

LESSON 10 | THE BEGINNINGS

WEEK 10: DAY 1



“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 1:29

This week you’ll be introduced to the tragic yet wonderful miracle of the Passover. Sadly, there was a lot of death that resulted from Pharaoh’s arrogance. But there was a miraculous saving of lives, as well. God acted to punish the Egyptians for stubbornly enslaving His people. But He acted to deliver the Israelites from slavery and death.

God did this through the blood of the Passover lambs. This event, which you’ll read about, foreshadowed the True Passover Lamb, Jesus, who would sacrifice Himself thousands of years later for the sins of all humankind. In John 1:29, we see John the Baptist recognized Jesus for who He truly was. We gain life when we recognize Jesus for who He is. The Israelites were spared the consequences of the death of the firstborn. When we come to faith in Christ, we are spared death, as well.

Today, memorize John 1:29.

Spend some time today and this week meditating on this simple but powerful verse. Write it down and put it somewhere where you will see it frequently. Thank God for providing a way for you to come to life in Christ.

LESSON 10 | THE BEGINNINGS

WEEK 10: DAY 2

THE THREAD

DISCOVERING THE THREAD OF THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE BIG-PICTURE STORY OF THE BIBLE

“... you shall say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.’” And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.
- Exodus 12:27

Think of a moment in your life that required preparation. Maybe you worked all year to prep for an exam or trained for weeks for a track event. Think of those feelings in the moments before “go time.” Investing in preparation makes us value the brief moments of action. God has been at work preparing the way for the Israelites to leave Egypt. But in today’s reading, they finally have to take their own measures of preparation.

Read Exodus 12:21-32.

God has made the distinction between His people and the rest of humankind. The first nine plagues required nothing from the Israelites but that they stand back and see God’s power at work. In this final plague, they are required to mark themselves as God’s people. Earlier in the chapter, God tells them to choose a perfect lamb, roast it, buckle their belts, put on their shoes, and eat it fast. He is basically telling them something amazing is about to happen. Get ready!

The celebration of the Passover is a tradition still significant in Jewish customs today. Unfortunately, many Jewish people missed the significance of this symbolism when Jesus arrived. Even after centuries of preparation, many of God’s people were still not ready for the realization of His ultimate sacrifice on the Cross. What about you? Is your heart a place that accepts Jesus and all He represents?

Something To Think About . . .

- If God already knew who His people were, why do you think He asked them to mark their homes with the blood of a lamb?
- How have you responded to the blood Jesus shed for you? How has it changed your life and identity?

LESSON 10 | THE BEGINNINGS

WEEK 10: DAY 3

THE THREAD

DISCOVERING THE THREAD OF THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE BIG-PICTURE STORY OF THE BIBLE

“Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, ‘God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones with you from here.’” - Exodus 13:19

Have you ever experienced someone else getting credit for your idea or work? It can be really frustrating to see something that should have been yours go to someone else. In today’s passage, however, we see how much bigger God’s view is than our own. Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, but we are reminded that this exodus (or exit) from Egypt was a continuation of the promise made to Joseph’s father, Jacob. The generations in Egypt served for God to show Himself as the Savior and Deliverer of His people. Joseph provided temporary salvation from starvation in Egypt, but even at his death, he knew that God would ultimately deliver them and fulfill His promise to deliver them permanently. His faith in God’s steadfastness was strong, even when he knew he would never see that promise fulfilled firsthand.

Read Exodus 13:17-22.

Notice in verse 17 that God chooses to send His people the long way around. He could have led them straight into a victorious battle against the Philistines to reclaim their land. But He was still revealing mysteries about His nature. The time would soon come when God showed the Israelites how He could fight **THROUGH** them. But first, He wanted them to trust that He would fight **FOR** them.

When you think of God’s great promises in Scripture, look for how He is leading in your life as you play your part in His great master plan!

Something To Think About . . .

- Why do you think God chose to lead them with a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night when He could have just had them follow Moses?
- God still uses pastors and teachers to lead us today. But how does He direct believers individually?

LESSON 10 | THE BEGINNINGS

WEEK 10: DAY 4

THE THREAD

DISCOVERING THE THREAD OF THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE BIG-PICTURE STORY OF THE BIBLE

“And Moses said to the people, ‘Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again.’” - Exodus 14:13

Have you ever seen a magic trick that left you thinking, “How did they do that?” We are conditioned to be skeptical because we live in a world where we trust our own intellect above all else. In a similar way, the early Israelites had seen genuine miracles and still found themselves hesitant to trust God.

Read Exodus chapter 14 and pay close attention to verses 13 and 19.

The plagues proved God’s power over the Egyptian magicians. This deliverance at the Red Sea showed Israel God’s command over the earth itself. Throughout Scripture, we see that God’s people often reach a point of no hope. It is in these times when God reveals Himself as the **ONLY** hope.

This is the final contest between the Lord and Pharaoh. While others may try to bind His people, God is their true King. The Lord alone is their Savior. The declaration that they would never see the Egyptians again is significant. The Lord is declaring that His deliverance is final. Later, as recorded in John 8:34-38, Jesus would remind the Jews that what He sets free will be free indeed!

Something To Think About . . .

- Look at verse 13. How does the image of the Red Sea swallowing up Israel’s enemies paint a picture of the Gospel?
- Look at verse 19. Why do you think the angel of God and the pillar of cloud moved from the front of the group of Israelites to the back? Think about all that this signifies before you answer.

LESSON 10 | THE BEGINNINGS

WEEK 10: DAY 5

THE THREAD

DISCOVERING THE THREAD OF THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE BIG-PICTURE STORY OF THE BIBLE

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;” – Exodus 19:5

Have you ever seen the old game Operation? It’s hilarious to watch people jump as they touch the sides and cause the buzzer to screech. But it’s no laughing matter at all if a real surgeon flinches during an operation. You see, the significance of the rules all depends on the consequences at stake. Consider all that God has done for the Israelites up to this point.

Read Exodus 19:1-6 and pay attention to the warning He gives them.

The Israelites were at a point of transition. Even though God had met their physical needs and delivered them from slavery, their new freedom was not all they had hoped it would be. They would have to learn how to be God’s people, and that was going to mean following rules that they would not always understand. While the 10 Commandments were coming just around the corner, they first had to learn to simply obey God’s voice.

God instructed Moses to declare to Israel that He had kept His promise. He had delivered them and proclaimed that they would be a Holy Nation of His priests. But, just as with the Passover, there were instructions for keeping up their end of the bargain. The nation of Israel had been publicly established. Now, what they do as that nation will be public as well.

The more publicly you choose to live for Christ, the more significant your obedience to Christ becomes. Following God’s voice becomes no laughing matter when others know that you belong to Him!

Something To Think About . . .

- How do the conditions of God’s promise in verse 5 show the difference between God’s nature and the nature of mankind?
- Do you think God’s reminder of their past will help prepare them for the laws they will live by in the future? How?