

Quarter Three: Exodus: Journey to the Promised Land

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Lesson 5—Passover

Thursday: The Divine Judgment

July 31, 2025

- **Last Week: “The Plagues”**
 - Exodus 7:8 – 10 (1st 9 plagues)
 - God seeking to get Pharaoh’s attention
 - Yahweh showcasing his power over the Egyptian gods
- **This Week: “Passover”**
 - Exodus 11 – 13
 - The 10th plague – death of the firstborn
 - Tremendous consequences of Pharaoh’s choices – disaster & death to an entire nation
 - God’s provision for deliverance – being passed over by the blood

Memory Text: “‘And it shall be, when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ that you shall say, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households’” (Ex 12:26, 27, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** One More Plague (John L)
 - Ex 11:1 – 10 – God’s warning (through Moses) to Pharaoh of the final plague & impending destruction & death; love = love & justice
- 2. **Monday:** The Passover (James)
 - Ex 12:1 – 20 – institution of the Passover; God’s covering of blood over His people
- 3. **Tuesday:** Pesach (SQ)
 - Ex 12:17 – 23 – more of the blood symbolizing the blood of Jesus to cleanse us & the unleavened bread (freedom from sin)
- 4. **Wednesday:** Passing the Torch (John D)
 - Ex 12:24 – 28 – sharing Biblical truth from generation to generation; celebration of Passover while still in bondage (symbolizes experience of faith)
- 5. **Thursday:** The Divine Judgment (Jill)
 - Ex 12:29, 30 – death of the firstborn, not protected with the blood; tremendous responsibility we have on others; divine forbearance connected with divine justice

Thursday: The Divine Judgment

Exodus 12:29, 30; Heb 11:28

- My Bible's heading = "The 10th Plague: Death of the Firstborn"
- Ex 12:29 – "And it came to pass at **midnight** that the Lord struck all the **firstborn** in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock."
 - Midnight is not the beginning of a new day; rather, it = the darkest moments of night
 - Symbolizes defenselessness & vulnerability
 - Symbolizes depths of depravity & horror
 - Judas moved from light to darkness
 - John 13:30 – "Having received the piece of bread, he (Judas) then went out immediately. And it was night."
 - Judas, like Pharaoh, had persistently refused the voice of God
 - Final rejection of God's call
 - Symbolizes discouragement and hopelessness
- **Why the firstborn?**
 - **1. Israel was God's firstborn**
 - Ex 4:22, 23 – "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord: "Israel is My son, My firstborn."' (23) So I say to you, "Let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn."'"
 - Israel = God's chosen people
 - Jesus is the First born (6 Biblical passages)
 - Ps 89:27 – "Also I will make him My firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth."
 - Ps is remembering the covenant with David
 - David = youngest of 8 brothers
 - Firstborn because of exalted position, privilege, responsibility as king
 - Christ = firstborn over all creation
 - Col 1:15 – "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."
 - Passage - Christ as both our Creator & Redeemer
 - Christ's preeminence – with the privileges & rights of the firstborn son
 - He is preexistent; He is preeminent
 - He is the Creator – not the created
 - He redeems us from sin
 - His blood covers us – so we're "passed over"
 - Rev 1:5 – "And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth."
 - **2. God can bring justice**
 - Rom 12:19 – "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather **give place to wrath**; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord."
 - Give place to wrath = don't take vengeance into your own hands
 - God can bring justice

- Children of Israel cried out to God because of their bondage (Ex 2:23)
 - Ex 2:24 – God heard their cry
 - Ex 3:7 – God saw the oppression of His people in Egypt
 - He heard their cry
 - He knew their sorrows
 - He came down to deliver them
 - We cry to God – “Where are you?”
 - When He arises & brings justice, we question His love
- **3. Punishment can be reciprocal**
 - Reap what you sow
 - The punishment often fits the crime
 - Pharaoh wouldn’t let God’s firstborn go, Pharaoh’s firstborn was killed
 - Hosea 4:6 – “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”
 - Obadiah 1:15 – “For the day of the Lord upon all the nations *is* near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head.”
 - Hab 2:8 – “Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the people shall plunder you....”
 - Pharaoh vs Israelites
 - 80 years before, Pharaoh ordered the death of the male Israelite babies
 - Now, the sins of the fathers are coming back...
 - Pharaoh’s own firstborn would be destroyed
- **4. Yahweh vs the gods of Egypt**
 - Every plague was against a specific Egyptian god(s)
 - Pharaoh represented the ultimate power & god of Egypt
 - Pharaoh’s firstborn son was considered the son of a god
 - The firstborn of the Egyptian belonged to their gods
 - Likewise, Israel, is the firstborn of God and belongs to Him
 - By killing the firstborn of the Egyptians, God executed judgment against the gods of Egypt
 - Egyptian gods
 - Isis = goddess of life (protected children)
 - Hekhet (Hay’-ket) = goddess attending women at childbirth (goddess with the frog head)
 - Min (meen) = god of reproduction & male virility
 - Osirir (Oh-sigh’-ris) = god of life (god of crops & fertility)
 - Yahweh, God of the covenant who redeems us

- Ex 15:11 – “Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?”
 - Song after crossing the Red Sea
 - Ex 18:11, NLT (Jethro speaking) – “I know now that the LORD is greater than all other gods, because He rescued His people from the oppression of the proud Egyptians.”
- Status of the firstborn
 - Firstborn given preferential treatment (Primogeniture)
 - Greater authority within the family
 - Much larger inheritance
 - Continuation of the family line
 - In ancient Egypt
 - Firstborns given double-portions of inheritance
 - Became head of the family’s household
 - Inherited governmental offices
- Ex 12:29, 30 – “And it came to pass at midnight that the **Lord struck** all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. (30) So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead.”
 - Lord struck = God’s justice & mercy
 - Mercy to provide the blood so they would be spared
 - Justice to provide punishment for those who persistently refused to accept His mercy
 - PP, p. 280 – “Throughout the vast realm of Egypt, the pride of every household had been laid low. The shrieks and wails of the mourners filled the air. King and courtiers, with blanched faces and trembling limbs, stood aghast at the overmastering horror.”
 - **Who caused all those deaths?**
 - Pharaoh: blatant, persistent, stubborn refusal to humble himself and choose God
 - God - multiple attempts to get his attention: 9 plagues b4
 - Warning b4 the 10th plague
 - *God uses the gentlest means possible to get our attention
 - Our decisions & behavior brings consequences
 - Not just to ourselves, but to others. Innocent others.
 - Direct consequence:
 - Pharaoh’s stubbornness cost the life of thousands in his nation
 - Indirect consequence:
 - Jonah’s refusal to obey & running from God could have cost the lives of the sailors
 - We can refuse God’s way - & others be lost
 - We can refuse to tell about God’s way - & others be lost
 - Eze 3:18 – “When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way...his blood I will require at your hand.”