

Growing Closer to God

The life of Moses

March 5, 2024

Exodus 12 – Redeemed at High Cost

This chapter brings us to a new division in the book of Exodus. The first division, chapters 1 – 11, deals with Moses, the deliverer. Chapters 12 – 14 deal with the deliverance of Israel.

Moses has gone to Pharaoh nine times and said, “Let my people go.” Nine plagues have been laid on Egypt because Pharaoh would not let God’s people go.

1. The plague of blood (chapter 7) – Waters of Nile River changed to blood – killed the fish. Smelled to high heaven. Couldn’t drink the water. “Blood was everywhere in Egypt.”
2. Plague of frogs (chapter 8) – 7 days later – frogs came up from everywhere and filled the country. They covered the land.
3. Plague of gnats (chapter 8) – dust became gnats
4. Plague of flies (chapter 8) – swarms of flies filled the land, except not on God’s people. The land was ruined by flies.
5. Plague on livestock (chapter 9) – All livestock of Egypt – not Israel – were killed.
6. Plague of boils – (chapter 9) – Moses tossed soot into the air and it became fine dust over the whole land of Egypt causing festering boils to break out on men and animals.
7. Plague of hail – (chapter 9) – The Lord rained hail and lightening and thunder on the land – worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation. Hail did not fall on the Israelites.
8. Plague of locusts – (Chapter 10) – Locusts covered the ground until it was black, devouring everything left in the fields after the hail. They filled the houses.
9. Plague of darkness – (Chapter 10) – Darkness spread over Egypt, “Darkness that can be felt.” No one could see anyone else or leave his place for three days. Yet the Israelites had light where they were.

Now we come to the final and most devastating plague – the plague of the firstborn.

Exodus 12:1 – 13

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ²“This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ⁴If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. ¹⁰Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover.

¹²“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. ¹³The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.”

When Israel enters Egypt, it is as a family. When they exit Egypt, it is as a nation.

The instructions for the Passover and the Unleavened Bread feasts were the only regulations given while Israel was still in Egypt. We need to understand why God was so insistent and so detailed and so strong in these instructions to his people.

Here is a list these instructions:

1. Preparations were to begin on the 10th day of the month of Abib.
2. The head of each household was to select a lamb according to the number of people who would be present.
3. The animal was to be a year old, a male without any defects.
4. Each animal was to be slaughtered at twilight on the 14th day.
5. The blood from the animals was to be applied to the doorframe of each house.
6. That night each family was to eat the roasted lamb along with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.
7. The meat was to be roasted whole with the head and legs intact and the washed internals left inside; it was not to be eaten raw or boiled in water.
8. All leftovers were to be burnt; nothing was to be allowed to become profane by putrefaction or superstitious abuse.
9. The meal was to be eaten with an air of haste and expectancy. The people's long robes were to be tucked in their belts, their sandals were to be worn, and their staffs were to be ready and on hand.

No one was saved because he was an Israelite. He was saved because he chose to be protected by the blood. God saves individuals.

Exodus 12:14 – 20

"This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance. ¹⁵ For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do.

¹⁷ "Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. ¹⁸ In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. ¹⁹ For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel. ²⁰ Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread."

Leaven or yeast represents that which is evil and offensive.

Matthew 16:6: *"Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."*

Matthew 16:11: *How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.*

Jesus was talking about the doctrine of the Pharisees, which was evil.

What *leaven* is slipped into the teaching of God's Word today?

Why did the lamb have to be a perfect lamb?

Leviticus 22:22 – 24:

Do not offer to the Lord the blind, the injured or the maimed, or anything with warts or festering or running sores. Do not place any of these on the altar as a food offering presented to the Lord. ²³You may, however, present as a freewill offering an ox or a sheep that is deformed or stunted, but it will not be accepted in fulfillment of a vow. ²⁴You must not offer to the Lord an animal whose testicles are bruised, crushed, torn or cut. You must not do this in your own land...

Why this standard?

2 Corinthians 5:21: *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Hebrews 4:15: *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.*

The lamb had to be killed at twilight. Though one person killed the lamb, the whole assembly gave its approval. The religious leaders cried “Crucify Him” and they were willing to have his blood be upon them and upon their children.

Acts 2:36: *“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”*

Peter accused the whole nation of crucifying Christ.

The lamb was slain between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. This was the exact time of day Christ was crucified.

John 18:28: *Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover.*

To study the Passover is to look into a mirror and see the details of Christ’s magnificent work on our behalf.

The blood had to be applied to the doorposts; there was no precedent for this – no scientific reason why the homes with blood would be safe. It was done by faith.

The lamb – innocent lamb – had to die in place of the firstborn. This was the only means of redemption. On that night in Egypt, every firstborn in every home that was not protected by the blood was killed. There followed the Passover Feast.

Exodus 12:21 – 42

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²²Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. ²³When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. ²⁴“Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. ²⁵When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. ²⁶And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ ²⁷then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” Then the people bowed down and worshiped. ²⁸The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. ³⁰Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

The Exodus

³¹ During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested. ³² Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me."

³³ The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!" ³⁴ So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. ³⁵ The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. ³⁶ The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.

³⁷ The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. ³⁸ Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds. ³⁹ With the dough the Israelites had brought from Egypt, they baked loaves of unleavened bread. The dough was without yeast because they had been driven out of Egypt and did not have time to prepare food for themselves.

⁴⁰ Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. ⁴¹ At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord's divisions left Egypt. ⁴² Because the Lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the Lord for the generations to come.



Pharaoh had one last request: 12:32 – "Bless me." Can God bless an unrepentant heart?

Exodus 12:38 – *Many other people went up with them, as well as large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds.*

Who were these people? No doubt some inter-marrying has taken place.

Do we have mixed multitudes in our churches today? Members who are not believers?