

# The Book of Exodus

## Preparation for the Tenth Plague

### The Institution of the Passover

Text: Exodus 11:1 – 12:28

#### Introduction:

1. After nine plagues it was clear to all that Pharaoh would not submit to the will of God.
2. Egypt had been decimated by the plagues, yet Pharaoh refused to humble his heart.
3. Thus, God intended to bring a final, devastating plague upon the land.
4. But, before that could happen, preparations had to be made...

#### I. The Announcement of the Plague (Exodus 11)

- A. Verses 1-3 are parenthetical, explaining what God had revealed to Moses before this final appearance with Pharaoh.
  1. Moses knew that he would see the face of Pharaoh no more because God would send only one more plague upon Egypt.
  2. Thus, he was to encourage the people to begin preparing for their exodus.
- B. The Hebrews were to ask or request material blessings from their Egyptian neighbors.
- C. The Egyptians were willing to grant this request and gave abundantly to Israel.
  1. Moses had become a highly respected man in the sight of the Egyptians.
  2. Furthermore, they had seen and recognized the great power of Jehovah.
- D. It is important to notice God's statement at the end of verse 1.
  1. Up until this time, Moses has requested only for the people to go into the wilderness to worship.
  2. Yet, God declared that after the final plague, Pharaoh would not only let them go, but would thrust them out altogether.
  3. In the Hebrew, this phrase means to "expatriate, divorce, drive out, cast out, expel" completely.
  4. The expulsion of Israel from Egypt was the decision of Pharaoh (12:31-33).
- E. Verses 4-8 record Moses' final message to Pharaoh.
- F. At midnight, the tenth and final plague would come upon Egypt – the death of the firstborn of all men and animals.
- G. The result would be a loud outcry and shrieking throughout the land.
- H. The children of Israel would be spared from this plague.
- I. The Israelites would be granted their freedom to leave Egypt.

#### II. Instructions for the Passover (Exodus 12:1-13)

- A. 12:1-6 – Preparation for the Passover
  1. This event would mark a new beginning for the nation of Israel; thus, their calendar would start with this date.
  2. On the tenth day of the month, they were to select a lamb for their household.
    - a. The rule followed by the Jews was that one lamb would serve at least ten people, but not more than twenty.
    - b. A household of 5 members or less would join with another family and share a lamb for their meal.
    - c. The lamb was to be a male that one year old.

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- d. It could be either a sheep (lamb) or a goat (kid).
    - 3. On the fourteenth day of the month, the lamb was to be killed in the evening.
      - a. This is literally “between the evenings” and probably refers to the 80 minutes from sunset until darkness (cf. Deut. 16:6).
      - b. The Pharisees taught that the first evening began at 3:00 p.m. (when the sun’s heat begins to decrease) and the second evening began with sunset.
      - c. All of those who would partake of the lamb were to be present and participate in its death.
    - 4. The Passover Lamb is a type of Christ.
  - B. 12:7-11 – Eating of the Passover
    - 1. The blood of the lamb was to be applied to the two side and the upper door posts of the house.
    - 2. The lamb was to be eaten after it was roasted with fire – completely intact, without a bone being broken (12:46).
    - 3. It was not to be undercooked or boiled in water.
    - 4. It was to be eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
    - 5. All of it was to be eaten that night and, if any remained uneaten, it was to be burnt in the fire.
    - 6. They were to eat the meal in haste, dressed and ready to leave at a moment’s notice.
  - C. 12:12-13 – Protection of the Passover
    - 1. That night, while the Israelites ate the Passover meal, God would pass through Egypt and bring death to the firstborn.
    - 2. Those houses that had blood upon the door posts would be spared from death.
- III. Institution of the Passover (Exodus 12:14-28)
  - A. 12:14-20 – In connection with the Passover, God also ordained the Feast of Unleavened Bread (or, Mazzoth).
  - B. 12:21-28 – Moses delivers God’s instructions to the elders of Israel.
  - C. This feast was to be kept every year as a memorial and a lesson to their children.
  - D. The children of Israel obeyed the words of Moses and Aaron.