

## **Exodus 11-12**

You can imagine as we begin today that the Egyptians are in a state of fear, confusion and chaos as their entire way of living has been decimated at this point. On top of this the gods they serve have been humiliated while the God of the Hebrews has shown His strength, power, might and authority.

You might remember that we were told at the end of chapter 2 that as the Israelites cried out to the Lord that He heard their groaning, remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, looked upon the people of Israel and He acknowledged them.

It was then that God raised up Moses and sent his brother Aaron with him to begin to speak to the king of Egypt telling him to “let the people of God go that they might serve Him.” The king in response if you remember had said “Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice and let the people of God go?”

Over the last several chapters God has certainly made Himself known to the people of Egypt as we have seen 9 different plagues that have come upon the people of Egypt. Each of the plagues targeted specific gods that they worshipped and we even saw at a certain point that God began to differentiate between His people Israel and the

Egyptian people. For example when the 9<sup>th</sup> plague took place it was the plague of supernatural darkness that came upon Egypt for 3 full days. This plague was directly against the sun god Ra. We are told that during that time in the land of Goshen where the Israelites were camped that there was light.

So God is making it clear who He is to the Egyptian people and some of the people of Egypt had been responding to God. We might remember that at one point right before a massive hail storm came that there were some Egyptians that listened when given the opportunity and they called their servants and livestock in from the fields...As they obeyed they were protected while those who rejected the command of God faced decimation.

When we left off last week we were really in the middle of the final conversation that Moses and the king of Egypt had. The king if you remember had a heart that had this time been hardened by God and he had said to Moses that if he ever saw him again he was a dead man...Moses had agreed at the end of chapter 10 that he would not see him again and really it's unfortunate they put a chapter break where they did because the conversation continues on in chapter 11.

Let's pick up in verses 1-3 which say this **And the Lord said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and**

**on Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether. <sup>2</sup>Speak now in the hearing of the people, and let every man ask from his neighbor and every woman from her neighbor, articles of silver and articles of gold.” <sup>3</sup>And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh’s servants and in the sight of the people.**

So Moses is before Pharaoh and as he is there the Lord begins to speak to him. You can imagine the king is spewing things at Moses declaring he will be dead if he sees him again and then the Lord in that still small voice is speaking to Moses.

The Lord tells him that one more plague will come upon Egypt and after this plague the people will be allowed to leave and actually the Egyptians will be so devastated and shocked by what will happen that they will actually force the people of Israel out of the land.

Moses as this is happening was commanded by God to tell the people of Israel to go to their neighbors and to ask articles of silver and gold from them and essentially we will see that they are going to plunder the Egyptians before they leave as God gives them favor in their eyes. I don’t think they

are robbing the Egyptians but instead you could see this as they were now going to receive the wages that were due them for their service over hundreds of years. Later on I think we will see these items used in the worship of God as in Exodus 35 we will see the people of Israel bring silver and gold to the Lord for use in the construction of the tabernacle which was the place the people were to worship God.

We also see in verse 3 that Moses was incredibly respected in the land as all of the kings servants and the people respected him...You might notice that the king is not mentioned as one who had regard for Moses.

Look with me at verses 4-10 which say this <sup>4</sup>**Then Moses said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; <sup>5</sup> and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals. <sup>6</sup> Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it *before*, nor shall be like it again. <sup>7</sup> But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the Lord does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.’ <sup>8</sup> And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me,**

**saying, ‘Get out, and all the people who follow you!’ After that I will go out.” Then he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.**

**<sup>9</sup>But the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not heed you, so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.” <sup>10</sup>So Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh; and the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go out of his land.**

We here have the final judgment pronounced as around midnight God was going to bring a judgment that would cause a cry so great that there was nothing like it before nor would there be anything like it after.

I can’t imagine the agony the people of Egypt would go through as every 1<sup>st</sup> born in the land would die from the firstborn of the king to the female servants to the firstborn of the animals...Age would not matter, sometimes we think that this just applied to children but here we are told the servants who were at work if they were the firstborn would die.

There are some that take issue with this that God is not fair or that He is doing this unjustly. I would remind us that God had given them 9 plagues before this one to let the people of Israel go and their king had refused. If the king had just taken heed to the words of God all of this would not have taken

place. I believe had the king genuinely changed his mind at this point that this final plague could have been avoided.

