



EXODUS - WEEK 11

The Passover is the Gospel

Opening prayer

Prayer for the persecuted church:

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Erick Cobb and Covenant Grace Church.

Closing prayer

Introduction:

If people need evidence to give them reason to believe God has revealed Himself to humanity, the historical account of the Passover story is it. The Passover story is not

a coincidental parallel to the work of Christ. It is an intentional future-telling of the work of Christ. It points to the cross.

It is amazing how in the Passover Meal, the gospel is present. Not just presented, but present whether the participants realize it or not.

Big Idea: The Passover is the Gospel.

And we find the story of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the 10th and final plague. And if we remember the gospel as four simple points, the first one is this.

1. GOD created us for His glory.

Isaiah 43:7

**⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”**

John Piper summarizes this point of the gospel in this way: “Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). The way to live for the glory of God is to love him (Matthew 22:37), trust him (Romans 4:20), be thankful to him (Psalm 50:23), obey him (Matthew 5:16), and treasure him above all things (Philippians 3:8; Matthew 10:37). When we do these things we image forth God’s glory.

Pharaoh refused to give God the glory due His name and his life displayed that attitude. And in turn he also withheld God's glory by refusing to let the Israelites go. He would not allow them to worship God the way God intended. So, today we're going to look at the Passover in chapters 11 & 12.

Exodus 11:1-5

11 The Lord said to Moses, "Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon

Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely. ² Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry.” ³ 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, there were some Egyptians who were reasonable. It became clear to them that the way they viewed the world did not mesh with reality. The gods they worshipped didn't deliver when all was said and done.

And that's the key to any worldview being viable — can it deliver on all accounts of reality? Can it explain reason, rather than just presupposing reason, as if reason just exists as a universal law on its own. All universal laws, which is another way of saying, all

absolute laws, always point to a transcendent Law-giver. So, if there is no God, why are the laws of logic universal? Quite frankly, materialism doesn't have a good answer for that as it just simply doesn't have substantial answers to so many other things, including consciousness and purpose and universal morality.

the Lord gave the people favor

Favor is the OT word for the NT word grace...
grace is unmerited favor. So, we could really
translate this “The Lord gave them grace.”

4 So Moses said, “Thus says the Lord:

This little phrase that just cuts to the core
issue of life, because even if you’re not a
Christian, somewhere in your life you have a
thus says... In other words, you have an
ultimate source that you look to in order to
understand life, to make sense of things.

Maybe it's "thus says science" or "thus says my heart" or "thus says the universe..." But somewhere in your life there is an authority from which you derive your view of life.

The Christian claim, it's not a viewpoint, because it is a proclamation given to everyone in the world — but the Christian claim is that you were created for God's glory and if you are not actively living for His glory you're in rebellion against not only God, but reality itself.

‘About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, ⁵ and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle.

That’s the second point of the gospel.

2. GOD's image in humanity is marred by our sinfulness.

You know who the who “the firstborn behind the handmill” is? An Israelite. So, God's judgment for sin wasn't just on the Egyptians, it was also upon the Israelites. Sin has touched everyone. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We've fallen short of imaging God as we should. All have a sin nature, from the highest to the lowest.

Romans 5:12

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

Why do we all die? Because we're all sinners. The Apostle Paul writes that sin came into the world through Adam, one man. By acting on the lie of Satan, Adam put himself under Satan's dominion. And this changed his nature, because Adam who was immortal,

became mortal. He became a law-breaker. The wages of sin is death. “The day you eat of that fruit you will die.” That nature, that mortal nature because of sin spread to all people by birth.

Adam was our representative head and when he sinned, we sinned in him. Becoming a Christian reverses this. Instead of being in Adam, God places you in Christ. When you were born, everything true of Adam was true of you. When you are born again, everything

true of Christ is true of you, because you are now in Christ.

But the point we're making now is the wages of sin is death. We are born spiritually dead. Because we all sin, we all die. So death spread to all of us because we're all sinners. This plague illustrates the sin problem of the world.

No one denies the sin problem. What they deny is the extent of the sin problem or the

source of the sin problem. “I’m not that bad. I don’t deserve death. I’m not evil, etc.” It’s just a denial that you have fallen short of the glory of God. Do you image (or reflect) God the way you think He wants to be reflected? The wages of sin is death.

⁶ There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again.

There is a reason this is a famous story.

