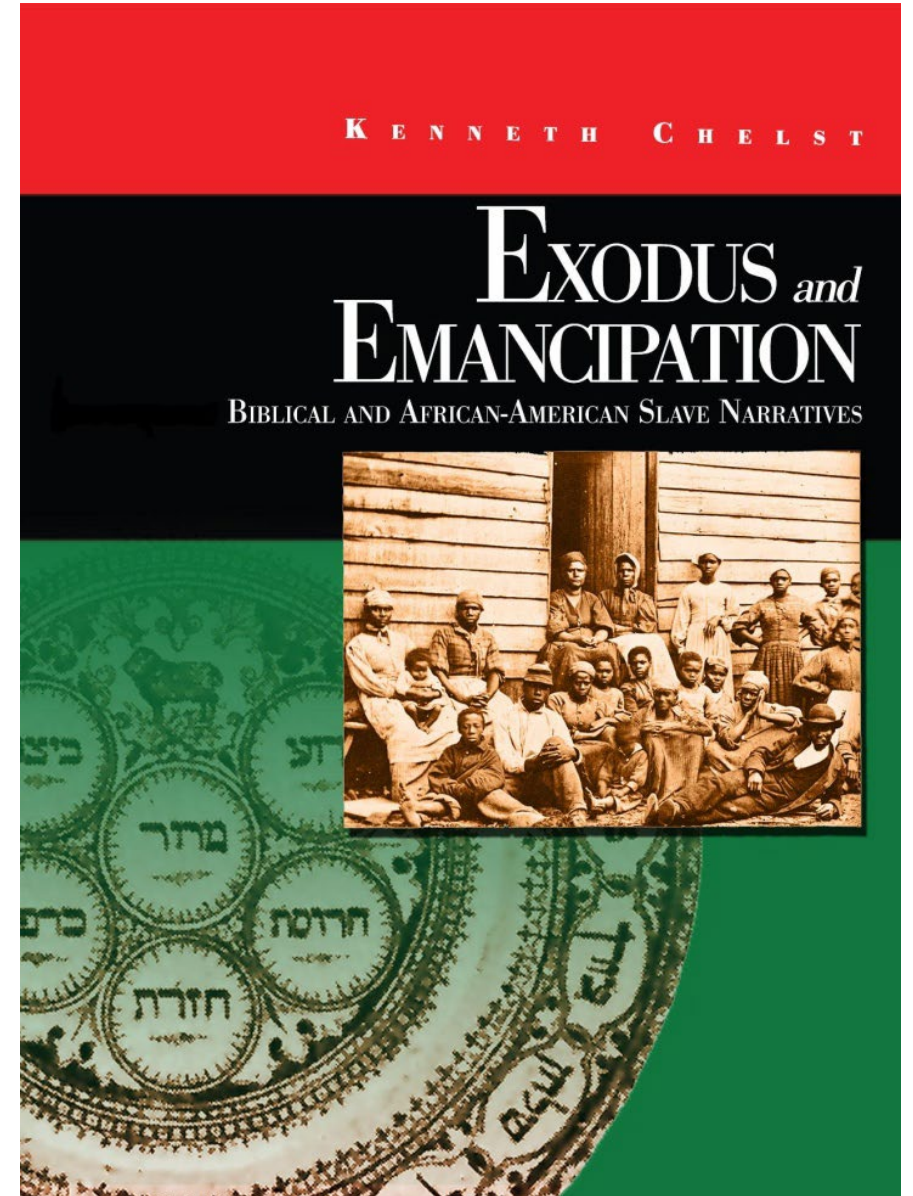


Understanding Exodus thru the Experience of African-American Enslavement

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Pesach Recordings and pdf Files search **“yu torah chelst”**
Or <https://www.yutorah.org/rabbi-dr-kenneth-chelst/>



Seder → Order

קדש	Sanctification of the Day over Wine.
ורחץ.	Preliminary Hand Washing.
כרפס	Eating a Vegetable.
יחץ.	Breaking the Middle Matzah.
מגיד	Discussing the Exodus.
רחץ.	Washing Hands before the Meal.
מוציא מצה.	Eating the Matzah.
מרור	Eating the Bitter Herb.
כרף.	Eating the “Hillel Sandwich.”
שלקן ערף.	Eating the Festival Meal.
צפון	Eating the Afikoman.
ברך.	Blessing after the Meal.
הלל	Songs of Praise.
נרצה.	Concluding Songs.



