

Passover

Message 3 of 8 in the series: "Exodus"

- A. Exodus is a story of how, through a series of miraculous plagues, The LORD simultaneously a.) kept His 400 year-old promise to rescue His people from slavery in Egypt; b.) broke the pride of Pharaoh, a wicked tyrant who believed he was a god; c.) transformed Moses from an insecure, excuse-maker into a courageous, godly leader; and d.) enabled the Israelites to plunder their cruel masters as they left.**

"Then the LORD said to Moses, 'I will strike Pharaoh and the land of Egypt with one more blow. After that, Pharaoh will let you leave this country. In fact, he will be so eager to get rid of you that he will force you all to leave. Tell all the Israelite men and women to ask their Egyptian neighbors for articles of silver and gold.' (Now the LORD had caused the Egyptians to look favorably on the people of Israel. And Moses was considered a very great man in the land of Egypt, respected by Pharaoh's officials and the Egyptian people alike.) Moses had announced to Pharaoh, 'This is what the LORD says: At midnight tonight, I will pass through the heart of Egypt. All the firstborn sons will die in every family in Egypt, from the oldest son of Pharaoh, who sits on his throne, to the oldest son of his lowliest servant girl who grinds the flour. Even the firstborn of all the livestock will die. Then a loud wail will rise throughout the land of Egypt, a wail like no one has heard before or will ever hear again. But among the Israelites it will be so peaceful that not even a dog will bark. Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites.'" Exodus 11:1-7 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! God knows how to handle our problems way better than we do. "So you see, **the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials**, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment." 2 Peter 2:9 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! We need to let God handle our problems. "**Give all your worries and cares to God**, for he cares about you." 1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)

- B. God gave the Israelites the ordinance of Passover so they would never forget how He rescued them.**

"While the Israelites were still in the land of Egypt, the Lord gave the following instructions to Moses and Aaron: '**From now on, this month will be the first month of the year for you.** Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month **each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice**, one animal for each household. If a family is too small to eat a whole animal, let them share with another family in the neighborhood. Divide the animal according to the size of each family and how much they can eat. **The animal you select must be a one-year-old male, either a sheep or a goat, with no defects.** Take special care of this chosen animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of this first month. Then the whole assembly of the community of Israel must **slaughter their lamb or young goat at twilight.** They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the sides and top of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the animal. **That same night they must roast the meat over a fire and eat it along with bitter salad greens and bread made without yeast...** Be fully dressed, wear your sandals, and carry your walking stick in your hand. Eat the meal with urgency, for this is the LORD's Passover. On that night I will pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the LORD! But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. **When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt.**' ...So, the people of Israel did just as the LORD had commanded through Moses and Aaron. And that night at midnight, the LORD struck down all the firstborn sons in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sat on his throne, to the firstborn son of the prisoner in the dungeon. Even the firstborn of their livestock were killed. Pharaoh and all his officials and all the people of Egypt woke up during the night, and loud wailing was heard throughout the land of Egypt. **There was not a single house where someone had not died.** Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron during the night. 'Get out!' he ordered. 'Leave my people—and take the rest of the Israelites with you! Go and worship the LORD as you have requested. Take your flocks and herds, as you said, and be gone. Go, but bless me as you leave.'"

Exodus 12:1-8, 11b-13, & 28-32 (NLT)

1. At the burning bush, God had instructed Moses to remind Pharaoh that of all the nations on earth, God gave Israel the special status of a firstborn son. "**Israel is my firstborn son.** I commanded you, 'Let my son go, so he can worship me.' But since you have refused, I will now kill your firstborn son!"

Exodus 4:22b-23 (NLT)

2. An innocent lamb had to be sacrificed so the angel of death would pass over the homes marked with the lamb's blood.
3. By faith, the people of Israel smeared the blood of Passover lambs on the doorposts of their houses, confident that God would save them through His gracious kindness.
4. On the night of Passover, God set His people free from slavery to wicked Pharaoh. They were to wear travel clothes while eating the Passover meal because they were never coming back!
5. God commanded the Israelites to observe Passover as a lasting ordinance. "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**." Exodus 12:14 (NIV)
6. God commanded the Israelites to reset their calendars. This was to be a new beginning for them.

C. Jesus gave His disciples a new ordinance of Holy Communion/The Lord's Supper so we will never forget how He rescued us from sin, death, and slavery to the devil.

"On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, 'This cup is **the new covenant between God and his people**—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.'" 1 Corinthians 11:23b-25 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! It was NOT a coincidence that Jesus' last supper with His disciples was a Passover meal. "Jesus said, 'I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins.'" Luke 22:15 (NLT)

1. Through His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus made it possible for all who put their faith in Him to have the special status of being God's adopted children. "**God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.** This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son." Ephesians 1:5-6 (NLT)
2. Jesus is our Passover lamb. "For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of **Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.**" 1 Peter 1:18-19 (NLT) "**Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.**" 1 Corinthians 5:7b (NLT)
3. By faith we confess our sins and surrender our lives to Christ, confident that God has saved us through His gracious kindness and given us eternal life. "For **it is by grace you have been saved, through faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—**not by works**, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)
4. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus set us free from slavery to sin and the devil. "**You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil**—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead." Ephesians 2:2-5a (NLT)
5. Jesus commanded His disciples to observe Holy Communion/The Lord's Supper as a lasting ordinance. "**Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.**" 1 Corinthians 11:25b (NLT)
6. When we surrender our lives to Christ, we become new creations. Christ gives everyone who comes to Him a new beginning and a new life. "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. **The old life is gone; a new life has begun!**" 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions:

1. Read Exodus 11:1-7. How was it possible for God to simultaneously elevate Moses, humble Pharaoh, rescue Israel from slavery, and plunder the Egyptians? (Jeremiah 32:17, 2 Peter 2:9)

2. If God never changes (Malachi 3:6 & Hebrews 13:8) and He was more than able to rescue His people from massive problems 3,500 years ago, why do we often fail to surrender our problems to Him? Why do we often seem to prefer worry, stress, and figuring things out by ourselves? (Psalm 127:2, 1 Peter 5:7)
3. Read Exodus 12:1-13 & 28-33 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-25. Then using your sermon notes, discuss why you think Jesus introduced a new ordinance of Holy Communion/The Lord's Supper to his disciples during a Passover meal. (Luke 22:15)
4. What difference does it make that Jesus is the Passover Lamb for all who believe in Him? (1 Peter 1:18-19, 1 Corinthians 5:7, Hebrews 8:6)
5. Share the most meaningful experience you have ever had while taking Holy Communion.