

The Passover Plan

PASTOR MIKE YODER • EXODUS 11-12

*The Ultimatum: The Lord confronts
Pharaoh through Moses. (11:1–10)*

The judgment of God displayed in all the plagues was more than merely an act of retribution. It was also a definitive display of His superiority to all other gods.

Douglas Stuart

Now the Lord had said to Moses, “I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely.”

“Tell the people that men and women alike are to ask their neighbors for articles of silver and gold.”

Exodus 11:2

(The Lord made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh's officials and by the people.)

So Moses said, “This is what the Lord says: ‘About midnight I will go throughout Egypt.’”

“Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well.””

“There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt — worse than there has ever been or ever will be again.”

“But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any person or animal.’ Then you will know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.”

“All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, ‘Go, you and all the people who follow you!’ After that I will leave.” Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh.

The Lord had said to Moses, “Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you — so that My wonders may be multiplied in Egypt.”

Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go out of his country.

Exodus 11:10

Those who will not bow to His word must bend to His judgment.

As a God of love and mercy, He will permit the sinner to live even though that sinner may resist a life-long revelation of truth. On the other hand, as a God of holiness He has the inalienable right to punish sin and the sinner at any point in his life.

John Davis

[Pharaoh's] was not a case of intellectual unbelief. The spectacle of an unyielding Pharaoh, even when confronted with personal tragedy, is a classic illustration of how far a man can go in his rebellion when he begins to harden his heart.

Tom Julien

The Commemoration: **The Lord outlines
His ordinance for the Israelites. (12:1–20)**

“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord.”

Exodus 12:12

“The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.”

Exodus 12:13

“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.”

The Israelites deserve the judgment of death just as much as the Egyptians. They were sinners deserving of death. The Israelites had to daub the blood on the doorposts precisely because they were as guilty as the Egyptians, and so needed a substitute to die in their place if they were to avoid the judgment of death.

Tim Chester

The rest of the Bible sees the exodus and the Passover as a paradigm of salvation from sin and judgment, culminating in redemption through Jesus our Passover Lamb.

***The Directive:* Moses calls the Israelites to obey God's saving prescription. (12:21–28)**

Two ideas run throughout the account of the Passover lamb — identification and separateness. For this substitute to be valid, it had to be identified completely with those it would redeem; yet, for it to die, it had to be separate from those it would redeem.

Then the people bowed down and worshiped.

Exodus 12:27b

The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

Exodus 12:28

**God who entered in wrath “passed over” in peace.
Something “satisfied” the God of judgment, so that He no longer found it necessary to exact the judicial penalty.**

The lamb is simply a pointer. It's an embodied promise of a true substitute. The Passover is the sign of a greater act of redemption.

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,

but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

God accepted the blood of the sacrifice and passed over their sin. Similarly, those who have been born again have Christ's blood covering them. God sees Christ's blood on us and passes over our sin. He forgives our trespasses and sees Christ's righteousness as our own. What a merciful God!

Tony Merida

By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

In every home throughout Egypt and Goshen, the death count is the same. The following morning there is a corpse. The only question is: is it a lamb or is it a child? Who has died? The lamb is a substitute for the child.

The Consequence: The Lord metes out judgment through the plague. (12:29,30)

Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?

1 Corinthians 5:6

Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch — as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

The ultimate purpose of the Old Testament Passover instruction is to point forward to Christ, to the purpose of His death, memorialized in the ritual of the Lord's Supper that now replaces the Passover, and also to the unity of those accepted by Him as His people, His Body.

Douglas Stuart

When the hour came, Jesus and His apostles reclined at the table.

Luke 22:14

And He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.”

“For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the Kingdom of God.”

Luke 22:16

After taking the cup, He gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you.”

“For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the Kingdom of God comes.”

Luke 22:18

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

*In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying,
“This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured
out for you.*

Mercy and justice are always mingled, and the most important, glorious act of mercy and justice happened when God put forth His Son on the cross. God passed over us and punished Jesus in our place. Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, was punished *in place of us*. He was crucified *instead of us*. He took God's wrath *on behalf of us*.

Tony Merida

**Everyone will be judged.
Either Jesus took your
judgment at the cross, or
something worse than the
plagues is coming your way as
you face condemnation. Jesus
took our curse.**

Tony Merida

**God's plan to deliver His
people is *trust and obey.***