



The Israelites have been in slavery to the Egyptians for just over 400 years. They are miserable under the rule of the Egyptians. Meanwhile, Moses has a miraculous upbringing in the home of Pharaoh, and through a series of events, he ends up a man on the run and ends up living in a remote place called Midian, where he starts life over. Everything changed when God met Moses in the wilderness and laid a call upon his life to go back to Egypt, face-to-face with Pharaoh, and help free God's people from slavery. Over a series of chapters, we see God pour out His wrath and judgment upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians through a series of plagues. Last week, we ended with Moses telling Pharaoh what the final plague would be – the worst of all – the firstborn of all of Egypt, of every family, would die. The news of this final plague is devastating, and where we pick up the story.

Key Passage: Exodus 12

Discussion Questions:

1. Considering all the plagues Israel had seen God pour out in Egypt, how would you have responded, as an Israelite, upon hearing about the final plague God would soon carry out?
2. How does the concept of God's wrath, as seen in Exodus 12, challenge many modern perceptions of God's character?

There may be no more harrowing and sorrowful story in the Bible than this one—a clear, devastating picture of the wrath of God upon humanity because of sin. Most of the time, people have thoughts about God that are not in the Bible. People think God would never let anything bad happen in their lives, and then they're upset when He does. People think God would never allow pain, and they're upset when He does. People think God would never give them the consequences for sin, and they're upset when He does.

3. In what ways does the symbolism of the Passover lamb foreshadow Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb of God? What significance do you find in the instructions for applying the blood of the lamb to the doorposts in Exodus 12?

In this devastating passage, love and hope are displayed. You see, the Passover isn't just about a lamb, and it isn't just about the Exodus. Exodus 12 points forward thousands of years to the real Passover Lamb who would lead us on our own Exodus. The truth is all of our stories collide with Israel's story. All of us are enslaved to sin; it's what comes naturally to us. Therefore, all of us are under the judgment of God. So, all of us need our own Exodus. We need Someone outside of ourselves to bring us out of a life of slavery to sin. Just like Israel needed Moses to bring them out, we need God to bring us out. How did God do this? He sacrificed His own Son in YOUR place.

Consider these words from Justin Dillehay: “God devised a way to be just and merciful at the same time. Salvation through substitution. The Passover was meant to paint a picture of that, but it wasn’t the real thing. But when we get to the Gospels, the true substitute is here.”

4. In what sense can we understand the Passover event as both a moment of judgment and salvation? What parallels do you see between the plight of the Israelites in Egypt and the human condition concerning sin?

In wrath, God deals with sin. Wrath is not a word we use much today, but it speaks to the judgment of God. In a world that doesn’t want to be judged for any reason or any decision, the Bible shows that God is a God who judges. God will deal with sin. One day, everyone will stand before God and give an account of our lives. The book of Hebrews says it this way, “And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). You will have to answer to God for how you’ve lived your life and what you’ve done with God’s Son, Jesus. No one will escape that reality.

5. How does understanding God's wrath and love shape your perspective on Easter? How might the imagery of the Passover lamb and the blood applied to the doorposts deepen our appreciation of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection?

Exodus 12 is really about Jesus, our Passover Lamb. This passage is a foreshadowing, a looking ahead to what Jesus would do for us one day on the cross. Consider this: when John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). Paul described Jesus like this, “For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.” (1 Corinthians 5:7b). Peter spoke of Jesus like this, “...knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” (1 Peter 1:18-19) The point of the entire Bible is this: Jesus is the Lamb who forgives sin! Jesus, the Lamb of God, was placed on a cross to deal with sin. His blood was poured out on the cross, and according to Peter – it is this blood, the blood of the Lamb, that ransoms us and buys us back from a life of sin. This Lamb of God is not dead, but on this day, we celebrate that this Lamb has been resurrected from the dead and is reigning in Heaven; He is the Risen Lamb!

6. How did faith and works both play a role in today's passage? Discuss the idea that repentance and faith are necessary for experiencing the salvation symbolized in the Passover and fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

The message of Easter can be summed up in this way: The only way to experience an Exodus, to experience the forgiveness of your sins, to have a fundamental change of life, to escape the judgment and wrath of God, is to have the blood of Jesus applied to the doorpost of your life. When you put your faith in Jesus Christ, the Bible says that the blood of Jesus saves you. This points back to Exodus: if the blood of Jesus is applied to your life, the judgment of God will “pass over” your life. We will no longer face God’s judgment, we will not go to hell, but we will experience a spiritual exodus out of our sin and into the grace and mercy of God.

7. What's one personal takeaway from today's study you can focus on this week?