

The Passover¹

Exodus 11–12

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let My people go.’”

Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey Him? I will not let Israel go.”

Pharaoh’s heart became hard and he would not listen to them. And the LORD brought nine plagues² upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians, but the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he was not willing to let them go.

The LORD said to Moses, “Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. The whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. You shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand.³ Eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast. The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you. This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever.”

Then the people of Israel went and did as the LORD had commanded.

Explanatory Notes

¹The Passover is a special meal (festival) that celebrates God’s mighty rescue of His people from slavery in Egypt. It provides a preview and picture of God’s salvation won by Christ in His death and resurrection. As the Passover lamb was killed and its blood smeared on the Israelites’ homes, so Christ was crucified—His blood was shed—for our forgiveness. As the Exodus passover brought Israel into a new life, Christ’s resurrection brings us new life. ²Terrible punishments of God. ³They were to be ready to travel.



“When I see the blood, I will pass over you.”

For Reflection

1. What was the Passover?
2. What were the Israelites to do on the evening before the Passover?
3. Why is Jesus called our Passover lamb?

Words to Remember

For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. *1 Corinthians 5:7*