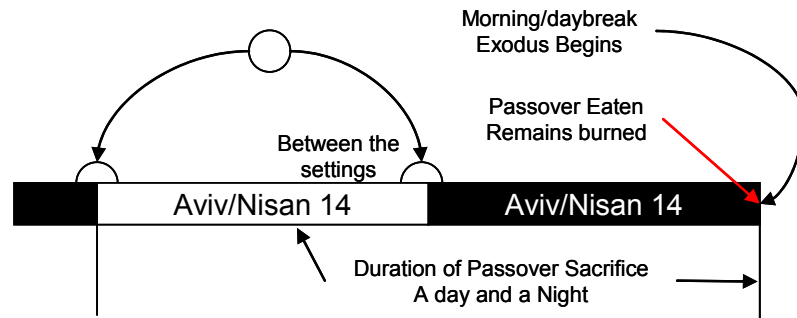


Further, it says:

And none of you shall go outside the door of his house until morning. (Exodus 12:22b)

This text makes it clear that the Exodus did not begin until daybreak.<sup>166</sup> In Exodus 12:31 Pharaoh calls “to Moses” לְמֹשֶׁה by night, and not “for Moses.” Aaron and Moses obeyed the commandment to remain in the house until morning. Also Pharaoh never saw Moses face again (cf. Ex 10:28-29). So it is clear that Pharaoh communicated to Moses in the darkness of night.

**Figure 29: Nisan 14 Defined by Daybreak**



Many have thought that morning here began while it was still totally dark, and that the Exodus commenced that night, but the question is if you were a first-born Israelite what interpretation would you put on “morning”? When did Israel plunder the Egyptian gold and silver if not after daybreak, and when would the Egyptians bury their dead if not after daybreak (cf. Ex. 12:36; Num. 33:3). The Passover in Egypt to save the firstborn and the Exodus are two different events, taking place on two different days. Only the annual Sabbath connects them.

Also observe that when the day is understood as daybreak to daybreak matters are cleared up. The Exodus began on the next day:

<sup>166</sup> Exodus 12:17, “for on this very day” speaks of the day part of the first day of unleavened bread, which was part of the annual Sabbath.