

Plague Or Passover?

Exodus 11:1 – 12:32

I. Final Warning: The Patient God Will Eventually End His Warnings (11:1-10)

II. Passover: The Merciful God Will Passover Judgment For Those Covered By The Blood Of The Lamb (12:1-28)

- A Momentous Calendar Altering Event (12:1-2)
- A Substitutionary Sacrificial Worship (12:3-16, 21-28, cf. Isa 53:6,12; Heb 9:28; 1 Pet 2:24; 1 Cor 5:7)
- A Sanctifying Holy Feast (12:17-20)

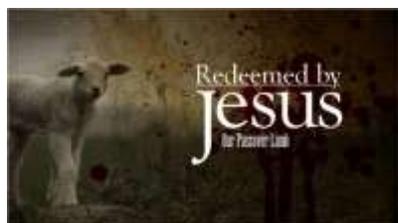
III. Plague: The Righteous God Will Judge Sin Unless We Repent (12:29-32)

Conclusion:

- What is God trying to warn me about? Why am I waiting to respond to Him?
- Who is my God? The Lord or myself or an idol(s)?
- Is Christ your Passover Lamb – the Substitute Sacrifice for your sin?

Discussion:

- How is God trying to get your attention or warn you? What is your biggest hindrance in heeding His warning?
- What would be a memorable way to commemorate your salvation (Passover) and sanctification (Feast of Unleavened Bread)?
- Share your thoughts about Christ being our substitute Passover Lamb?



Plague Or Passover?

Exodus 11:1 – 12:32

Introductions:

1. Warnings
 - In **soccer**, a yellow card is your one warning for a flagrant foul. A second yellow card equals a red card and means you are kicked out of this game and the next.
 - In **basketball**, you get 5 fouls before you “foul out” of the game. 2 in the NBA. Or a flagrant 1 gives you 1 point, a flagrant 2 gives you 2 points and you’re out with 2 points.
 - In **baseball**, you get the warning ahead of time that you can’t argue balls and strikes. Do it once and you could get kicked out.
 - **Pain** is a good warning sign to stop what you’re doing or risk greater injury.
 - One of the most important warning you don’t want to ignore is for the approaching **train**. It’s faster than you think!
2. Moses **shared** with Pharaoh 9 warning judgments to obey God and let His people go.
 - Pharaoh **ignored** the 9 warnings.
 - 9 warnings is very **generous**.
 - God is about to give His final warning to Pharaoh.

I. Final Warning: The Patient God Will Eventually End His Warnings (11:1-10)

11 The Lord said to Moses, “**Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt.** Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely. ² Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry.” ³ And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh’s servants and in the sight of the people.

⁴ So Moses said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘**About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, ⁵ and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die,** from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. ⁶ There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again. ⁷ But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.’ ⁸ And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Get out, you and all the people who follow you.’ And after that I will go out.” And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger. ⁹ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.”

¹⁰ Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go out of his land.

- 11:1-3 God issues His **final** warning
 - Moses didn’t know previously how many plagues there would be
 - He now knows he will be issuing Pharaoh his last warning

- 11:2 God tells Moses to have Israel bring **gold and silver** – they don't know it yet, but this will be for crafting the **Ark** of the Covenant and **Tabernacle** – worship of God is a big theme in Exodus