“No table is provided for them to eat from. They know nothing of the comfort and pleasure of gathering round the social board- each takes his plate or tin pan and iron spoon and holds it in the hand or the lap. I never saw slaves seated around table to partake of any meal.” Testimony of Angelina Grimké Weld

“I cannot remember a single instance during my childhood or early boyhood when our entire family sat down to the table together, and God’s blessing was asked, and the family ate a meal in a civilized manner. It was a piece of bread here and a scrap of meat there. It was a cup of milk one time and some potatoes another time. Sometimes a portion of our family would eat out of a skillet or pot while someone else would eat from a tin plate on his knees.

Booker T. Washington writes in his autobiography *Up From Slavery*

First Passover: Acts of Freedom – Invite Family & Neighbors Share → Community of Chesed



כָּל דַּכְּפִין	Let all who are hungry
יִיתִי וְיִכַּל.	come and eat!
כָּל דַּצְרִיךְ	Let all who are needy
יִיתִי וְיִפְסַח.	come and partake of the Passover offering!

Midrash – Rav “One slave had a matzoh and another had none; the former split the matzah in two and passed half to his unfortunate brother.”

“With the paschal lamb, we became a nation of people who unite, give things away, care for each other, share what they possess.”

spiritually needy. כָּל דַּצְרִיךְ יִיתִי וְיִפְסַח.

“A person can be fully sated physically, but emotionally needy, and searching for the community that offered an opportunity to attend a Seder.”



Exodus 12:4

(4) But if the household is too small for a lamb, let it share one with a neighbor who dwells nearby, in proportion to the number of persons: you shall contribute for the lamb according to what each household will eat.

שמות י"ב:ד'

(ד) וְאִם-יִמְעַט הַבַּיִת מֵהֵיזֶה
מִשְׁהוּ וְלָקַח הוּא וְשִׁכְנֵוֹ הַקָּרֵב
אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ בְּמִכְסֵת נַפְשֹׁת אִישׁ
לְפִי אֲכָלוֹ תִּכְסֹוּ עַל-הַשָּׂה:

1st Amendment to the Constitution

Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for a redress of grievances.

CHAPTER LXXXII.

SECRET, PRIVATE AND RELIGIOUS MEETINGS OF COLORED PERSONS
BEYOND THE HOUR OF TEN AT NIGHT, PROHIBITED.

All secret or private meetings or assemblages whatsoever, and all meetings for religious worship, beyond the hour of ten o'clock at night, of free negroes, mulattoes or slaves, shall be and they are hereby declared to be unlawful; and any colored person or persons, found at such unlawful assemblages or meetings, or who may continue at any religious meeting after ten o'clock at night, shall for each and every offence, on conviction, pay the sum of five dollars, to be recovered and applied as prescribed by act of this Corporation; and in the event of any such meeting or assem-

Myer Levy of Philadelphia in Virginia: US Civil War

Passover time strolling streets of Virginia town captured Federals,
Noticed little boy sitting on steps of house eating matzo.
Asked the boy for a piece,
Child fled indoors, shouting at the top of his lungs, ‘
Mother! There’s a damn Yankee Jew outside!’
Mother invited him to return for a Passover dinner that night.

Measure for Measure

Ten Plagues

עשרת המכות של מצרים



דבר



ערוך



כינים



צפרדע



דם



מכת
בכורות



חושך



ארבה



ברד



שחין

Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Address






Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Address

God's Providence

If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time,

He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both the North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those whom the offenses came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to Him.



