

The Means of Evacuation

The salvation of God's people came through the shedding of blood, pointing to the sacrifice Jesus made for us.



GOD'S STORY
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Exodus 12:1-16

March 29, 2020

(Exodus 12:1-16) ¹The 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. ¹⁴"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. ¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶On 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.

COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- What events or holidays in your family's history are celebrated most faithfully? Why is that particular observance so special?
- When was the last time you told someone the story of how you came to know Christ?
- What has been the most dramatic difference your journey with Jesus has made in your life up until this point?

God instructed Moses on how to prepare the Israelites for the final plague—the death of the first born. This plague was truly horrific. The plague that was designed to finally break Pharaoh and lead to the freeing of the Israelites had to be more severe than those that preceded it. In order to be spared from the judgment that would befall Egypt, the Israelites were instructed to observe the first Passover.

CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer read Exodus 12:1-11

The Israelites were required to have a four-day preparation period between the selection of the sacrificial lamb and its slaughter. Its slaughter represented the death of the firstborn that Egypt would experience, due to the prized position of being the firstborn. The blood on the doorposts and lintel were a sign that those in the home were God's people. With their homes covered by the blood of the lamb, the Lord would pass over them as He moved throughout Egypt. The sign was a physical proclamation of their belief in the power of God to rescue.

- According to the instructions in these verses, what would have been the most significant part of the Passover for you? The most challenging?
- Read Hebrews 9:22-28. How do passages like this help you connect the Passover with the redemptive work of Jesus?

It would be difficult to imagine the tie to Jesus in this event could be any stronger. From His entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday—four days before His arrest on the evening of Maundy Thursday—to the more obvious connection through His ultimate sacrifice to save those who call Him Savior from death due to the plague of sin, Jesus perfected the observance of the Passover.

The richness of the symbolism of Jesus in the Passover can be more fully explored at:

www.jewsforjesus.org/for-congregations/christ-in-the-passover/

Have a volunteer read Exodus 12:12-13

It was Yahweh alone who had the right and ability to serve as Judge over the impotent gods of Egypt. Because Pharaoh had refused God up to this point, including multiple points of temporary brokenness in which he promised to let the people go, only to refuse later, this final plague would demonstrate that Pharaoh, indeed, had no power. The anxious moments until the Israelites were sure they had been spared must have been extremely formative. God spared Israel, as He said He would. Not only that, but God also judged Egypt as He said He would. Everything came to pass just as He had said.

- How do you think you would feel if you were in a house with blood on the posts, listening to the swell of horrific mourning all around you?
- It is tempting to think that idolatry was something that occurred millennia ago. What “false gods” do you see our culture worship as an avenue for providing worth, security, and happiness?

Have a volunteer read Exodus 12:14-16

After the explanation of the events of the final plague, God followed with a decree that it must be commemorated. They were to tell their children and grandchildren about that night and all its details so that they remained vigilantly aware that God was their Redeemer. The danger of forgetting that night was a loss of understanding as to what it meant to be God’s covenant people.

- What are the key moments in your journey with Christ, both pre-salvation and since, if you are a believer? How ready are you to share those stories with others? Why are those stories so important?
- What regular commemorations do you celebrate that lead you to tell stories (i.e., birthdays, anniversaries, etc.)? What are the key points to those stories that you always make sure to include?

COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD’S STORY

- Who do you need to share your story with so that they can know God like you do? How would you describe how God provided a way of escape for you?
- What about your worship experience would you like to be different this year as you commemorate what Christ did for you? What new traditions or modes of remembrance would you like to share with others?
- How does it impact you to know that, when you could not save yourself from your own enslavement, Christ came to die in your place? What does it mean to you to see that God has been preparing for the salvation of His people since even before Moses?

PRAYER: Pray that the Holy Spirit would enrich our understanding of what Christ offered for us. Ask Him to make the Word of God alive to us so that our appreciation leads us to authentic worship. Pray that our gratitude over being covered by His blood would lead us to tell others about it as well.

CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Exodus 19-20
DAY 2 – Exodus 24-25
DAY 3 – Exodus 26-27
DAY 4 – Exodus 28-29
DAY 5 – Exodus 30-31

KEY VERSE: Exodus 20:2-3

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.
Explain what the text means.
Apply the verse to your life.
Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story. Visit chetscreek.com/gods-story for videos, study guides, and more.

OUR VISION

To be a church
for the unchurched,
here and around the world.

ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Gospel-centered communities that aim to KNOW
GOD together and BE CHANGED by Him in a
way that will CHANGE THE WORLD.

Exodus 12:1-16

12:1-20. With the Passover feast comes a reminder of the spiritual foundations of the nation of Israel and the importance of remembering the God who brought their nation into existence and redeemed them with a mighty hand. The festival contained rich symbolism depicting the grace of God in salvation and deliverance from bondage. The people of Israel would at times mechanically observe this and similar rituals while forgetting the meaning behind them. The means of protection from the wrath of God didn't come by outwardly performing certain religious functions, but by God providing the only means of salvation that would satisfy his holy demands.

The Passover would begin on the tenth day of the first month (called Abib before the Babylonian captivity, thereafter Nisan) with each head of household taking a lamb for his family. Smaller families would unite with another family to consume one lamb (later custom would limit the number of people consuming one lamb at ten; KD, 11). Since they would slaughter the lamb as a sacrifice, the lamb had to have certain characteristics. The Lord told them to choose year-old males without defect... from the sheep or goats. The male lamb would replace the firstborn males of Israel. They were to care for this lamb until the fourteenth day of the month, then publicly kill him at sunset.

The various tribes were not assembled for the purpose of slaughtering the lamb; they did it as individual families in their separate households. But they were to kill the lamb at the same time. They would apply some of the blood of the slain animal to the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. The blood would be a sign that God would not send the destroying angel against them, but would "pass over" them (v. 13). They would then eat the entire lamb that was roasted over the fire that night accompanied with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. The herbs did not represent a seasoning of sorts but depicted their bitter existence in Egypt.

If they could not eat the entire lamb, they were to burn the remaining portion. Furthermore, they were to consume it with their cloaks tucked into their belts, in order to be ready for a speedy departure, with their sandals on (not normally worn in houses), and with staffs in hand. The Passover belonged to the Lord, and his deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian captivity could occur at any time.

There was a spiritual and religious dimension to the Passover and subsequent death of the Egyptian firstborns: God would thereby bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. If the Hebrews sought refuge in God, he would spare them from the pending judgment. The destroying angel would take the firstborn of the Egyptians but would pass over the Hebrew households when he saw the blood on the top and side doorposts.

The Passover feast would become a lasting ordinance in Israel. It foreshadowed the future sacrifices and offerings for atonement, and the meal represented the fellowship they would enjoy with God. The Feast of Unleavened Bread would last seven days, following the Passover feast, during which they would eat bread made without yeast. Yeast spreads rapidly and thoroughly in bread, and the Bible elsewhere indicates it can symbolize the corrupting influences of evil (1 Cor. 5:6-8), although we should not strictly identify leaven as a type of evil. God would punish violators of this ordinance by cutting them off from Israel, a euphemism for the death penalty (see Lev. 20:2-3). On the seventh day they would hold another assembly during which they were not to work at all but to observe the feast.