

## Lesson 4 – Exodus 11-12

Text: Exodus 11-12

Main Characters: God, Moses, Aaron, Pharaoh

Key Passages:

- Exodus 12:1-28 – Instructions for observation of the Passover, which was to be done every year.
- Exodus 12:35-37 – God fulfilled His promise from Genesis 15: the Israelites left the oppressive nation, but not before they were given great wealth.

Main Storyline:

After Pharaoh had rejected last Moses' demand to allow the people to go worship the Lord, Moses revealed the last plague that would finally break Pharaoh's will (temporarily). Around midnight one night, God was going to go throughout the land of Egypt and kill every firstborn male, from Pharaoh's house, to Pharaoh's prisoners, to the slaves in the field, to the cattle. Then there would be a great cry throughout the land of Egypt, unlike any other. However, in the land of Israel, no one would die; not even a dog would bark. Pharaoh still would not let the people go after hearing about what would transpire, and Moses left very angrily. The Lord reminded Moses that He was using Pharaoh's hard-heartedness to convince the Egyptians of His sovereignty.

The Lord gave specific instructions to Moses and Aaron for the Israelites to follow in order to avoid the death of their firstborn. Each house was to take a year-old male lamb on the tenth day of the first month. On the fourteenth day of the month, at sunset, all of Israel was to kill their lambs. They were to use a bunch of hyssop to take some of the blood from the basin (which was a depression in front of their doors to prevent flooding from the Nile River) and put it on the lintel (top of the door frame) and the two doorposts. When the Lord would see the blood on the door frame, He would "pass over" that house and not allow the destroyer to enter it and kill the firstborn. Then they were to roast the lamb (whole) over fire and eat it with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. They were to celebrate this feast of "Passover" each year to commemorate how God delivered them from the Egyptians.

The night of the Passover feast, God went throughout Egypt and struck the Egyptians just as He had said He would, but spared all those who had the blood on their doorframes. There was not a single house among the Egyptians where someone had not died. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron in the middle of the night and told them to leave Egypt.

Before they left, the Israelites had asked the Egyptians to give them silver, gold, and clothing. After the firstborn were killed, the Egyptians gave the Israelites all they requested and urged them to leave quickly, as they were worried that more might die if they did not leave. Thus, after the four hundred [thirty] years were up (Genesis 15) Israel was delivered from Egypt with great possessions.

The Hebrews were not the only ones who left Egypt at this time, however. The Bible speaks of a "mixed multitude" going along with the Hebrews (Exodus 12:38) which seems to indicate that many other people joined them in their exodus. It seems as if the plagues had had their intended effect; all of Egypt had seen the power and might of the Lord, and many people decided to serve Him (Exodus 11:9). However, in order for these foreigners to be accepted into Israel, they needed to be circumcised like the Hebrews had been.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) God frees us from slavery to sin in order to make us slaves of righteousness (Romans 6:16-18).
- 2.) We need to explain the reason that we do things to serve God when others ask us (1 Peter 3:15).
- 3.) God can deliver the righteous and punish the wicked using the same event (2 Peter 2:1-9).