Fondly, do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk and until every drop of blood drawn with a lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Address

God's Punishment

Measure for Measure

March 4, 1865

5 weeks before Appomattox

Covenant of the Broken Pieces

Genesis 15:13-14

(13) And [God] said to Abram, “Know well that your offspring shall be strangers in a land not theirs, and they shall be **enslaved and oppressed four hundred years**; (14) but **I will execute judgment on the nation they shall serve**, and in the end they shall go **free with great wealth**.”

בראשית ט"ו:י"ג-י"ד

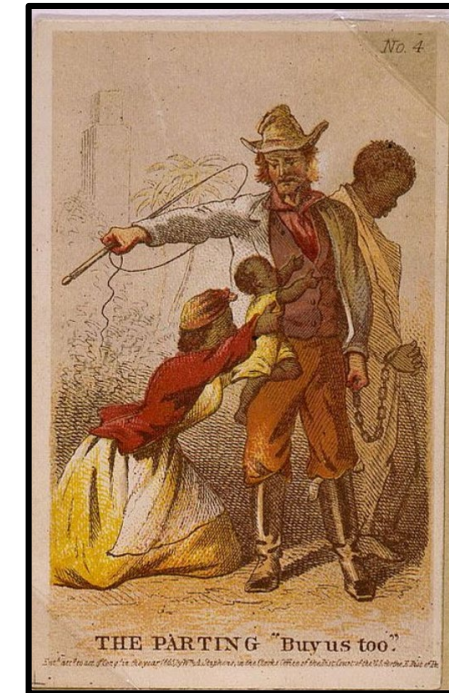
(יג) וַיֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָם יְדַע תְּדַע
כִּי־גֵר אֶהְיֶה וְרַעַף בְּאֶרֶץ לֹא
לָהֶם וְעֹבְדִים וְעֲנֵוֹ אֲתָם אַרְבַּע
מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה: (יד) וְגַם אֶת־הַגּוֹי
אֲשֶׁר יַעֲבֹדוּ יִגְדֹּן אֲנִי וְאַחֲרֵי־כֵן
יֵצְאוּ בְּרִכְשׁ גָּדוֹל:



Every drop of blood drawn by the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword

“The louder she screamed, the harder he whipped; and where the blood ran fastest, there he whipped longest. He would whip her to make her scream, and whip her to make her hush;”
The whipping of slaves is “the blood-stained gate, the entrance to the hell of slavery.” Frederick Douglass

Slave mother whose 11 children had been sold away Missis children died in Civil War.



“Missis, we even now. You sold all my children. God took all yours. Not one to bury either of us. Now, I forgive you.”



Exodus 1:22

‘Then Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, “Every boy that is born you shall throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”



17° CENTURY A.D. ENGRAVING

First Righteous Among the Nations

Exodus 2:5-6

(5) The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe in the Nile, while her maidens walked along the Nile. She spied the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to fetch it. (6) When she opened it, she saw that it was a child, a boy crying. She took pity on it and said, “This must be a **Hebrew** child.”

Reward – What’s in a Name?

Moses – Reminder forever → Daughter



Raphael (Rafaello Sanzio Da Urbino – 1519)

Numerous Renaissance Paintings
Moses Saved by Pharaoh’s Daughter and Maidens

1st Plague - Blood



Exodus 4:19-21

And the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron: Take your rod and hold out your arm over the waters of Egypt—its rivers, its canals, its ponds, all its bodies of water—that they may turn to blood; there shall be blood throughout the land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and stone.” (20) Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD commanded: (21) **and the fish in the Nile died.** The Nile stank so that the Egyptians could not drink water

2nd Plague – Frogs! Frogs! Everywhere

Exodus 7:27-29

(28) The Nile shall swarm with frogs, and they shall come up and enter your palace, your bedchamber and your bed, the houses of your courtiers and your people, and your ovens and your kneading bowls.

