



Today's message sets up where we will be next week on Easter. Today and again next week, on Easter, we'll be in the book of Exodus. You'll see the sacrifice of Jesus Christ displayed large and loud in the Old Testament. We've titled today's study: "The Anticipation of Hope." Over the past several weeks, we have been walking through the book of Exodus, studying how God brought about the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt. For over 400 years, they have lived in slavery under the Egyptian rule. God raised a Hebrew man named Moses to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Jews out of their slavery. Pharaoh refused, and over the last few weeks, we have discussed how God poured out his wrath through 9 different plagues upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Each one of these was a horrible thing with much suffering, but they pale in comparison with the pain of the final consequence of Pharaoh's hardened heart.

Key Passage: Exodus 11

Discussion Questions:

1. Last week, it was pointed out that the plagues were not primarily aimed at the people of Egypt but rather the false gods they worshipped. Discuss the significance of the final plague in Exodus 11 and its impact on the Egyptians and the Israelites. How does this event shape their respective futures?
2. What insights can be gained from Moses' perspective on responsibility and accountability for rebellion against God, particularly concerning Pharaoh?
3. Discuss the significance of the distinction between the judgment upon Egypt and the favor shown to Israel. What does it reveal about God's covenantal relationship with His people?
4. How does the "anticipation of hope" in Exodus 11 connect with the broader theme of redemption and salvation, particularly during Easter?
5. Reflect on the significance of the Lord's Supper in relation to both looking back on Christ's sacrifice and looking forward with hope for believers. How does the Lord's Supper symbolize looking back on Christ's sacrifice and looking forward with hope?
6. What role do you think faith played in the anticipation of hope for the Israelites during their time of slavery and oppression in Egypt? In what ways do you see parallels between the anticipation of hope in today's passage and the anticipation associated with our daily lives, especially during challenging times or periods of uncertainty?
7. What's one personal takeaway from today's study you can focus on this week?