

Bo 5786

Ramban on Exodus 12:3

THEY SHALL TAKE TO THEM EVERY MAN A LAMB, ACCORDING TO THEIR FATHERS' HOUSES. The reason for this commandment is that the constellation of Aries (the Ram) is at the height of its power in the month of Nisan, it being the sign of the zodiac which ascends the heavens. Therefore He commanded us to slaughter the sheep and to eat it in order to inform us that it was not by the power of that constellation that we went out from Egypt, but by decree of the Supreme One. And according to the opinion of our Rabbis that the Egyptians worshipped it as a deity, He has all the more informed us through this that He subdued their gods and their powers at the height of their ascendancy. And thus the Rabbis have said: "*Take you lambs and slaughter the gods of Egypt.*"

Exodus Rabbah 16:2

The Holy One blessed be He said to Moses: 'As long as Israel is worshipping the gods of Egypt they will not be redeemed. Go and say to them that they should abandon their evil deeds and repudiate idol worship.' That is what is written: "Draw, and take for yourselves" (Exodus 12:21), meaning draw your hands away from idol worship and "take for yourselves lambs" and slaughter the gods of Egypt and perform [the rite of] the paschal offering, as thereby, the Holy One blessed be He will pass over you; that is: "With stillness and pleasantness you will be saved" (Isaiah 30:15).

Mechilta d'Rebi Yishmael on Parashat Bo

"The taking of the lamb on the 10th was so that the Egyptians would see their god being slaughtered before their eyes and be unable to protest."

Bavli Rosh Hashanah 11a

Rabbi Yehoshua disagrees and says: In Nisan the world was created; in Nisan the Patriarchs were born; in Nisan the Patriarchs died; on Passover Isaac was born.

Genesis 18:10

Then one said, “I will return to you next year, and your wife Sarah shall have a son!” Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent, which was behind him.

Zohar II 41a

And the bones were thrown into the marketplace.