

EXODUS CHAPTER 11-12

By Charles Dailey 2018 NLT CPS

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God has raised up a prophet in Moses and has sent him to the king of Egypt. God intends to have the Pharaoh release the nation of Israel from bondage. Moses and his brother Aaron have confronted the Pharaoh and their request has been rejected. God has shown His power, beginning with inconveniences and now culminating in the death of all firstborn males in Egypt.

#10 FINAL PLAGUE THREATENED

(11:1.) Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will strike Pharaoh and the land of Egypt with one more blow. After that, Pharaoh will let you leave this country. In fact, he will be so eager to get rid of you that he will force you all to leave.

- This plague will not only cause **Pharaoh** to release Israel, but he will actually **force** them **to leave**. He will have a total and complete change of mind because of God's pressure.

(2.) Tell all the Israelite men and women to ask their Egyptian neighbors for articles of silver and gold."

- Before departure, every Hebrew is to ask their **Egyptian** friends for **silver and gold** jewelry. The Lord will intervene to make this successful.

(3.) (Now the LORD had caused the Egyptians to look favorably on the people of Israel. And Moses was considered a very great man in the land of Egypt, respected by Pharaoh's officials and the Egyptian people alike.)

- **Moses** himself had become very popular in **Egypt**, even with **Pharaoh's** staff people.

ALL FIRSTBORN WILL DIE

(4.) Moses had announced to Pharaoh, "This is what the LORD says: At midnight tonight I will pass through the heart of Egypt. (5) All the firstborn sons will die in every family in Egypt, from the oldest son of Pharaoh, who sits on his throne, to the oldest son of his lowliest servant girl who grinds the flour. Even the firstborn of all the livestock will die.

- The **death** sentence. All of the **firstborn of Egypt**, whether people or **livestock**, will **die** about **midnight**. But **Moses** didn't say which **midnight**. This included **Pharaoh's** home. The death of the **firstborn** males happened between four and nine days later.

(6.) Then a loud wail will rise throughout the land of Egypt, a wail like no one has heard before or will ever hear again.

- The **wail** will be extensive and intense. In chapter one, the Pharaoh tried to slay the male Hebrew babies. Now all **Egypt** will be sentenced to have their firstborn die. In chapter two, Moses had reported the **cries** of the Hebrews. Now all **Egypt** will cry.

(7.) But among the Israelites it will be so peaceful that not even a dog will bark. Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites.

- **Israel** will be exempt. The contrast is powerful. The **Egyptians** crying, **Israel** would be so quiet they wouldn't disturb the **dogs**.

(8.) All the officials of Egypt will run to me and fall to the ground before me. 'Please leave!' they will beg. 'Hurry! And take all your followers with you.' Only then will I go!" Then, burning with anger, Moses left Pharaoh.

- Moses was deeply involved. Notice his **anger**.

(9.) Now the LORD had told Moses earlier, "Pharaoh will not listen to you, but then I will do even more mighty miracles in the land of Egypt."

- The **Lord** reminded **Moses** that the purpose of **Pharaoh** not listening was that even more miracles could be seen.

(10.) Moses and Aaron performed these miracles in Pharaoh's presence, but the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he wouldn't let the Israelites leave the country.

- This ends **Moses'** direct dealings with **Pharaoh**. Now **Moses** has a different role: the leader of **Israel**.

A NEW CALENDAR IS STARTED

(12:1.) While the Israelites were still in the land of Egypt, the LORD gave the following instructions to Moses and Aaron: (2.) "From now on, this month will be the first month of the year for you.

- God specified a new religious calendar, based on what was happening right now. This **month** is called *Abib* (ear [of corn]-month) or later *Nisan*. The instructions for this feast are given while Israel is still in **Egypt**. The new year will now start with the month of their redemption from Egypt.

A NEW FEAST IS COMMANDED

(3.) Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household.

- Each **family** is to take one **lamb** per **household**. The **household** was and is an important unit in God's plan for mankind. Also everyone participated; no one just watched.

(4.) If a family is too small to eat a whole animal, let them share with another family in the neighborhood. Divide the animal according to the size of each family and how much they can eat.