Moses then let's the king know that the people of Israel would be spared, that there would be a distinction made once again and we are told here that after this took place that the people of Israel would be sent out.

The Lord even let's Moses know the king once again won't listen and we see the final meeting conclude between the king and Moses as the king's heart we are told was hardened by the Lord and he refused to let the people go.

Now as we come to chapter 12 I believe the text is taking a shift on the timeline and going backwards several days.

Chapter 11 is God's pronouncement to the king about what would happen and chapter 12 is God preparing the people of Israel for the same plague that would take place. The people of Israel are going to be given specific instructions that they were to accomplish by faith that they might escape the judgment that was going to come upon the land. These instructions we are going to see clearly point to Jesus and we'll look at that as we move forward.

Ok so let's look at verses 1-2 which say **12 Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, <sup>2</sup>“This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.** Here we can

see that God spoke to Moses and Aaron and let them know that the Israelites were going to begin to keep time differently than they used to. Their first month of the year was going to be attached to the time that God allowed them to go free and specifically this is going to be tied to what is known as the Passover...The Passover as I said is a clear picture of Jesus and it's awesome to me that as the people of Israel all over the world today have this festival it is a great portrait of our Savior.

You and I probably have a new calendar so to say in our lives also just as the Israelites would as they were set free from the Egyptians. For us it's probably what we would say are our pre-Christ days and post-Christ days...This reminds me of 2 Corinthians 5:17 which says <sup>17</sup>**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.** For those of us that have trusted in Christ we know that we have a new life in Him, that we are born again as the scriptures say in John 3.

Look at verses 3-7 say <sup>3</sup>**Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.** <sup>4</sup>**And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the**

**number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. <sup>5</sup> Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take *it* from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup> Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. <sup>7</sup> And they shall take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.**

The Lord then tells His people that they are to take a lamb for each household and if a family was smaller they were permitted to join the family next door.

We are told here that they were to select a lamb on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month and what would happen is that little lamb would live with the family, they would keep close tabs on it and surely the children and even the parents would begin to enjoy the little lamb that was so full of energy and life as it spent time with them.

We might also notice it says here that the lamb had to be without blemish and this meant it could not be injured or sick or have any kind of defects in it. I want to point out to you that in the New Testament in 1 Peter 1:18-19 we have the following that points us to Jesus being a lamb when the Word says <sup>18</sup> **knowing that you were not redeemed**

**with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**

John the Baptist also called Jesus the lamb of God in John 1:29 when He said <sup>29</sup>**The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! And then in 1 Corinthians 5:7 the Word says this of Jesus <sup>7</sup>Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.**

I wanted to point all this out to you so that I could then tie it back to the fact that the Israelites were to select a lamb without blemish. That meant you had to inspect it to ensure it was perfect...Our Lord Jesus was also inspected multiple times as He went through several trials the night before He was crucified...Each of these trials revealed that He was indeed pure and spotless.

So the people were to take the lambs on the 10<sup>th</sup> day and then on the 14<sup>th</sup> day they were to be killed at twilight and then we are told they were to take the blood and put it on the doorposts of their homes. More on that to come later in this chapter.

**Verses 8-11 say** <sup>8</sup>Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. <sup>11</sup>And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.

On that same night that the lamb was killed and the blood smeared on the doors they were to eat the lamb roasted in fire, they weren't to boil it or eat it raw but instead they were to cook it over the coals of the fire and anything that was left the next morning was to be completely burned in the fire...I am going to guess that the entrails might have been left behind but that's just my opinion.

And then notice that as they ate it they were to have a belt on their waste and sandals on their feet. If you remember the idea was that the king of Egypt was going to rush them out of the area so the Israelites needed to be prepared. You might also take note that the sandals on their feet we are told later would not wear out for some 40 years as they wandered the wilderness.

Look at verses 12-13 which say <sup>12</sup> **‘For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the Lord.** <sup>13</sup> **Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you *are*. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.**

So the people of Israel were to slay the lamb and eat in haste while being prepared to make their exit from the land of Egypt...And that same night God says here that He was going to pass through the land of Egypt and all the firstborn of the land were going to be killed both man and beast and notice it says here that this would be done against the gods of Egypt meaning their gods could do nothing to stop this.

