

Show Me Your Glory

Lessons from the Life of Moses

Lesson 6 Exodus 11–12

Day One: The Last Plague

The ninth plague—darkness—had descended upon Egypt in demonstration of God’s power over the Egyptian sun god. For three dreadfully long days the Egyptians were held hostage in their dwellings by the darkness that had engulfed them. Meanwhile, the oppressed Israelites had light in their dwellings and time to prepare for the Exodus that was at hand (Exodus 10:21–23).

Read Exodus 10:21–29 for review, along with Exodus 11:1–10.

After nine plagues had passed upon Egypt, each one increasing in intensity, Pharaoh’s heart remained hard and he refused to let God’s people go. Now one more plague would be announced, one devastating announcement so terrible that an agonizing cry would be heard in every home throughout the land of Egypt, and afterward Pharaoh would hasten to drive them out! God would fulfill His purpose through His own power in order to set the captives free.

Note: verses 1–3 of Exodus 11 are parenthetical and relate to what God told Moses before Pharaoh summoned him to offer his last compromise (10:24–27).

1. In preparation for their departure, what did God tell Moses to instruct the people to do? vv. 1–3
 - a. Why do you think God allowed for this generous provision?
 - b. What kind of reputation had God given Moses in the eyes of all the people at this point in time?

Moses’ address in verses 4–8 was also delivered during his last encounter with Pharaoh (Exodus 10).

2. Describe what the Lord told Moses to explain to Pharaoh that was about to take place around midnight. vv. 4–6

In that day and culture, the firstborn was considered the best that mankind had to offer. It represented the pride, dignity, and strength of the nation. God's purpose in this last plague was intended to break the peoples' pride and humble them to their knees.

3. How did God make a distinction between His people and Pharaoh's? v. 7

The last conversation between Moses and Pharaoh (Exodus 10) ended with Pharaoh threatening Moses' life and Moses angrily leaving the palace (see 10:29 and 11:8). God told Moses that in spite of the announcement of this last plague of death, Pharaoh would continue to refuse to let them go (11:9–10). Only when the judgment was carried out would Pharaoh have a change of heart, but then it would be too late for his people!

God had publicly humiliated the gods of Egypt, proving that He is indeed the only true God, and yet Pharaoh refused to believe. God's longsuffering and repeated attempts to soften Pharaoh's heart, instead served to harden it, bringing upon himself and his people destruction and death.

Looking Closer . . .

Do you think that your fate could never be that of Pharaoh's? Be careful and be warned: *"Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall"* (1 Corinthians 10:12). It's when we think we are strongest that we can easily allow ourselves to become most vulnerable. Give careful consideration to the following:

- *How is my heart similar to Pharaoh's?*

- *How is it different?*

Heartbeat . . . "Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us."

1 Corinthians 5:7

Day Two: Passover Is Instituted

The institution of the Passover marked a new beginning in the history of the Israelite nation. It was an ordinance to be obeyed and celebrated each year, beginning on the tenth day of the first month of the religious calendar, the month of Nisan.

Read Exodus 12.

The Passover Feast (vv. 1–13)

God's pronouncement of a death sentence on the firstborn of Egypt included all the firstborn. In other words, the firstborn of the Israelites too would have been slain had it not been for God's provision of a sacrificial lamb.

1. Briefly note the characteristics of the lamb in the following verses . . .
 - a. v. 3
 - b. v. 4
 - c. v. 5
 - d. v. 6

By applying the lamb's blood to the top and sides of the doorposts (v. 7), this sacrifice was received as the substitute for the death of the firstborn.

2. What were the instructions to be observed?
 - a. v. 8
 - b. v. 9
 - c. v. 10
 - d. v. 11

The bitter herbs would serve as a reminder of the years they served as slaves in Egypt. The bread was to be unleavened because there was not enough time to allow the dough to rise; it had to be eaten in haste.

