

# Exodus 11-12

## Sunday June 12, 2011

### Introduction:

In **chapter 11 of Exodus** we learn about the last plague that God is going to bring upon Egypt. In **chapter 12** we will see how the people of Israel avoided the death that came to Egypt's firstborn.

### 11:1-15: Who can tell us what happens in **chapter 11**?

- God tells Moses about the last plague. He instructs the Jews to ask for silver and gold from the Egyptians. Moses then appears before Pharaoh and tells him that all of the firstborn in Egypt will die. Pharaoh does not change his mind. God tells Moses that He will multiply his "wonders" (show Himself to be great) in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh's heart is hardened even more.

### 11:2-3: What are your thoughts as you read **verses 2 and 3**?

- It sounds absurd to think that the Egyptians are going to give their wealth to the Jews who have been their slaves. But God will see that it's done. See **Jeremiah 32:17-22,27**.

### 11:7: Look at **verse 7**. In what ways does God make a distinction between people and in what ways does he not do this?

- God does not make a distinction based upon race. Jews, Gentiles, and Samaritans (half Jew and half Gentile) are all saved and can walk with God. God does not make a distinction based upon financial status. See **James 2:1-9**. **1** My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others? **2** For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. **3** If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, "You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor"—well, **4** doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives? **5** Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him? **6** But you dishonor the poor! Isn't it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court? **7** Aren't they the ones who slander Jesus Christ, whose noble name you bear? **8** Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: "Love your neighbor as yourself." **9** But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law. **NLT** God is not impressed with people of "position". See **Luke 14:7-11** and **1 Peter 5:5-7**. Jesus Teaches about Humility **Luke 14: 7-11** **7** When Jesus noticed that all who had come to the dinner were trying to sit in the seats of honor near the head of the table, he gave them this advice: **8** "When you are invited to a wedding feast, don't sit in the seat of honor. What if someone who is more distinguished than you has also been invited? **9** The host will come and say, 'Give this person your seat.' Then you will be embarrassed, and you will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table! God does, though, make a distinction between those who follow and obey Him and those who do not. He blesses the righteous and rewards obedience and devotion. **1 Peter 5:5-7** **5** in the same way, you younger men must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, serve each other in humility, for "God opposes the proud but favors the humble." **6** So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. **7** Give all your worries and **cares to God, for he, cares about you.** **NLT**

**11:9:** Just a thought on **verse 9**. God brings glory to Himself when He acts. His wonders were multiplied in Egypt. When Israel gets to the Promised Land, the people there will have heard about how great the God of Israel is. God's primary goal is not to bring glory to Himself, though. He just IS Himself and all that He is and does happens to bring glory to Himself. His love, His goodness, His righteousness, and even His wrath all bring glory to God and exalt His name.

**12:1-13:** What do we learn in **chapter 12 verses 1 to 13**?

- The children of Israel were to kill and eat a "Passover" lamb. The blood from that lamb would be the sign for God to Passover that home and not take the life of the firstborn there.

**12:2:** What do we learn from **verse 2**?

- The Passover will restart the Jewish calendar.

**Does this relate to us as Christians in any way?**

- Yes. When we come to Christ He "passes over" (forgives) our sin. We are "born again" (**John 3**) and become new people (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). The lives that we were made for begin.

**12:1-13:** What other pictures of Christ's death and our salvation do we see in **verses 1 to 13**?

- Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (**John 1:29**). We must individually receive Christ (take a lamb for ourselves – **verse 3**). The narrow gate (**Matthew 7:13-14**) only has room for one person at a time. In **verse 5** the lamb was to be male and unblemished (**without sin – 2 Corinthians 5:21 & Hebrews 4:15**).
- Jesus was crucified on the **14th day of the first month** of the Jewish calendar and **He died at twilight (3 p.m.)**. All of the lamb that wasn't eaten was to be "roasted with fire", a picture of Christ suffering our hell.

**12:14-20:** What takes place in **verses 14 to 20**?

- Instructions are given for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It begins at Passover and lasts for **seven days**. No leaven is to be in a Jewish home and the bread they eat will be unleavened.

**What do we know about leaven from other parts of the Bible?**

- Leaven was used by Jesus to describe the false teachings of Legalism (Pharisees) and Liberalism (Sadducees) in **Matthew 16:11-12** and the teaching of Lawlessness ("Herod" – **Mark 8:15**). Leaven is used to illustrate the spread of sin (**Galatians 5:9**). See **1 Corinthians 5:6-8**. We use unleavened bread in Communion and the Lord's Supper, which is the New Testament version of Passover. Leaven almost always symbolizes sin in Scripture; that is why the leaven must be removed from the bread and the house. An interesting fact: it was leaven that made the fruit of the vine into alcoholic wine.

**12:21-32:** What happens in **verses 21 to 32**?

- Moses instructs the people how to put the blood on the doorposts of their homes. At midnight the firstborn of Egypt died, prompting enormous, national grief. Pharaoh finally tells Moses to take the people and all of their possessions and to go.

**12:33-39:** What takes place in **verses 33 to 39**?

- The Jews pack up and leave. The Egyptian people give them their wealth fearing even more devastation and death if the Jews do not leave Egypt. Notice that this first Feast of Unleavened Bread was celebrated in transit (as they were traveling).

### Why do you think that God gave the Jews all of those riches as they left Egypt?

- Maybe they collected back pay plus interest for their 400 years of slavery. (They were in Egypt 430 years { 12:40}; they were *slaves* in Egypt for 400 years {Acts 7:6}.) A part of the reason God enriched them was that He had a plan for all of that wealth. He would someday soon ask them to give to offerings to build a multimillion-dollar Tabernacle (in today's value). God gives to us what He gives to us for a reason...and the reason is always bigger than just our family and us...*always*.

### How many Jews left the land of Egypt?

- Verse 37 tells us that there were 600,000 *men*. In all likelihood, there were at least that many women and at least twice that number of children. There were likely 2.5 million people who left Egypt headed for the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

### You should have noticed that the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were to be celebrated by the Jews annually throughout their history (12:14,24). Why don't Christians celebrate these feasts?

- We DO celebrate Passover / Communion / the Lord's Supper. We use the instructions given to us by Jesus in the Gospels and by Paul (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). The Feast of Unleavened Bread was fulfilled in Jesus. He was the "Bread of Life" (John 6:35). He had no sin (leaven) in Him.

### 12:43: What do we learn in verse 43 and how does it apply today?

- Only Jews (who circumcised the males) were to participate in Passover. Now only Christians are to partake in Communion / the Lord's Supper.

### 12:46: What is significant about what we are told in verse 46?

- No bone of the lamb was to be broken. Again, the Passover Lamb was a picture of **Jesus** who would take away our sin. See John 19:31-33. <sup>31</sup> It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was the Passover). So they asked **Pilate** to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. <sup>32</sup> So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to **Jesus**, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. NLT