We should spend a little time here in verse 13 as we are told that the blood that had been applied to the frames of the doors would serve as a sign and when God came to those houses that had the blood applied to them we are told the Lord would then pass over them meaning He would not kill the firstborn in that home. It was almost like the blood applied was saying death had already come to this home or that something had already suffered as a substitute for the firstborn of this home.

If you think about this from the viewpoint that Jesus is our Passover lamb this is a perfect picture of how you and I are spared from the judgment of God because the blood of Jesus has been spilled and then applied to our lives by faith. The Israelites just like you and I could not be spared unless they were obedient by faith to what the Lord said.

This is a principle you find throughout the Word of God. It is not those that keep rules and regulations that are saved but instead those who are obedient to what God has said as they walk by faith. **Even in this example before us God did not save the people because of their works or deeds but** instead by them applying what God said by faith. It was not until later that God gives the law to Moses...We see the same principle with Abraham. We are told He believed God and the Lord accounted it to him as righteousness.

You and I know that because the blood of Jesus has been applied to our hearts and lives by faith that the judgment of the Father has passed over us. The lamb that was slain for each family was completely innocent. They hadn't done anything wrong and yet they were slain that others might go free.

**So the first thing the Israelites were to do was to apply the blood of the lamb by faith to the doorposts of the home and this symbolized or was a picture of what Jesus has done on**

our behalf...look with me at verse 14 which says <sup>14</sup>**‘So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.**

So the day of Passover was to be an everlasting ordinance something the people of Israel were to remember year after year as they celebrated what God would do on their behalf as they were finally set free from Israel.

Verses 15-16 say <sup>15</sup>**Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.** <sup>16</sup>**On the first day *there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but *that* which everyone must eat—that only may be prepared by you.***

This is the introduction of a second event that would actually begin right after the day of Passover and it is what we know as the Feast of Unleavened bread. So what was to be done in the houses of Israel on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nissan was that they were to go throughout their homes and they were to rid their homes of all leaven.

In addition to this there was to be a holy convocation on both the first and the last day of the week where no work would be done but they could prepare the food.

Verses 17-20 say <sup>17</sup> **So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance.** <sup>18</sup> **In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.** <sup>19</sup> **For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land.** <sup>20</sup> **You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.’”**

So as soon as the sun went down on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan and the 15<sup>th</sup> day began (and we should remember that for the Jewish people the day begins at nightfall) they were to begin to partake of this time of remembrance.

It was to be a time to remember again that God had brought out the armies from the land of Egypt.

Now I want to point out to you briefly there is a spiritual application to this...In the Bible if you look at leaven you will

see that leaven has a close association with sin. For example in 1 Corinthians 5:6 we have the following **Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?** And we have probably heard the phrase “A little leaven leavens the whole lump.”

I point this out because it’s interesting to think that first the Passover Lamb was slain and the blood was applied by faith and then what did the Israelites do? They were to remove the leaven from their homes and leaven represents sin.

The picture is pretty amazing really and I think you could say that sin or leaven cannot be removed from a person’s life until they first are obedient to applying the blood of Jesus to their heart by faith.

And I do want to add here that if we are in Christ that we are called to live a life that is holy and pleasing before Him.

When we come to Jesus He removes the sin from our lives as far as the east is from the west...and at the same time you and I have the responsibility of putting our flesh to death and walking away from sinful activities.

Ok, quickly let’s work through the rest of this as I believe the ground work is laid for the rest of the chapter. Look at verses 21-24 which say **<sup>21</sup>Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the**

**Passover lamb. <sup>22</sup> And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. <sup>23</sup> For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. <sup>24</sup> And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever.**

You might note here that Moses went to who in verse 21? The first people he went to was the elders. The elders were to go and do what was commanded of the Lord through Moses and they would have been an example to the rest of the Israelites as they were obedient. Certainly elders should lead by example as they spend time with the church they are a part of.

They were to pick out the lambs that were needed and kill them at the appropriate time and after this they were to smear the blood on the doorposts and shut the doors until morning.

During this time the Lord would pass through and strike the Egyptians but those with the blood applied would be passed

over. Afterwards the Israelites were to then celebrate the Passover annually.

**Verses 25-28 say <sup>25</sup> It will come to pass when you come to the land which the Lord will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. <sup>26</sup> And it shall be, when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ <sup>27</sup> that you shall say, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.’ ” So the people bowed their heads and worshiped. <sup>28</sup> Then the children of Israel went away and did so; just as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.**

The Lord repeatedly says they need to do this on a regular basis and this time the Lord adds to it that as they celebrate the Passover the kids are going to be watching and they are going to begin to ask why is it that we are doing this every year...The parents were to then pass along how the Lord had delivered the Israelites out of Egypt.

