

The Lord's Passover

Exodus 5-12

October 4, 2026

Did you hear about the logger who got a promotion? He's now a branch manager. A friend of mine told his boss he thought he deserved a promotion. His boss said that's why you're not the boss. Say passed over. Being passed over is usually a bad thing. Promotions and raises, picking teams in school, but in today's Scripture, it was a very good thing. Please open your Bibles to Exodus 5.

We continue our March through the Bible this week with another of the most important passages. Last week we stood barefoot with Moses on holy ground before the burning bush as God revealed His name and commissioned him to go rescue His people. After several objections, Moses finally consented and started back toward Egypt at the age of 80 with his wife and two sons.

At the end of chapter 4, Moses and Aaron arrive back in Egypt and hold a summit conference with all of Israel's leaders to share the good news of their impending deliverance. Moses demonstrates the signs God gave him and the people are excited that their salvation is at hand. So the next step is to get Pharaoh on board so the Amram brothers go to the palace for a face to face. It did not go as they had hoped. If you are able, please stand as we read about it from Ex 5:1-5 Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the desert.'" 2 Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that **I** should obey him and let Israel go? **I do not know the Lord** and I will not let Israel go." 3 Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword." 4 But the king of Egypt said, "Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!" 5 Then Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working."

Either Pharaoh didn't recognize Moses as the murderer from 40 years earlier or he's a new Pharaoh, which is probably the case, or Moses would likely have been killed straightaway. But he's given audience with the king who begins his defiance against Almighty God. "Who is the Lord, that **I** should obey Him? I don't believe we've met." We'll Pharaoh, you're about to! He accuses Moses of distracting the slaves and orders them back to work with even more harsh treatment than before. Pharaoh gives the order that the slaves will have to now provide their own straw and yet not reduce their daily brick quota. They used straw to make the clay bricks stronger. Archaeologists have found layers of bricks in Egypt from about this time that have **noticeably** less straw than

those above or below. When the Israelites find out that Moses is responsible for this hardship, they turn on him and accuse him of making their lives worse instead of better. This had to be very discouraging for Moses. But it reminds us that sometimes things get worse before they get better. So Moses takes his complaints to God and God answers.

Ex 6:1-5 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he **will** let them go; because of my mighty hand he **will** drive them out of his country." 2 God also said to Moses, "I am the Lord. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them. 4 I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they lived as aliens. 5 Moreover, I have **heard** the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant." Stay the course Moses. I've heard, I'm working, deliverance is at hand! You may be discouraged. You have been praying about a difficult situation for years with no apparent resolution. Don't quit. God is at work even when you don't see it. Remember the tulip bulbs.

Moses and Aaron go back to Pharaoh and do their staff-to-snake miracle but he is not impressed. In fact, his magicians do the same thing! Reminding us that the devil does have power. But by the way, Aaron's snake-staff ate up all of theirs so they went home staffless. That should have gotten Pharaoh's attention, but it didn't. Instead he doubles down. Ex 7:13 Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would **not** listen to them, just as the Lord had said."

As a result, God works through Moses to afflict Egypt with 10 plagues that devastate Egypt's economy, its people, and its religion. The first plague affects the very life source of Egyptian agriculture. Say the Nile. The Nile River provided water for their crops, transportation, and it was thought to be the bloodstream of their god, Osiris. God turned it to blood. **All** the water in Egypt turned to blood. But Pharaoh's heart became harder.

The second plague brought frogs up over all the land even in their beds, in the palace, everywhere. Say frogs. I like frogs. I like frog legs, but I can't imagine turning back the covers to have Kermit jump out. Or opening the oven to hear ribbit. I'm sure the secret ingredient in the Iron Chef competition that week was frog legs. One of the Egyptian gods had a frog head. When they died, the land reeked with the stench of the dead amphibians. Imagine shoveling dead frogs instead of snow. But Pharaoh still said no. In fact, his magicians duplicated these same miracles again showing the ability Satan has to deceive by powerful means.

These first two plagues were followed by gnats, then flies, all without Deet to take care of them. No bug zappers. Biting gnats and flies. But this time the magicians can't

keep up and they tell Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God!” Yes, wait till you see His whole hand! Satan tries to keep up with God but he can’t. God’s out of his league. In fact, when the flies come, they don’t affect the Israelites in Goshen, only the Egyptians in the rest of Egypt. That too should have gotten Pharaoh’s attention, but his hard heart got even harder. Many times, once a person turns from God, it doesn’t matter how clearly God reveals Himself or His will, they are determined to resist and oppose Him, to their own destruction. Unfortunately, as with Pharaoh, we usually take others down with us. If God is working to convict you of sin, do not resist Him! Your heart only gets harder, it never stays the same.

The flies were followed with the death of the livestock. All the cows, horses, sheep, and goats died due to some devastating disease! This was an agricultural society! And they had gods in the shape of cows. And now they were all dead! This was a clear demonstration of God’s superiority over the Egyptian gods, for Ex 9:7 Pharaoh sent men to investigate and found that not even one of the animals of the Israelites had died. Yet his heart was unyielding and he would not let the people go.” In Ex 9:16, God tells Pharaoh through Moses, “But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you **my** power and that **my** name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” These plagues were not only making headlines in Egypt, news was spreading to other nations and the Philistines and others were still talking about it hundreds of years later!

After the dead animals came boils and sores on all the Egyptians. Then came a hailstorm worse than any before. Thunder, lightning, hail all came and destroyed the flax and barley. Instead of the Egyptian sky-gods protecting them, misery rained down from above. Each time Pharaoh begged Moses for relief and several times promised to let the people go only to renege once the plague was passed. Ex 9:34, “When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder had stopped, he sinned again: He and his officials hardened their hearts.” Many blame God for hardening Pharaoh’s heart, yet we read time and again, he hardened his own heart. The same sun that melts wax hardens clay. What is your heart most like?