³ And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

- Was it pompous of Moses to write about his greatness in the land – not if it's true
- Ie/ It's like going to a restaurant with a friend who says he know the owner – "I've got some clout here"
- Previous plagues attacked the Nile (water), land and air
- This final plague attacked what they worshipped most: **Life**
- 11:4 – God gives the **time**: midnight
 - But no day was designated – this kept Pharaoh guessing and thinking about him challenging God
- 11:5 – God gives the **scope**: every first born
 - From firstborn of Pharaoh to first born slave girl – rich or poor
 - This is a figure of speech meaning everyone will be judged
 - 11:5b – Firstborn cattle will also die
 - The firstborn is designated a double portion of the inheritance as the firstborn son would carry on the leadership in the family
 - What God doesn't reveal is "how" – before the darkness, frogs and flies were revealed as the "how" – but this doesn't
- 11:6 – God gives the **response**: great cry that has never been heard before
- 11:7a – God gives the **contrast**: Israel's people and animals will be spared
- 11:7b – God gives the **purpose**: the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel
- 11:8 – God gives **result**: servants will worship and leave
- 11:9 – but Pharaoh wouldn't listen
- Is there a **sin** in your life you're failing to listen to God's warning? You read it in the Scriptures – you know what is wrong in God's sight, but you ignore the warnings?
- Is there a certain **pain** you have that you're stubborn about seeing the doctor with? Or other signs of failing health?
- Have you heard the **Gospel** – the good news that Jesus Christ died for you sins but you refuse to put your faith in Christ?
- Noah warned of the flood for 120 years. One day the ark would close.
- God warned Pharaoh 9 times. This 10th warning would be the finale!

II. Passover: The Merciful God Will Passover Judgment For Those Covered By The Blood Of The Lamb (12:1-28)

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, **a lamb for a household.** ⁴ And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be **without blemish**, a male **a year old.** You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at **twilight.**

⁷ "Then they shall take some of the **blood** and put it on the **two doorposts** and the **lintel** of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall **eat** the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with **unleavened bread** and **bitter herbs** they shall eat it. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰ And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹ In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in **haste.** It is the **Lord's Passover.** ¹² **For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord.** ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And **when I see the blood, I will pass over you,** and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ "This day shall be for you a **memorial day**, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a **statute forever**, you shall keep it as a **feast.** ¹⁵ Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. ¹⁷ And you shall observe the **Feast of Unleavened Bread**, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a **statute forever.** ¹⁸ In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall **eat unleavened bread** until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. ¹⁹ For **seven days no leaven** is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. ²⁰ You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread."

²¹ Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. ²² Take a bunch of **hyssop** and **dip it in the blood** that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. ²³ For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. ²⁴ You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. ²⁵ And when you come to the land that the Lord will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. ²⁶ And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' ²⁷ you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, for he passed

over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.' " And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

²⁸ Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

When reading through Exodus 12, it's time to Pause Over the Passover (pesach). The Jews still celebrate this Holy Day because this is significant to their history and a testament to God's faithful protection. Christians should also rejoice in the symbolism of Passover as it points to the ultimate Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ. May the first month and tenth day of every Hebrew calendar year be a day of remembering God's faithful protection and provision.

A. **A Momentous Calendar Altering Event (12:1-2)**

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.

- Is there an event so important that it changes your **calendar**?
 - My anniversary is more important than New Years Day.
 - That started a new era in my life!
- Passover would be what begins the Hebrew calendar. (1-2)
 - The beginning of the Hebrew year was a commemoration of their salvation from Egypt

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.

- The Passover represents freedom from death
- The Exodus brought deliverance not just from slavery but from death
- The spotlight for man was freedom from slavery and death
- The spotlight for God is worship
- First month, 10th day

B. **A Substitutionary Sacrificial Worship (12:3-16, 21-28)**

³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, **a lamb for a household**. ⁴ And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be **without blemish**, a male **a year old**. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at **twilight**.

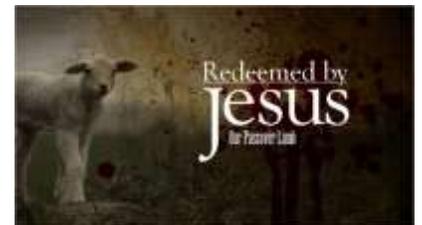
⁷ Then they shall take some of the **blood** and put it on the **two doorposts** and the **lintel** of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall **eat** the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with **unleavened bread** and **bitter herbs** they shall eat it. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰ And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹ In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in **haste**. It is the **Lord's Passover**. ¹² **For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord.** ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And **when**

