

The Passover



Day 1

Exodus 11:1-10

It has been said that the Old Testament is a dress rehearsal for the New Testament. There are many stories in the Old Testament that contain shadows of things to come. God uses these events to draw man's attention to the work He is doing as they happen and add unquestionable validity to the work He will do in the future through the shadow imagery contained. The tenth plague and the institution of the Passover has to be one of if not the greatest of these stories with a future shadow type pointing to the saving work of Jesus Christ.

- Why do you think God chose to strike the firstborns? (Exodus 4:22)
- What do you think about the Egyptians looking favorably upon the Israelites at this point in the story. Why is this such a testament to the power of God's will?
- Considering the family structure and the transition of royal power, why should this plague be of grave concern to Pharaoh? What other impacts on the Egyptian society could you see if all the firstborn males were to die instantly? Consider transitions of wealth and inheritances and the shifts in power this could cause.
- What character flaw in Moses causes him to leave Pharaoh angry? Why is Moses taking this personal when God has already told Moses of the plan and that He is in control? This lack of ? causes Moses to miss out on something significant later in his life, what is it? (Numbers 20)

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Day 2

Exodus 12:1-30

The Passover must have seemed very strange to the Israelites, not that they weren't used to sacrificing animals but there was a new set of instructions about applied blood to their dwelling that would protect them. This was also a communal requirement and that all of Israel would perform it now and in the future at the designated time.

- What was significant about God making this the Jewish "New Year"?
- What is the significance of the lamb?
- What is the significance of the applied blood? How does it relate to Christianity?
- What is verse eleven's purpose? How does this relate to the expected spiritual condition of the believer today?
- Consider our time (the Church age) and looking back to the cross, what remembrance do we celebrate instead of Passover and why?
- Why do Jews still celebrate Passover? Should they?

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Day 3

Exodus 12:31-51

The Lord passed through Egypt and all households not protected by the blood were affected by the plague of the firstborn. The Bible records that every house in Egypt had someone who had died from royalty to prisoners, no one was spared regardless of their cast in life.

- The Pharaoh fulfills the prophecy Moses spoke to him by demanding that the Israelites leave Egypt with no further concessions requested. What is so strange about the last part of verse thirty two?
- What is symbolic about the unleavened bread? What imagery surrounds leaven in the New Testament?
- Foreigners not allowed to partake in the Passover meal with Israel but if they were circumcised they were allowed. Why, what was the significance of them being circumcised?
- Concerning the New Covenant, can foreigners partake in the blessings offered under this covenant? How does one come under this covenant and is circumcision still relevant today? How, by flesh or spirit?
- Why were the Israelites instructed to not break any of the sacrificial lamb's bones? (Psalms 34:19-20 John 19:36)

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Day 4

Exodus 13:1-16

Because the Lord has brought death to all the firstborns of Egypt, He claims all the firstborn males of Israel to be His both man and beast. This too is a shadow of the purchasing of all through the blood that are under the blood (covenant) as is made clear when through the literal shed blood of Christ all are redeemed that come under His blood (New Covenant).

- The Lord is literally requiring all the firstborn males in Israel be sacrificed to Him. What requirement does He make for men that is different than animals? Why what does it represent?
- This festival was designed to be viewed by people as a sign of remembrance of the deliverance the Lord provided being described **as like** a mark on the hand or forehead marking God's people. (Exodus 13:16) Now compare to Revelation 13:16. What is the Devil trying to do with this counterfeit and why do the people so branded bring on God's wrath? What have they declared by taking this mark?
- What other symbolisms or types stand out to you concerning the tenth plague and Passover?

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Day 5

Application: Obedience to God's will.

2 Corinthians 10:5

Revelations 14:12

John 14:15

2 John 1:6

Romans 2:6-8

Luke 11:28

1 Peter 1:14

Moses had the same problem all of mankind has and it has been with us since the beginning in the garden. God created man with a will and when all was perfect that will would have always been in agreement with the Lord's but sin caused division and changed that perfect agreement. We see the effects when Moses is acting in his own will rather than the will of God, events such as the murder, arguing with God and acting in prideful anger are all good examples. Conversely the ten plagues are a perfect example of the powerful way in which God can move and perfect deliverance only He can provide granted we have faith and remain in His will. As the Israelites left Egypt it must have been a real revelation to Moses that by acting in obedience, God delivered them out of a seemingly impossible situation just like He said He would! The story of the Israelites is a rollercoaster of blessing and curse caused by either being in or out of God's will for them, it serves as an example to Christians of the importance of living a life of obedience to God's will.

- Do you feel you have issues being obedient to God's will?
- What do you think is your greatest obstacle to being obedient?
- What are some ways that you can improve this area of your Christian walk?
- Can you name a time that because of your obedience you were rewarded? Can you think of a time that you missed an opportunity or blessing because you resisted?
- What are good resources to use to hear and remain in God's will?