Then came the locusts that ate all the wheat and spelt and all that was left of the crops. Pharaoh’s officials are now begging him to let the people go yet he still refuses. The grasshoppers came through like a mighty army munching everything in sight. And after the locusts came the darkness of 3 days. A darkness so thick, the Bible says, that it could be felt! This was a clear indication that the Great I Am was stronger than their sun god. And God said, one more. One more plague and you’ll beg them to leave. Pharaoh thinking the worst is past wonders how bad it can yet get. He’s about to find out.

Ex 11:4-7 So Moses said, "This is what the Lord says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. 5 Every firstborn son in Egypt **will** die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the slave girl, who is at her hand mill, and **all** the firstborn of the cattle as well. 6 There will be loud wailing throughout

Egypt — worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. 7 But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any man or animal.' Then you **will know** that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.

In the next chapter, God, through Moses, prepares the Israelites for the last plague which will result in their total deliverance. The Israelites do not realize how this will foreshadow what will happen 1500 years later when another Deliverer will save from sin, but what will happen this night will perfectly reflect it. Each family is to choose a lamb in its prime without defect or blemish. They are to slaughter it at sundown, roast it and eat it inside the house, but not before smearing its blood on the sides and tops of the doorframes of their homes. Ex 12:11 This is how you are to eat it: 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**. 12 "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn — both men and animals — and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. **I am** the Lord. 13 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. Vs 22 Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. 23 When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will **pass over** that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. Vs 28 The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron." Earlier, they had been angry with Moses because their lives got harder. But after watching God devastate Egypt while protecting them, they now realize this guy Moses is onto something. We'd better listen! And praise God they did!

Vs 29 At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. 30 Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead." Imagine the horror, the grief. Imagine the wailing that night! Just as Egypt had killed the Hebrew boys without remorse, now their own sons were dead. Egypt has now been completely gutted of all its glory. Of all its animals and crops and now of all its best and most promising future soldiers and leaders.

Say finally. Finally, ole Pharaoh has had enough. Vs 31 During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested. 32 Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me." Just get out of here! Vs 33 The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For other-wise," they said, "we will all die!" 34 So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. 35 The Israelites did as Moses instructed and

asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. 36 The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they **plundered** the Egyptians.” The Israelites got a bit of their back wages for their past 430 years of slavery. Vs 40 Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. 41 At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord's divisions left Egypt. Vs 50 All the Israelites did just what the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron. 51 And on that very day the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions. And everybody said?

Can you imagine how happy the Israelites were? How ecstatic? Over the moon! Free at last! And with plunder to boot! What a night! But it was only possible by the blood of the lamb. Say blood. God said, “When I see the blood, I will pass over you.” And if any house did not have the blood on its doorframe, Egyptian or Israelite, the oldest son **would** die, period. Imagine if you had been a slack parent and didn't do it, your son died because of your laziness, disbelief, and neglect.

This event was so important in the history of the Israelites that God commanded them to repeat the Passover Feast every year afterward to remind them of the miraculous way God delivered them from slavery. And to this day, most Jews still observe this special feast every spring recounting the story from Exodus that we've just walked through. But it was more than history. It was and is prophecy, as I've already alluded to. Everything about Passover that night was a direct prophecy of the greatest deliverance of all that would come years later when Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, without spot or blemish, without transgression or sin would be sacrificed to spare and save all in His house.

It wasn't because the Israelites deserved to be saved. They were also hard-hearted and resisted God. But in His grace, God provided a means whereby they could be saved so we could be saved! A lamb would have to die in their place, but if they trusted God enough to obey Him, and smear the blood, they would be saved. Friend, it's a bit different with Jesus. Your father or mother can't smear the blood for you. You have to apply Jesus' blood to your own life. You have to accept His sacrifice and His death in place of your own. You have to admit your sin and hardheartedness and ask for His forgiveness. But whoever does, when God sees the blood of His Son smeared over your life, His judgment will pass over you. And you will have passed over from death unto life. There is saving power in Jesus' blood!

Some today are repulsed by this message of blood. They think it's too gory, it's disgusting. Some have “sanitized” our hymns by changing references of blood to something else. But Hebrews 9:22 tells us that without the shedding of blood, there is no remission, no forgiveness of sin. This is God's plan. This is God's way, God's law that He Himself kept at great pain. Either accept Jesus' blood or plan to shed your own. Don't harden your heart! Don't turn away! Something much worse than these 10 plagues awaits

those who refuse God's Passover Lamb. It's called eternal hell, separation from God. It is a bloody gospel because only Jesus' blood can save us!

The Israelites had to do exactly as God told them. They couldn't hang money outside the door. Your money and gifts to God won't save you. If we are saved, we'll want to use them for Him but they won't save us. They couldn't hang a list of all their good deeds on their door and be saved. Neither can we. If we are saved, we'll do good deeds for Jesus. But they won't save us. Nothing but the blood of Jesus! Have you accepted and applied it to your own life?

Today, as we sit around the Love Feast table, it is another opportunity to celebrate and remember Jesus' sacrifice for us until He comes. It is an opportunity for us to apply His blood afresh to our lives. To remember not just the Passover in Egypt, which the Love Feast grew out of, but the much greater Passover of Calvary! Jesus' Passover saves from the slavery of sin, death, hell, and the grave! If you are saved by the blood of the Lamb, praise God for it and honor Him by celebrating around His table today. And if not, apply His blood to your life today as we pray.