

Lesson 15 - God to the rescue!

Moses and the Great Escape from Egypt, from Exodus 3 - 11

The Jesus Storybook Bible - pgs. 84 - 91

Lesson

After sending many plagues to Egypt to loosen its oppressive grip on Israel, God finally sends the ultimate plague. In Exodus 12:12 God says: "I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals."

It is significant that this divine judgment will fall on everyone once it is unleashed. It cannot "pass over" the Israelites simply because they are Israelites. The only way to escape was for them to put their faith in God's sacrificial provision — namely, they had to slay a lamb and put the blood on the doorposts as a sign of their faith.

Any Israelite family who failed to do this that night was tragically and bitterly disappointed. In every home that night, someone would die under the wrath of justice — in every home there would either be a dead child or a dead lamb.

The Lord says to Moses and Aaron in Exodus 12:11, "This is how you are to eat it [the lamb whose blood was on the doors]: 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."

Years after the exodus from Egypt, Isaiah wrote: "The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted . . . he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth" (Isaiah 53:6 – 7). The Passover lamb points ahead to a greater substitute, someone who truly would die for our sins and absorb the wrath of God. John the Baptist put it all together when he said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

Note that:

- The first Passover meal was held on the night before a great deliverance — a deliverance from physical slavery. Jesus held the first Lord's Supper on the night before an even greater deliverance — salvation from sin and death itself.
- The first Passover meal centered on a lamb that was slain as a substitute. A lamb was slain so that the Israelite firstborn would not be. Notice that at the first Lord's Supper, Jesus does not pass out any meat. Why? He is the Lamb, the Lamb to which all the other sacrificial lambs point. Just as the Passover lamb had to be

without blemish, so Jesus was perfect and without sin. He did not die to pay for any sin of his own. This is substitutionary sacrifice.

- The first Passover meal contained “unleavened bread.” The Israelites were in such haste and danger that they did not have time to use yeast. Thus unleavened bread came to represent the affliction and trials of the people in Egypt and the wilderness. It was customary for the person presiding at subsequent Passovers to pass out the bread saying, “This is the bread of our affliction.” The Lord’s Supper also consists of bread, yet Jesus us, “This is the bread of *my* affliction.” The bread now represents the brokenness of Jesus’ body.
- At the first Passover it was not enough that a lamb be slain and its blood put on the doorposts — the lamb also had to be appropriated, i.e., eaten. In the same way, the Lord’s Supper is a way of “taking” the death of Jesus and appropriating it personally. The “mealness” of Passover and the Lord’s Supper reminds us that no one can appropriate the benefits of the death of the lamb without entering into a personal relationship with God. To share a meal with someone is to have a relationship. So we must put our faith in Jesus, if all the benefits of his perfect, substitutionary, sacrificial suffering are to come to us.

Memory Verse

Exodus 6:7

God said, “I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God.”

***Lesson taken from *The Jesus Storybook Bible Curriculum*, written by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Sam Shammas.

If you do not have a copy of The Jesus Storybook Bible, we will have them for purchase in Cranmer Hall for \$10.