

**CALVARY PANDAN BIBLE-
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

[Adapted from Bethel Bible-Presbyterian Church,
10 Downing St. Oakleigh, Vic., 3166]

DHW BIBLE CLASS

LESSON 9

EXODUS

CHAPTERS 11-12

INTRODUCTION

God had demonstrated His longsuffering and mercy towards an unrepentant and rebellious Pharaoh. But one final plague was necessary to let Pharaoh, the Egyptians and also Israel know that the LORD (Yahweh) is God Almighty, sovereign and powerful. Exodus 11 & 12 describe the final plague and its outcome. At the same time, God instituted the feast of the Passover and the Unleavened Bread to commemorate this exodus of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt to a new life of service to Him. This Feast is an ordinance or sacrament in which the Israelites ought to observe for all generations. Today, Israel still observes the Passover feast. Each generation is told of the great deliverance from slavery in Egypt by the LORD God. They are not to forget it, but to remember it and praised the LORD.

The Passover Lamb is a prediction of the coming of the true Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. This is prophecy, which has

no parallel in the history of man. This is one more great proof that the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, is the one and true living God, the LORD (Yahweh) Almighty (*El Shaddai*) and there is no one else.

The study of these two chapters helps us to understand and appreciate many of the things we do and practise in the church.

OUTLINE

A. THE TENTH PLAGUE: THE DEATH OF THE FIRSTBORN (11:1-10)

1. The LORD told Moses about the final plague after which Pharaoh would let them go (11:1)
2. The LORD gave His people favour in the sight of the Egyptians (11:2-3)
3. Moses told Pharaoh of the nature of the tenth plague (11:4-8)
4. The LORD warned that Pharaoh's heart would still be hardened (11:9-10)

B. THE LORD'S PASSOVER (12:1-13)

1. The beginning of Israel's religious year (12:1-2)
2. The institution of the Lord's Passover (12:3-11)
 - a. A lamb taken on the tenth day of the month (vv.3-4)

- b. The lamb must be without defect, male and one year old (v.5)
- c. The lamb would be kept until the fourteenth day and slaughtered (v.6)
- d. The blood of the lamb would be stained on the two door posts and the upper beam (v.7)
- e. The people should eat the flesh of the lamb in the house (vv.8-9)
- f. Any part of the lamb not eaten would have to be burned (v.10)
- g. The people should eat dressed as if to leave Egypt (v.11)

- 3. In the night of eating the Passover lamb, all the firstborn in the land of Egypt would be smitten (12:12)
- 4. The blood on the houses would be a sign for the LORD to pass over the Israelites when the firstborn in the land of Egypt would be killed (12:13)

C. THE OBSERVANCE OF THE PASSOVER (12:14-28)

- 1. The feast of the Passover should be observed as an ordinance for ever (12:14)
 - a. They should eat unleavened bread for seven days (v.15)

- b. They should hold a holy assembly on the first and seventh day (vv.16-17)
- c. Anyone who ate leaven in the seven days would be cut off from the congregation (vv.18-20)

2. Moses instructed the elders of Israel (12:21-28)

- a. A lamb to be killed and its blood applied on the door posts with a bunch of hyssop (vv.21-23)
- b. The Passover must be kept forever and explained to the children (vv.24-27)
- c. The children of Israel heard and obeyed (v.28)

D. THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL LEFT EGYPT (12:29-39)

- 1. The judgement of all the firstborn in Egypt (12:29-30)
- 2. Pharaoh called Moses and told him to go with all the children of Israel (12:31-32)
- 3. The Egyptians gave to the children of Israel and sent them away (12:33-36)
- 4. The children of Israel left Egypt (12:37-39)

E. THE OBSERVATION OF THE PASSOVER BY OTHERS (12:40-51)

- 1. The sojourning of the children of Israel in Egypt was 430 years (12:40-41)

2. The Passover must be observed by all the children of Israel but not foreigners (12:42-43)
3. The Passover could be observed by others provided they were circumcised and they became part of Israel (12:44-49)
4. The children of Israel obeyed and the LORD delivered them (12:50-51)

COMMENTARY

Yahweh is the Only True God

In spite of the nine plagues against the land of Egypt, Pharaoh had rejected the request of the children of Israel to let them leave Egypt to worship and serve the LORD their God. God had been very patient and longsuffering. This time the LORD told Moses that he would strike one final blow and Pharaoh would not only let the children of Israel go, but drove them out. Moreover, the LORD would influence the minds and hearts of the Egyptians that they would be willing to give to the Israelites gold, silver and clothes when the latter ask them¹. God reveals that He has the power to move the hearts of man to act in accordance to His plan and purpose, and at the same time man acts upon his own free will. This is a great mystery but

¹ KJV translation of “borrow” is not appropriate for it raises an ethical question. It makes the Israelites deceitful. The Hebrew *sha'al* is used 173 times, 94 of which is translated “to ask.” The context demands that it be translated “to ask” instead of “to borrow.”

true. The Word of God is replete with such instances.²

The nature of this final plague is that the LORD would smite all the firstborn of Pharaoh and all his subjects and also the firstborn of beasts (11:5). While there would be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt such as they had never experienced before, there would be peace and quietness in the land of Goshen that “not a dog move his tongue” (an expression that not even a dog would growl or bark). The LORD God of Israel made a difference between His children and the Egyptians.