- If a **family** is small, combine them and feast together.

(5.) The animal you select must be a one-year-old male, either a sheep or a goat, with no defects. (6.) Take special

care of this chosen animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of this first month. Then the whole assembly of the community of Israel must slaughter their lamb or young goat at twilight.

- The **animal** must be perfect, a **male one year old**. Observe that Jesus was a male. It could also be a **sheep** or a **goat**, but could not have sores, scars or deformities. Jesus was sinless. 1 Peter 1:18-19.
- After setting the animal aside on the tenth (verse 3), it was to be killed on the **fourteenth at twilight**. This was understood to begin at 3:00 pm and end at dark. Jesus died at 3:00 pm. Luke 23:44-46.

(7.) They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the sides and top of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the animal.

- **Some blood** was to be put on the **doorframes of the houses** where they ate the sacrifice. While the word *sacrifice* has not been used to describe the feast as of yet, it was a sacrifice (verse 27).

(8.) That same night they must roast the meat over a fire and eat it along with bitter salad greens and bread made without yeast.

- Dinner was after dark, the animal was **roasted** and eaten with unleavened **bread and salad greens**.

(9.) Do not eat any of the meat raw or boiled in water. The whole animal--including the head, legs, and internal organs -- must be roasted over a fire.

- Only **roasted** and no exceptions. **Roasting** created an aroma that embedded a lesson. **Boiling** did not.

(10.) Do not leave any of it until the next morning. Burn whatever is not eaten before morning.

- Any left-overs are to be **burned**. The aroma persisted. All of this was done by the participants *in faith*. There hadn't been anyone put to death yet. This applies to the next section, too.

BE READY TO TRAVEL

(11.) "These are your instructions for eating this meal: Be fully dressed, wear your sandals, and carry your walking stick in your hand. Eat the meal with urgency, for this is the LORD's Passover.

- **Eat** this meal while ready to travel. It's name is the **Passover**. Little did these Israelites know that they would be wearing these same clothes for many years.

For forty years You sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out, and their feet did not swell!

(Nehemiah 9:21 NLT)

- It is the **Lord's Passover** and He is not taking suggestions from His people on how to execute this feast. He is telling them how to do it and with considerable detail.

(12.) On that night I will pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the LORD!

- God **will pass through Egypt**, but He would **pass over** the people of Israel. *Passover* has the idea of sparing the punishment.
- **The firstborn of Egypt** were about to die and the **gods** of **Egypt** will be exposed for the frauds that they are.

(13.) But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt.

- Where there was **blood** on the doorpost and lintel, there would be no **plague**. God intended to take the life of **ALL** firstborn in **Egypt**, but exempted those who made a sacrifice

substituting a lamb and placing its **blood** on the door of **the houses**. Naturally, the **Egyptians** would not be doing this.

(14.) "This is a day to remember. Each year, from generation to generation, you must celebrate it as a special festival to the LORD. This is a law for all time.

- **This day** was to be kept as a memorial throughout Israel's **generations**. The Scripture records only six times that Israel kept the feast of Passover, but that doesn't mean that it wasn't kept. During the life of Christ, it was kept regularly.

ALSO OBSERVE THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

(15.) For seven days the bread you eat must be made without yeast. On the first day of the festival, remove every trace of yeast from your homes. Anyone who eats bread made with yeast during the seven days of the festival will be cut off from the community of Israel.

- Passover is part of a **seven-day** event. Remove all **yeast** from **your homes** and anyone who **eats** is to be **cut off from Israel**.

(16.) On the first day of the festival and again on the seventh day, all the people must observe an official day for holy assembly. No work of any kind may be done on these days except in the preparation of food.

- **The first** and last days of the seven days are a **holy assembly**. The only work allowed was **food preparation**.

(17.) "Celebrate this Festival of Unleavened Bread, for it will remind you that I brought your forces out of the land of Egypt on this very day. This festival will be a permanent law for you; celebrate this day from generation to generation.

- The Lord wants this unfolding event to be impressed on the hearts of future **generations**.