7 But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.'

The distinction between Egypt and Israel wasn't a moral one. They were all sinners under the penalty of death, both Egyptians and Israelites. It was a distinction of grace. One group of people had God's grace and one group did not. The distinction was not moral.

The distinction was one of grace, unmerited favor. Favor they did not deserve because there were even Israelites who were idolators.

Joshua 24:14

14 “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

So Joshua tells us that there were even Israelites who saw all the miracles of God and still worshipped idols at this time.

Exodus 11:8-10

⁸ And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Get out, you and all the people who follow you.’ And after that I will go out.” And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger. ⁹ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you,

that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.”

So, Pharaoh wasn't going to listen to the Lord until after the plague.

¹⁰ Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go out of his land.

So, chapter 11 sets the stage for the Exodus, the escape of Israel from slavery. Again, if you think of the gospel message as four simple points, you'll get a better grasp of what the Passover teaches us.

Those four simple points are:

One, that God created us for His glory. Two, our sinfulness mars the image of God in us. Three, God sent Christ to restore His image in us through His death and resurrection. Four, believing this gospel message brings

forgiveness and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the image of God in us, which progressively transforms us back into what was lost in the garden.

Chapter 11 sets up the second point of the gospel — all have sinned.

John Piper summarizes this point of the gospel in this way: “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). “Although they knew God, they did not honor him as God

or give thanks to him . . . and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images” (Romans 1:21–23). None of us has loved or trusted or thanked or obeyed or treasured God as we ought.

Therefore we all deserve eternal punishment.

“The wages of sin is (eternal) death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). Those who did not obey the Lord Jesus “will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from

the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might” (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

Matthew 25:46

⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Again, two groups of people with one distinction between them — grace.

Exodus 12:3

³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.

In this description we can see one of the most powerful foreshadowings of the gospel — a lamb for a household.

We also begin to see the progression of God's revelation. In the account of Abraham and Isaac, God provided one lamb for one person,

Isaac. Next, we see here God provided a lamb for a household. Then God provided a sacrifice for the entire nation of Israel, it was called the Day of Atonement when a single animal atoned for the sins of Israel. These all foreshadowed the once and for all sacrifice for the entire world — Jesus Christ.

Acts 16:31

³¹ And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Where did the Apostle John and the Apostle Peter get this language from?

John 1:29

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

John the Baptist referred to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the

world. In other words, He takes away the punishment of your sin. He is our substitute. He dies in our place. That's what all these sacrifices were about — a substitute for the people of Israel.

That is the gospel — Christ died in our place.

1 Peter 1:18-19

¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers,

Through nine different plagues, God painstakingly showed the futility of the Egyptian gods.

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.

Exodus 12:5-7

⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or

from the goats, ⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

It is no coincidence that Jesus was crucified in the late afternoon on the eve of Passover.

⁷ “Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.

- **Photos of doorframe**
- **Passover looked forward to the crucifixion**
- **Communion looks back to the crucifixion**

3. God sent Christ to restore His image in us through His death and resurrection.

Exodus 12:11-13

¹¹ In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.

In the Passover seder the unleavened bread is the reminder of how they had to flee Egypt in haste. They ate the first Passover standing up, ready to leave in a moment's notice, leaving nothing behind.

12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. 13 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 no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

This is the gospel. You are in a house, so to speak, that deserves the judgment of God and the only reason you do not incur the penalty of sin is by the blood of the Lamb, the blood of Christ shed for you. The wrath of God passes over you because of Christ on the cross. The technical term for this is propitiation. God's wrath passes over us because of the blood of Christ.

On the evening of the Passover meal, this is what took place:

Matthew 26:26-28

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

John 13:1

13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

Now, if you think all of this is simply coincidence, then I have nothing that will convince you of the truth that Jesus Christ is

the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world. (Rev. 13:8)

1 Corinthians 5:7

⁷ Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

Exodus 12:23

23 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 will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household.

Exodus 12:36

³⁶ And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

Genesis 15:13-14

¹³ Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on

the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

The Passover is still celebrated today, though its significance is often unseen. When King Josiah celebrated the Passover in 2 Chronicles 35, he slaughtered more than 37,000 sheep. According to Josephus, the ancient historian, hundreds of thousands of lambs were herded through the streets of Jerusalem every Passover. But all that blood could not accomplish what was needed. Only

the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, has the infinite worth to wipe your sins away.