The LORD revealed that those signs and wonders were performed by Him because Pharaoh refused “to hearken” unto Him. Hence the LORD hardened his heart and through this final plague, Pharaoh had to let Israel go, as the LORD says. The sovereignty of the LORD God is without question. He rules all of creation and man as He pleases. Pharaoh and his gods were helpless and could do nothing.

Christ, our Passover

The LORD God instituted the LORD’S Passover (12:11). The month that they observed the Passover feast would be the first month of the year. On

² One classic case is the betrayal, crucifixion and death of Christ which had been predetermined by God but Judas, the religious leaders and Pilate were all guilty and responsible for their wicked actions. Our own salvation was foreordained before the foundation of the world, and did we not accept Christ of our own freewill? So those who reject Christ cannot excuse themselves that they are not elected. They reject Christ of their own freewill and they are liable and guilty.

the tenth of the month, each household would take a lamb. The lamb had to be a male, without blemish and defect. The lamb would be kept for four days, and on the fourteenth day of the month, the Passover lamb would be slain in the evening. The blood of the lamb had to be struck on the two door posts and the upper door posts of their homes. Members of the household would eat the Passover lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs (12:8). The lamb must be roasted with fire together with its head, legs and entrails. It must not be eaten raw, or sodden at all with water. Nothing should be left over, and whatever was left over would be burned. The children should be fully dressed and eat in haste as if they were going on a journey. This denotes the fact that the land of Egypt was not their permanent place of abode. The permanent place of abode is the land, which God had promised them. They were only sojourners in Egypt, temporary residents. How befitting this is in teaching us that as Christians, we are only strangers and sojourners in this world and our true and permanent home is in heaven.³

On the night they ate the Passover in the house, the LORD would pass through all the land of Egypt and smite all the firstborn of man and beast.

³ **Hebrews 11:3** Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. **1 Peter 2:11** Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

But the mark of the blood on the doorposts of the houses of the Israelites would save their firstborn from being killed. The LORD on seeing the mark of blood on the doors of their homes would pass over.

In addition to eating the Passover lamb, the children of Israel were instructed to eat only unleavened bread for the next seven days, and all leaven was to be removed from the house. If anyone disobeyed and ate leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, he would be “cut off from Israel,” in other words, he would be excommunicated. Leaven is a substance added to the dough to produce fermentation. In the New Testament, leaven is explained as a symbol of sin.⁴

The Apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthians, referred to the Lord Jesus Christ as our Passover.

*Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even **Christ our passover** is sacrificed for us: (1 Corinthians 5:7).*

⁴**Matthew 16:6** Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. **1 Corinthians 5:6** Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? **7** Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: **8** Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth. **Galatians 5:9** A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

The Passover feast which was instituted in Egypt about one thousand five hundred years before Christ is a type of prophecy that foreshadowed the actual and real Passover, the Lord Jesus Christ. The killing of the Passover lamb predicted the death and shedding of blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. John the Baptist pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God,

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

Obey and Be Saved

The significance of the feast of Passover and the Unleavened Bread is found in the New Testament. In order for the Israelites to be saved from death, they simply had to obey what Moses told them to do. Anyone who did not kill a lamb and smear the blood on the doorposts of his house could not escape the judgement of God even if the person was an Israelite. But if an Egyptian who was told by an Israelite of Moses' instruction for the LORD'S Passover and if he did the same, he too would be saved from death. The reason for the divine judgement is sin against the LORD God.

Similarly, the Lord Jesus Christ is the Passover Lamb who died and shed His blood on the cross. The Word of God declares that the penalty of sin is death. The message of salvation is that whosoever believes and trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ would be saved from eternal judgement and condemnation.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (John 5:24)

Living a Life of Consecration

Just as the Israelites had to eat unleavened bread and remove all leaven from the house, the person who has believed and trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ must live a life of consecration and godliness. The application is used by the Apostle Paul when he wrote to the Corinthian church:

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Corinthians 5:7,8)

True repentance is evidenced by how we live out our belief in the Word of God. An evidence of our genuine acceptance of Christ Jesus into our life as Lord and Saviour is obeying the commandments of God and doing His will. How can we know that we are saved except by living a godly life which is honouring and glorifying to God. If we call ourselves Christians and continue to live in our own self-way, not caring for the law of God, we will not have the assurance of salvation in our hearts. The Holy Spirit testifies with our spirit

that we are the children of God. If we do not walk in a manner that pleases the Holy Spirit, how can we have the assurance that we are the children of God?⁵

The LORD God is True to His Word

The LORD God does not lie. He will perform what he said He would. The smiting of all the firstborn of man and beast was not an empty threat. In the darkness of midnight, the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on the throne to the firstborn of the prisoner in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the cattle (12:29). It must have been a terrible and horrible night for the Egyptians. One can imagine the sudden death of all their firstborn, both sons and daughters if they were the firstborn.