(18.) The bread you eat must be made without yeast from the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month until the evening of the twenty-first day of that month. (19.) During those seven days, there must be no trace of yeast in your homes. Anyone who eats anything made with yeast during this week will be cut off from the community of Israel. These regulations apply both to the foreigners living among you and to the native-born Israelites. (20.) During those days you must not eat anything made with yeast. Wherever you live, eat only bread made without yeast."

- There was to be no **yeast** in any **home** for seven days. The penalty was to **be cut off from the community of Israel**. However that penalty is not defined here.

MOSES ORDERED PASSOVER PREPARATION IMMEDIATELY

(21.) Then Moses called all the elders of Israel together and said to them, "Go, pick out a lamb or young goat for each of your families, and slaughter the Passover animal. (22.) Drain the blood into a basin. Then take a bundle of hyssop branches and dip it into the blood. Brush the hyssop across the top and sides of the doorframes of your houses. And no one may go out through the door until morning. (23.) For the LORD will pass through the land to strike down the Egyptians. But when He sees the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe, the LORD will pass over your home. He will not permit His death angel to enter your house and strike you down.

- This **Moses** who couldn't talk a few months ago is taking the lead now. He tells the leaders how to prepare the sacrifice and to stay inside until the **morning**.
- The Lord would not **permit His death angel** to enter where the **blood** of the Passover lamb was on the **top and sides of the doorframes**. This salvation was for those who took action. Listeners, talkers and observers missed out.

(24.) "Remember, these instructions are a permanent law that you and your descendants must observe forever. (25.) When you enter the land the LORD has promised to give you, you will continue to observe this ceremony. (26.) Then your

children will ask, 'What does this ceremony mean?' (27.) And you will reply, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, for He passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt. And though He struck the Egyptians, He spared our families.'" When Moses had finished speaking, all the people bowed down to the ground and worshiped.

- The **Passover** was to be **observed** regularly through- out their generations. They needed to remember.

THE STRIKE!

(28.) So the people of Israel did just as the LORD had commanded through Moses and Aaron. (29.) And that night at midnight, the LORD struck down all the firstborn sons in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sat on his throne, to the firstborn son of the prisoner in the dungeon. Even the firstborn of their livestock were killed.

- It happened. **The firstborn** were **struck down**. It was a fast-moving plague that hit **the land at midnight**, taking the lives of all the **firstborn** males. No social rank was exempt and all **livestock** was included.

(30.) Pharaoh and all his officials and all the people of Egypt woke up during the night, and loud wailing was heard throughout the land of Egypt. There was not a single house where someone had not died.

- As the Lord had warned, so it happened. Every **house** in the land was affected.

GET OUT!

(31.) Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron during the night. "Get out!" he ordered. "Leave my people--and take the rest of the Israelites with you! Go and worship the LORD as you have requested. (32.) Take your flocks and herds, as you said, and be gone. Go, but bless me as you leave." (33.) All the Egyptians urged the people of Israel to get out of the land as quickly as possible, for they thought, "We will all die!"

- Now **Pharaoh** gets it. The **Egyptians** all want **Israel** gone. They are to take their **herds and flocks** and exit **Egypt** immediately. Keeping them longer would be a death sentence for **Egypt**. **The Egyptians** didn't know what else might happen.

(34.) The Israelites took their bread dough before yeast was added. They wrapped their kneading boards in their cloaks and carried them on their shoulders.

- There was no time for the **bread** to rise. Without planning, they were observing the week of unleavened **bread**.

(35.) And the people of Israel did as Moses had instructed; they asked the Egyptians for clothing and articles of silver and gold. (36.) The LORD caused the Egyptians to look favorably on the Israelites, and they gave the Israelites whatever they asked for. So they stripped the Egyptians of their wealth!

- The financial bonus was kicking in. Israel was taking the wealth of **Egypt**. The Lord gave them favor in the sight of the Egyptians. This included **clothing** which they would need where they were going. This fulfills Genesis 15:

But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth.
(Genesis 15:14 NLT)

- Did the weak and sickly Hebrews leave Egypt also? The answer is in Psalm 105:

The LORD brought His people out of Egypt, loaded with silver and gold; and not one among the tribes of Israel even stumbled. (Psalms 105:37 NLT)

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

(37.) That night the people of Israel left Rameses and started for Succoth. There were about 600,000 men, plus all the women and children. (38.) A rabble of non-Israelites went with them, along with great flocks and herds of livestock.