Again, parents you have the responsibility of telling your kids about Jesus and demonstrating what it means to follow Him as you obey Him in life. Notice that the trigger point for the kids asking the parents what was going on was that the adults first had to be obedient to what God said. If parents

are not living for Christ on a daily basis your kids won't see the Lord represented properly.

And we do see here that the people of Israel were obedient to what the Lord said.

Look at verses 29-30 which say <sup>29</sup> **And it came to pass at midnight that the Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock.** <sup>30</sup> **So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for *there was not a house where there was not one dead.***

I can't imagine how terrible this must have been as the Lord did that which He said. After multiple warnings to the king of Egypt to which he would not listen the final judgment came upon the people of Egypt.

We are told there was not a house that there was not someone dead. And it again covered not just people but animals as well.

You know this does remind me of the many times that God has allowed the good news of Jesus Christ to reach the ears of humanity. Over and over again people have the chance to hear of the sacrifice of Jesus on behalf of humanity and how they can be saved by placing their faith in the payment of

sins that is found in the shedding of the Lamb of God who is Jesus Christ and as that message is proclaimed there are consequences for those that refuse to accept the Lord just like there were consequences for the king and the Egyptians as they refused to obey God.

That consequence of course is the eternal judgment of hell for those that are unbelievers in Jesus.

Look at what happens next in verses 31-36 which say <sup>31</sup>Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, “Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the Lord as you have said. <sup>32</sup>Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also.”

<sup>33</sup>And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, “We shall all be dead.” <sup>34</sup>So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders. <sup>35</sup>Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. <sup>36</sup>And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them *what they requested*. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

Here we can see the Word of God to Moses and the children of Israel fulfilled **as after many signs and wonders God has shown who He is to the king and the king in his great defeat here is now calling in Moses and Aaron** and really demanding they leave immediately **and they were to go and serve the Lord and all the people and animals they needed were to go as well.** We might even remember that not only had God told Moses about this but also Abraham had been told that **when the Israelites left the land of captivity** they were in that they would take great possessions with them.

**Verses 37-42 say this** <sup>37</sup> **Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children.** <sup>38</sup> **A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds—a great deal of livestock.** <sup>39</sup> **And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves.**

<sup>40</sup> **Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years.** <sup>41</sup> **And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years—on that very same day—it came to pass that all the armies of the Lord went out from the land of**

**Egypt. <sup>42</sup> It is a night of solemn observance to the Lord for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of the Lord, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.**

We learn here there were about 600,000 men that left **and that does not include women and children** and that there was a mixed multitude that went as well and probably this was the Egyptians who had come to know that the God of the Hebrews was the one they wanted to live for...it may be that there were some in the surrounding areas as well that came to be with the people of God.

It is interesting to note that in verse 41 that the people of Israel are referred to as the army of the Lord...While they were in the land of Egypt they were servants and now they are an army.

**Look with me at verses 43-51 which say <sup>43</sup> And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “This is the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it. <sup>44</sup> But every man’s servant who is bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then he may eat it. <sup>45</sup> A sojourner and a hired servant shall not eat it. <sup>46</sup> In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones. <sup>47</sup> All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. <sup>48</sup> And when a**

**stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. <sup>49</sup> One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you.”**

**<sup>50</sup> Thus all the children of Israel did; as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. <sup>51</sup> And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the Lord brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt according to their armies.**

As the chapter closes we have specific commands from God that no foreigner may eat of the Passover or celebrate it unless they have been circumcised which was really a physical demonstration that a person had submitted themselves to the God of Israel and that the servants of homes had the same stipulations.

And the children of Israel did so as the Lord brought them out of the land of Egypt.

Next week we'll begin to watch the Lord's work in His people as they exit Egypt. Difficulty will come their way and yet the Lord God Almighty will work on their behalf just as He does for those of us that have chosen to put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Exodus 11-12 “Jesus Our Passover”

## Chapter 12

### **Verses 1-2**

2 Corinthians 5:17

### **Verses 3-7**

1 Peter 1:18-19

John 1:29

1 Corinthians 5:7

### **Verses 17-20**

1 Corinthians 5:6