Exodus 8:9-10

(9) And יהוה did as Moses asked; the frogs died out in the houses, the courtyards, and the fields. (10) And they piled them up in heaps, till the land stank



Unheard Baby and Mothers Cries



Frogs Croaking Everywhere

Pharaoh, Courtiers and Masses



Abravanel explains

Unlike wailing Israelites, croaking frogs penetrated Pharaoh's inner sanctum, his magnificent bedroom, his bed, his most personal space.

Pharaoh's partners in mass murder, overwhelmed by sight and stench of dying frogs.

They could not escape the reverberating voices of frogs.

Sistine Chapel, Vatican City. 1481



I will sing to יהוה, for He has triumphed gloriously;
Horse and rider He has hurled into the sea.

כִּי־גָאָה גָאָה סוּס וְרֹכְבּוֹ רָמָה בַּיָּם:

Stone Mountain Georgia 1970



Confederate Memorial

Finger and Hand of God

Exodus 8:14-15 (14) The magician-priests did the like with their spells to produce lice, but they could not. The vermin remained upon human and beast; (15) and the magician-priests said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God!”

I think I see the finger of God in this. Yes, there is the handwriting on the wall; Break every yoke and let the oppressed go free.

John Rock, a black physician, January 1862



Exodus 14:30-31 ... Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the shore of the sea. (31) And Israel saw the powerful hand which יהוה had wielded against the Egyptians, ..

God's Measure for Measure: **Blood** for **Blood**

**Drowning of
the male child**

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graph LR; A[Drowning of the male child] --> B[Nile turned blood red: fish die]; A --> C[Frogs: unheard voices and unmoved hearts]; A --> D[Drowning in Sea of Reeds];
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Nile turned **blood red**: fish die

Frogs: unheard voices and
unmoved hearts

Drowning in Sea of Reeds

Penultimate Plague? Chagall's Darkness Over Egypt (1931)

[Exodus 10:21-23](#)

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Hold out your arm toward the sky that there may be darkness upon the land of Egypt, a darkness **that can be felt.**” Moses held out his arm toward the sky and thick darkness descended upon all the land of Egypt for three days. People could not see one another, and **for three days no one could get up from where he was;** but all the Israelites enjoyed light in their dwellings.



Slave's Life of Darkness

Mr. Covey succeeded in breaking me.

I was broken in body, soul and spirit.

My natural elasticity was crushed,

My intellect languished,

The disposition to read departed,

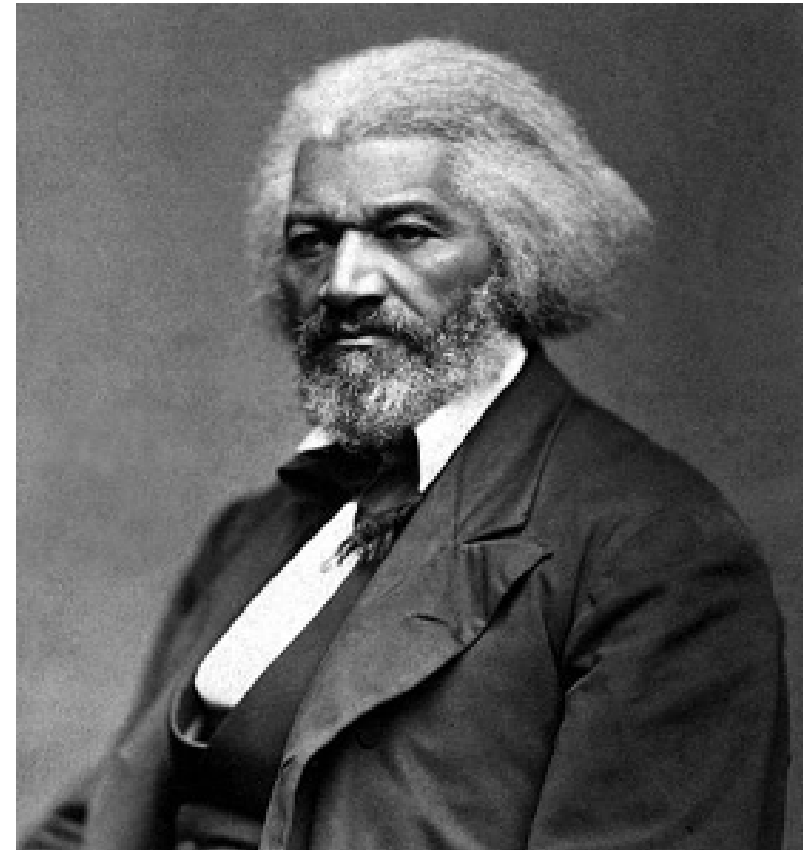
The cheerful spark that lingered about my eye died,