3. What did God promise He would do as He passed through the land of Egypt?
 - v. 12
 - a. What would He do when He saw the blood applied to the doorposts? v. 13

In instituting the Passover, God wanted the Israelites—and everyone who followed—to remember that man is born into the world under a penalty of death because of sin. As

we will see, trusting in God's perfect sacrifice for our sin allows us to be delivered—*passed over*—from the affects of sin's penalty.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread (vv. 14–28)

Following the Passover Feast, the Feast of Unleavened Bread was to be celebrated for a period of seven days. This feast was to be kept as a permanent ordinance.

4. What important item was to be removed from every home on the very first day of the feast?
 - a. What would happen to those who did not obey?

5. What was not allowed on the first and seventh day? Why?

Yeast is mentioned most often in scripture to symbolize impurity or the influence of evil. For seven days God's people were to remove all evidence of yeast from their homes. This act was to demonstrate the removal of sin that silently permeates and pollutes people's lives.

6. When Moses called together the elders (v. 21) and charged them with God's instructions, how did the people respond? vv. 27–28

Selah . . . On a personal note, is there something in *your* life that God has told you to get rid of? How have you responded?

Review this week's memory verse.

Day Three: The Exodus

Read Exodus 12:29–51.

Around midnight there arose a deep cry of anguish, punctuated by another, then another, until all of Egypt wailed in combined chorus. There was not a house where there was not one dead—no one, not even Pharaoh, was exempt.

Not waiting for morning, Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron during the night (v. 31).

1. What did Pharaoh tell them? vv. 31–32

- a. What did Pharaoh ask of them?
 - b. How did the Egyptians feel?
2. As the Israelites left, what did they take with them? See verses 34–36 and 39.
- a. Who was actually responsible for their provisions? v. 36
3. How many people left Egypt that day? vv. 37–38
- a. Who accompanied the Israelites out of Egypt?

Estimates vary somewhat as to the size of the multitude, but it is believed that approximately two million men, women, and children marched out to freedom! On day 430 of their captivity, God set His people free. They marched out like a well trained army, taking their children, flocks, and herds with them. Absolutely everything God promised had come to pass. *“Bless be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses”* (1 Kings 8:56).

Repeatedly in scripture the Exodus story is mentioned as the greatest demonstration of God’s power on behalf of the nation of Israel. Read through one such account in Psalm 105, and briefly note what stands out to you today as a word of encouragement from the Lord.

Review this week's memory verse.

Day Four: God's Lamb Makes the Difference!

Think for a moment about how many lambs gave their lives that night in Egypt so the angel of death would pass by. And then think about the fact that many years later the perfect *Lamb of God* gave His life to save countless souls who would put their trust in Him! Have you done so?

Today you'll have the opportunity to look closer at God's Lamb. As you do, make note of what you learn about Him and also what insight you gain about your relationship with Him.

Look closer . . .

❖ Isaiah 53:7–8

❖ John 1:29

❖ 1 Corinthians 5:7

❖ 1 Peter 1:18–20

❖ Revelation 13:8

❖ Revelation 5:1–14

Review this week's memory verse.

Day Five: Praying with Purpose

Selah . . . Be still and consider how to *work out* in your daily life what God has *worked into* your heart through your study of His Word. Then pray each aspect through.

❖ **A Point Pondered:** Is there an example from the lesson or a truth from Scripture that has taken on a new meaning this week? Please note it below.

❖ **A Path Pursued:** Knowledge must be applied in order to make a difference. Name one thing can you act upon in obedience to the Holy Spirit's leading.

❖ **A Promised Possessed:** If God has spoken a particular verse or word of hope to your heart, write it down and pray it back to Him.

❖ **A Praise Proclaimed:** God loves to hear you praise Him! What aspect of God's character particularly blessed you this week? Will you praise Him today?

❖ **A Prayer Presented:** Write out the most pressing request on your heart and lift it to the Lord.

Other requests:

Notes