- Several million Israelites began the journey. They were not alone. Some Egyptians were in the crowd.

(39.) For bread they baked flat cakes from the dough without yeast they had brought from Egypt. It was made without yeast because the people were driven out of Egypt in such a hurry that they had no time to prepare the bread or other food.

- Israel would soon be out of food and entirely dependent on the Lord for meals.

(40.) The people of Israel had lived in Egypt for 430 years. (41.) In fact, it was on the last day of the 430th year that all the LORD's forces left the land. (42.) On this night the LORD kept His promise to bring His people out of the land of Egypt. So this night belongs to Him, and it must be commemorated every year by all the Israelites, from generation to generation.

- As Moses later wrote Exodus, he had the dates at hand. These sentences were written looking back on the events.

RULES FOR KEEPING THE PASSOVER

(43.) Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "These are the instructions for the festival of Passover. No outsiders are allowed to eat the Passover meal. (44.) But any slave who has been purchased may eat it if he has been circumcised. (45.) Temporary residents and hired servants may not eat it.

- Because **outsiders** had joined the exodus, rules were laid down for them about **the Passover**. The feast was only for those in covenant with the Lord.
- **Outsiders** were not to **eat**, but male **slaves** could following **circumcision**. It is clear that Israel had their own **slaves**.

(46.) Each Passover lamb must be eaten in one house. Do not carry any of its meat outside, and do not break any of its bones. (47.) The whole community of Israel must celebrate this Passover festival.

- Only the Lord could look ahead and know the ultimate fulfillment of **not breaking any bones** would be at the crucifixion of Jesus. John 19:36.

(48.) "If there are foreigners living among you who want to celebrate the LORD's Passover, let all their males be circumcised. Only then may they celebrate the Passover with you like any native-born Israelite. But no uncircumcised male may ever eat the Passover meal.

- The way for **foreigners** to participate was to enter the covenant via **circumcision**.

(49.) This instruction applies to everyone, whether a native-born Israelite or a foreigner living among you." (50.) So all the people of Israel followed all the LORD's commands to Moses and Aaron.

- **Israel** was in an obedient mood and did what the **Lord commanded**.

(51.) On that very day the LORD brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt like an army.

- This verse refers back to verse 41. The intervening verses have discussed the Passover and those who are in the crowd but not part of the covenant.

The Passover Pictured Jesus

Based on the *New Living Translation*
Charles Dailey 8/5/2021

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| 1. | The Passover was called a <i>sacrifice</i> . Jesus voluntarily sacrificed His life. | Exodus 12:27 John 10:15-18 |
| 2. | A lamb was sacrificed for <i>Israelites</i> at Passover. Jesus is the lamb sacrificed for the world. | Exodus 12:3. John 1:29 |
| 3. | The lamb had no defects. Jesus was perfect. | Exodus 12:5 1st Peter 1:18-19 |
| 4. | The lamb was a male. Jesus became a man. | Exodus 12:5 John 1:14 |
| 5. | No bone of the sacrificial lamb was to be broken. No bone of Jesus was broken on the cross. | Exodus 12:46 John 19:36 |
| 7. | The lamb was killed at 3:00 pm (twilight). Jesus died at 3:00 pm. | Exodus 12:6 Luke 23:44-46 |
| 8. | The lamb was consumed. There were no leftovers. Jesus' body was removed the same day. | Exodus 12:10 John 19:38-42 |
| 9. | Hyssop was used like a brush to apply the blood. Hyssop was used like a brush. | Exodus 12:22 John 19:28-30 |
| 10. | The Passover was to become a regular memorial. The Lord's Supper became a memorial. | Exodus 12:42 Luke 22:19 |
| 11. | Israelites were spared from death by the lamb's blood. We are spared from condemnation by Jesus' blood. | Exodus 12:13 Romans 5:9 |