The dark night of slavery closed in upon me.

No day dawns for the slave, nor is it looked for.

It is all night, night forever.

Frederick Douglass



Death of Firstborn



1872 Lawrence Alma-Tadema

Exodus 4:22-23

God said, “You shall say to Pharaoh,
‘So said God,

My firstborn son is Israel.

So I say to you. Send out My son that
he may serve Me – but you have
refused to send him out; behold,
I shall kill your firstborn son”

Destruction of Civil War

Fondly, do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the **wealth piled by the bondsman's** two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk

and until **every drop of blood drawn with a lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword**, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

Deaths in the Civil War

600,000+ soldiers lost their lives

360,000 Northern

260,000 Southern



Gettysburg

Union casualties 23,000,

Confederate casualties 28,000

South: Phase 3 – “Hard Hand of War”

January 1864 – End

“If God Almighty had yet in store another plague worse than all others which he intended to have let loose on the Egyptians in case Pharaoh still hardened his heart, I am sure it must have been a regiment or so of half-armed, half-disciplined Confederate cavalry.” Governor of North Carolina

“They cannot be made to love us, but they can be made to fear us, and dread the passage of our troops through their country. We cannot change the hearts of those people in the South, but we can make the war so terrible that they will realize the fact that, however, brave and gallant and devoted to their country, still they are mortal” U.S. Grant



“We are not only fighting hostile armies, but a hostile people, and we must make old and young, rich and poor, feel the hard hand of war, as well as their organized armies.” General Sherman

Widespread Destruction – Egypt

Jan Luyken (1649–1712) Bible Engravings

Exodus 9:6:

Livestock

And God did so the next day: all the livestock of the Egyptians died, but of the livestock of the Israelites not a beast died.

Exodus 9:25

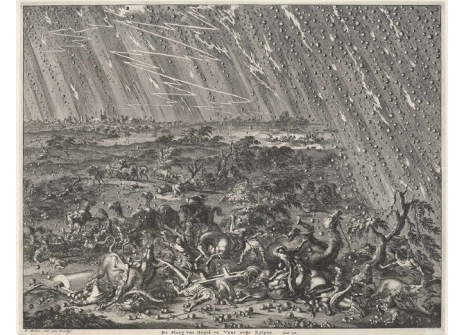
Hail

(25) Throughout the land of Egypt the hail struck down all that were in the open, both human and beast; the hail also struck down all the grasses of the field and shattered all the trees of the field.

Exodus 10:5

Locust

They shall cover the surface of the land, so that no one will be able to see the land. They shall devour the surviving remnant that was left to you after the hail; and they shall eat away all your trees that grow in the field





Old Baily,
London

**God's Justice
Measure for Measure**

Wealth => Destruction

Darkness for Darkness

First Born for First Born

God's Appointed Time

If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through **His appointed time...**

Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's **two hundred and fifty years** of unrequited toil

Genesis 15:13-16 (13) And [God] said to Abram, "Know well that your offspring shall be strangers in a land not theirs, and they shall be **enslaved and oppressed four hundred years**; (14) but I will execute judgment on the nation they shall serve, and in the end they shall go free with great wealth. (15) As for you, You shall go to your ancestors in peace; You shall be buried at a ripe old age.

(16) And they shall return here in the **fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.**"