I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

- The lamb is spotless – a picture of the sinlessness of Christ, the Ultimate Lamb
- The Lord instructs Israel to take a lamb without blemish for each household (12:5).
- The lamb stayed with the family for 4 days before it's sacrificed (12:6).
 - Can you imagine the attachment the little sons and daughters would gain in bonding with a cute, little lamb? Maybe everywhere that Mary went, the lamb was sure to go! Then to have the lamb sacrificed would be deeply personal - a lamb they loved was sacrificed for their sin.
 - The Christ we love and know personally had died for our sin.
 - Remember that Communion was first given by Christ during Passover and Christ would be that lamb. At our next Communion, let's remember the Lamb we love and the price He paid for our sin.
- Josephus notes that the lamb was slain at 3pm which is when Jesus the "Lamb of God" died for our behalf
- Hyssop represents purification and cleansing
- Sprinkling of blood = **substitutionary atonement**
 - "Atonement...refers to everything that Jesus did at the cross. It means to be 'at one' with God by Christ's taking away of sin." (Rick Yohn, *Living Securely In An Unstable World*, p.92)
- "vicarious" = substitutionary
- Christ is our vicarious sacrifice

Saved By The Lamb

- As the blood was applied to the doorpost (12:7), the symbolism of the cross comes into view. The Lord would "passover" the homes where the house had the blood applied and spare the first born from God's judgment.



Choose The Lamb!

- Every person has a choice - choose to receive God's mercy through Christ or be ready to face God's judgment.
 - God sent a Passover Lamb on our behalf.
 - Ie/ Aslan the lion (From "The Chronicles of Narnia – The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe") is being sacrificed for the rebellion of Edmund. Aslan is a picture of Christ who died on our behalf and was resurrected.
 - Christ is the sacrifice for our sin.
- Isaac once asked Father Abraham "Where is the Lamb?"
 - John the Baptist: " Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

Isaiah 53:6,12 "The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all...And He bore the sin of many."

Hebrews 9:28 "So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many"

1 Peter 2:24 "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed."

1 Corinthians 5:7 For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

- John Stott concludes 3 truths (*The Cross Of Christ*, IVP, 1986, p. 83):
 1. Our sin must be extremely horrible – the cross reveals the gravity of our sin
 2. God's love must be wonderful beyond comprehension – God could have abandoned us to our fate – but He did not – Grace is love undeserving
 3. Christ's salvation must be a free gift – he purchased it with the high price of his blood

C. **A Sanctifying Holy Feast (12:17-20)**

¹⁷ And you shall observe the **Feast of Unleavened Bread**, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a **statute forever**. ¹⁸ In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall **eat unleavened bread** until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. ¹⁹ For **seven days no leaven** is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. ²⁰ You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread."

- Feast of Unleavened Bread
 - Eat unleavened bread and have no leavened bread in your house for 7 days
 - From 1st month 14th day to 21st day
- Passover pictures our salvation in Christ
- The Feast of Unleavened Bread is a picture of sanctification

1 Corinthians 5:7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

III. Plague: The Righteous God Will Judge Sin Unless We Repent (12:29-32)

²⁹ At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. ³⁰ And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. ³¹ Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as you have said. ³² Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!"

- Plagues attacked **Nile (water), land and air**
- This final plague attacked what **they worshipped most: Life**
- Pharaoh believed he and his son were gods. God showed him through the 10 plagues that there will be no other gods before Him.

- **Amenhotep II's successor was not his oldest son.** Thutmose IV, who was his successor, notes on his Stela that he was not the oldest son nor the natural heir to the throne.
 - This makes sense as the Pharaoh's eldest son was taken that night
- Is this **cruel** on God's part to take the lives of the firstborn children?
 - No – God gave 10 warnings.
 - **Anyone could have come under the protection of the blood!**
 - These children would have grown up to be defiant adults – but I believe babies go to heaven, in the mercy of God, and they probably went to heaven.
- A cry sounded over Egypt where no defiant household was spared (12:30) - the alternative to not accepting God's mercy is to receive His judgment.

Conclusion:

1. What is God trying to warn me about? Why am I waiting to respond to Him?
2. Who is my God? The Lord or myself or an idol(s)?
3. Is Christ your Passover Lamb – the Substitute Sacrifice for your sin?

Discussion:

- How is God trying to get your attention or warn you? What is your biggest hindrance in heeding His warning?
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