

Character Study: Moses
Part 5 – The Passover
Exodus 12:1-51

What's happening?

- After the first nine plagues, the Pharaoh still refused to let the Israelites go, but God said the tenth plague would bring a different outcome. (11:1)
- God announced a new feast to commemorate what was about to happen. On the tenth day of that month, each family was to select a male lamb or goat that was one year old and without any blemishes. Four days later (on the 14th) the animal was to be killed at twilight. The blood was to be placed on the doorframe of their house and the animal was to be roasted and eaten. This event would be called the Lord's Passover. (12:1-11)
- God explained that He would pass through Egypt that same night and strike all the firstborn (people and animals), though He would pass over the families who had the blood on the doorposts. (12:12-14)
- For seven days following the Passover, the Israelites were to celebrate God's deliverance with the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Food with yeast (leaven, a symbol of sin) was not to be eaten. (12:15-20)
- The Israelites went and prepared their homes. At midnight, the tenth and final plague came as the Lord struck the firstborn. A great cry went out all around Egypt as every Egyptian home was affected. Just as God had said, the Pharaoh let the Israelites leave. (12:21-51)

What's God doing?

> God used a perfect lamb during the Passover to be a substitutionary sacrifice for the people, providing deliverance from judgment for those who applied the blood. The Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread were to be annual festivals held that same time each year to ensure that future generations would remember God's deliverance.

What's to learn?

→ The sacrificed lamb at the Passover pictured the ultimate sacrificial Lamb, Christ Jesus, who was mankind's substitute to bring us deliverance from eternal judgment (I Cor. 5:7; I Pet. 1:18-19).

→ Applying the blood to the doorpost was an act of faith. The act may have looked unusual to the Egyptians, but the Israelites stepped out on faith and, in turn, left a legacy for future generations (Heb. 11:28).

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