It is appalling to some that the LORD God of love would do such a terrible act. But we must remind ourselves that the same LORD God is also holy and just. The soul that sins must be punished and surely die. All have sinned against God and the penalty is death. What is left for God's judgement upon the unrepentant sinner is how and when to effect the punishment. Such is the sovereign prerogative of God. Who can tell Him

⁵ **Romans 8:13** For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

what to do? There is no one. But God offered an escape. They had to smear the blood of the lamb on the doorposts in order to be saved from the divine judgement. The visitation of the divine judgement on the Egyptians must be seen in the light of this truth. In fact God was merciful. He did not wipe out all the Egyptians! Similarly, all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. There is none that seeks God. Each one of us has turned our backs to God and we live as if God does not exist.⁶ The penalty of sin is death. All who have not believed and trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ are already condemned. The fact that many of us are still alive is because God is longsuffering and merciful and desires that none should perish. We should repent of our sins. God would still be righteous and just if He smites all unrepentant sinners dead. But He does not do so for He is merciful and patient so that sinners will repent of their sins and turn to Him in Christ Jesus.

Now Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron urgently in the night. Pharaoh literally commanded Moses to rise up and get out of Egypt and "go serve the LORD" (12:31). He even asked Moses to bless him. The LORD God gave His people favour in the sight of the Egyptians so that "jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment" the

⁶**Romans 3:10** As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Israelites asked were freely given to them (12:35, 36). It was a day of freedom, new life and rejoicing for the people of God! And so it would be on the appointed day, when God would divide the unrepentant sinners from the saints in Christ Jesus - the unrepentant and rebellious sinners to everlasting torment in the lake of fire, and “sinners saved by grace” to everlasting blessedness in heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ.⁷

Keeping the Passover Feast

A distinction is made in the observance of the Passover between the Israelites and the non-Israelites. The Israelites left Egypt. There were 600,000 men and if we include the women and children, the number would easily triple (12:37). An interesting factor is the fact that there was “a mixed multitude” which left with them. These persons were definitely non-Israelites. In keeping the Passover, “strangers”, “foreigners,” and “an hired servant” might not eat of the Passover unless they were circumcised. Circumcision was the sign of membership in the community of faith, which confesses the LORD God of the Passover. The Lord’s Supper, which is instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ in the New Testament and closely related to the Passover Feast, which is instituted by the LORD God in the Old Testament. It is therefore proper for today’s churches to impose the requirement of

every believer that he be baptised in water first before he partakes of the Lord’s Supper.

Thus the LORD did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt — out of bondage in Egypt and into a new life of service unto the LORD God.

⁷ **Hebrews 9:27** And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

**DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS**

Daily Readings

MONDAY: Exodus 11:1-10; Romans 9:15-25; Daniel 9:3-19

TUESDAY: Exodus 12:1-13; John 1:29; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

WEDNESDAY: Exodus 12:14-28; 1 Corinthians 5:1-8

THURSDAY: Exodus 12:29-39; Jude 1:14-23

FRIDAY: Exodus 12:40-51; Romans 3:21-31

Discussion Questions

1. What did the LORD God reveal in Exodus 11:2-3 that He will do? How does this truth encourage and comfort you?

2. How do you understand the righteousness of God when He smote all the firstborn of man and beasts in the land of Egypt?

3. God put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel (Exodus 11:7). How does this revelation comfort believers in Christ?

4. What reason does the LORD God give for what He is doing in Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 11:9)?

5. What action must the Israelites take so that they would be spared?

8. Do you think that the perpetual commemoration would be effective? Why?

6. Why did they have to eat in the manner as described in Exodus 12:11? How does that apply to our life?

9. What must the people do when Moses instructed them in order to escape the judgement of the LORD God?

7. Christ is our Passover Lamb. What does it require of a person for Christ to be his or her Passover? What kind of lifestyle is required of him or her subsequent to it?

10. What differences do you see in Pharaoh's attitude and behaviour now compared to that in his earlier meetings with Moses?

11. Why did God make the Egyptians look in favour towards the Israelites by giving them gold, silver, and clothing? Is it justified?

14. What specific steps are you taking in view of what you have learned?

12. How could a stranger or a foreigner participate in the Passover?

13. Write one sentence to express what you have learned in Exodus 11-12?
