

Exodus

Lesson #5, Chapters 12-13

In this lesson we come to a pivotal point in Israel's history. One commentator put it like this: *"The climax of the entire Old Testament is recorded in chapters 12–14: the salvation of Israel through blood (the Passover) and through power (the Red Sea). The Exodus is the central event of the Old Testament as the Cross is of the New Testament."*¹ This lesson barely scratches the surface of all God desires us to learn and understand about His work, His ways, and His own character. Continue to ask Him for insight and help as you work on your lesson.

1. In Exodus 12:1-2 what announcement does God make to Moses and Aaron?
 - a. What other details can you gather from Exodus 13:4; 34:18; Leviticus 23:5; Deuteronomy 16:1?
 - b. Approximately when does that time period occur on our calendars?
2. Summarize the details each household is to undertake regarding a lamb from Exodus 12:3-11.
3. Exodus 12:11 gives the feast a name. What is it? Exodus 12:12-13 tells us what the feast commemorates. What do you learn?

¹Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa, *Talk Thru the Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1983), 14.

“The blood on the doorposts showed acceptance of God’s plan for rescue and trust in his word. After all, the sight of dried blood by itself had no power to deter death; it was only as the dried blood painted on the top and sides of the door was a testimony to the faith of the inhabitants in Yahweh that it had its efficacy. Thus the statement, “When I see the blood, I will pass over you”—in other words, I will spare all those who show that they have placed their faith in me.”²

4. But wait! The Passover Feast is only the beginning. What else are the Israelites to do? See Exodus 12:14-20; for added details also see Leviticus 23:4-8; Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Luke 22:1.

5. God institutes some interesting requirements for these two feasts—all for the purpose of teaching and reminding the Israelites about some specific things.
 - a. What do we learn from the Scriptures about the Passover Lamb? See Exodus 12:6, 13; Isaiah 53:4-7, 10-11. Ultimately, what do we learn from John 1:29, 36; 1 Peter 1:18-19?

 - b. Describe the manner in which the Israelites are to eat the Passover Feast. See Exodus 12:11.

 - c. What was significant about removing all leaven from the household? See Deuteronomy 16:3-4; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; 11:23-32; Galatians 5:9.

“Sin is a leaven, the smallest portion of which will leaven and defile our whole souls. It must therefore be purged out with all possible care and diligence. If we retain knowingly and willfully the smallest measure of it, we have nothing to expect but an everlasting separation from God and his people——Let us then search and try our own hearts; and beg of God also to “search and try us, to see if there be any wicked

²Douglas K. Stuart, *Exodus*, vol. 2, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006), 278.

way in us, and to lead us in the way everlasting”——We must be “Israelites indeed and without guile,” if we would enjoy the full benefits of the body and blood of Christ.”³ ~ Charles Simeon

6. What is noteworthy about the *order* of the two feasts—first the Passover Feast, then the Feast of Unleavened Bread? As you form your answer consider the details of those two feasts from question #5 above, then look up 2 Corinthians 5:21; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:24.

“May the Holy Spirit grant us grace to accomplish this sweeping of the house. Where the precious blood is sprinkled, no sin can be tolerated.”⁴ ~ Charles Spurgeon

7. Moses calls the elders, the leaders and fathers of the Israelites, to administer the Passover Feast to the people. He again explains how to celebrate the feast. What new details are given that continue to fill out your understanding of how this feast was to be celebrated? See Exodus 12:21-27.

8. After they had eaten the Passover Feast, or possibly while they were eating it, the last plague came upon the Egyptians. What finally happened as a result of this last plague? See Exodus 12:29-32; Hebrews 11:28.

- a. What is notable about Genesis 15:12-16 as it relates to Exodus 12:29-32?

9. How did the Egyptian people respond to the Israelites after the last plague? See verses 33-36; see also Genesis 15:13-14; Exodus 3:21-22; 11:2-3.

³Charles Simeon, *Horae Homileticae: Genesis to Leviticus*, vol. 1 (London: Samuel Holdsworth, 1836), 380.

⁴C. H. Spurgeon, *The Interpreter: Spurgeon's Devotional Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1964), 79.

- a. How was this another way the Lord provided for the Israelites?
-
10. What stands out to you as you read the summarizing statements from Exodus 12:37-41?
-
11. In Exodus 12:42-51 God continues to fine-tune the details for celebrating the Passover. What helpful details are given in this section that weren't included previously?
 - a. What kind of commitment was God asking of those who desired to partake of the Passover? See Exodus 12:44, 48.
 - b. Why would God require that commitment of the "foreigners/strangers/aliens" or "slaves" who desired to reside with the Israelites?
-
12. As chapter 13 begins, God continues His instructions for life in the Promised Land. One of the first regulations Israel needed to understand and undertake is described in Exodus 13:2. What does God want the Israelites to do? What does *sanctify* mean as it's used here? To help you define the word also look up Genesis 2:3; Numbers 3:13; 8:17; Nehemiah 13:22.
-
13. That discussion (from Exodus 13:2) is then picked up further in the chapter in Exodus 13:11-16. What do you learn about the sanctifying of the firstborn for God from Exodus 13:11-13?

- a. For more insight into what God was requiring also look up Leviticus 1:1-3; Numbers 18:15-17; Luke 2:22-24.

 - b. Please summarize what you've learned about the law of setting aside of the firstborn.
-
14. What does God want the Israelites to understand and remember as they obey the law of the firstborn? See Exodus 13:14-16.

 15. Let's jump back up to the beginning of the chapter again and resume our verse by verse look at this chapter. In Exodus 13:3-10 God again instructs the Israelites in celebrating the Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread. What reasons are given in these verses for participating in these feasts?

 16. Think about how many times God has instructed the Israelites about the Passover Feast in Chapters 12 and 13. Why is God making that such a big deal? What does God want the Israelites to understand and remember?
 - a. What can we learn from His instructions about the Passover Feast from all we've studied?

 17. Look at the attached map on the last page of this study and look for the quickest, easiest way to get to the Promised Land. What way did God take the Israelites according to

Exodus 13:17-18? What reason does God give for not taking them the quick way in verses 17-18?

18. Though he had long since died, Joseph's faith still had an impact upon his family members. What do we learn about Joseph in Exodus 13:19? See also Genesis 50:24; Joshua 24:32; Acts 7:15-16; Hebrews 11:22.

19. What encouraging thing did God do for the newly emancipated Israelites? See Exodus 13:20-22. See also Deuteronomy 1:33; Psalm 105:37-39.

20. List what you observe about God's dealings with the Israelites from Exodus 13:17-22.

21. For a fitting conclusion to all we've studied in these last few chapters, read the Levites' prayer of praise in Nehemiah 9:5-12. Write your own prayer of praise as you consider God's leading and care for you.

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
 O words with heav'nly comfort
 fraught!
 Whate'er I do, where'er I be
 Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

*He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
 By His own hand He leadeth me;
 His faithful follower I would be,
 For by His hand He leadeth me.*

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,
 Nor ever murmur nor repine;
 Content, whatever lot I see,
 Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.
 ~ Joseph Gilmore

