

# The Exodus

## Exodus 12:29-51

What God promises and prepares, He accomplishes. His patience and warnings have been long and clear, but now in the tenth plague the angel of death comes to every house in Egypt. He either sees the blood of a lamb around the door and passes over, or He takes the life of the firstborn. He then leads Israel, and all who join her, out of bondage, decked out with wonderful things for a bright future. This objective deliverance teaches us how to think of the cross, understand our own salvation, and celebrate it.

### Faith Revealed

At midnight the Lord strikes down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from Pharaoh's house to the dungeons to the cattle stalls (v29). Every house without blood on the doorposts cries out in sadness (v30). The contrast is between faith and unbelief, faith in God versus faith in mankind. Everyone bet their life that night—or the life of their firstborn. It seems like after nine plagues the country would know which way things are trending, but following God means renouncing your own way of life and naming sin the way He does. If He has been kind to open your eyes, you can see how trusting in yourself works out—bringing sadness and ultimately death where it reigns. See the faith of Israel and consider how absurd it would have sounded to the scoffers: “So you're saying that by putting blood on your doorposts and lintel, God will not strike you down, but those who forget or aren't sure or just don't want to go get the lamb on the 10th day will lose the firstborn of their household?” Those who want God's mercy have to believe in Him, and if they reject or assume He doesn't exist, none of this will make sense before or after the plague. Apart from sheer grace, our hearts are so hard that it doesn't matter if God kills our firstborn, we still will not bow the knee. Christians who are embarrassed by this plague will be equally embarrassed by the cross, but those who want their sins forgiven, who want to come to the living, holy, and merciful triune God, will believe and act. And this is the work of His Spirit, the Spirit at work right now in the preaching of the gospel. The Holy Spirit moved Israel to trust God and paint the door.

### Plunder

Just as God said would happen, Pharaoh practically shoves them out of Egypt (3:20; 6:1). He gives seven imperatives including three times to “go” in two verses (vv31-32). He takes no responsibility for his tyranny and murder that brought on the plagues but wants to be blessed, perhaps by keeping his life and having this end the plagues. The Egyptians think they'll die if Israel stays any longer, and so Israel leaves with unleavened bread and bowls wrapped in clothing on their shoulders (v33-34). They obeyed God asking for gold, silver, and clothing, and so found favor in the eyes of the Egyptians (vv35-36). God doesn't just save someone from sin; He decks us out in the armor of Christ (Eph. 6:14-18). We are spiritual billionaires, every cent the gift of God (1 Cor. 4:7). Those who remembered this spent the money on the tabernacle and not the golden calf.

### NOTES:

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### **A Mixed Multitude**

The Israelites go from Rameses to Succoth, six hundred thousand men or about two million people (v37). God told Abraham his descendants would be countable like the stars, so this is an example of His faithfulness (Gen. 15:5). Not only is it a lot of people, but it's a mixed multitude consisting of Israelites, Egyptians, and whatever foreigners want to join (v38). Abraham believed he would be a father not only a multitude, but of many nations (Gen. 17:5). In Solomon's vision the Messiah's dominion stretches from the river to the ends of the earth: "All nations shall serve Him" (Ps. 72:11). That Pharaoh will not serve willingly, but this will not stop the message of God's kindness and redemption from drawing the multitude. The Gentiles have always been included in the God's plan for the salvation of the world, so when a Canaanite woman trusts Jesus and asks Him to heal His daughter, He praises her great faith (Matt. 15:28). Israel welcomes whoever wants to join (Is. 56:3, 6; cf. Ruth 1:16).

### **An Invitation to the Table**

The Lord told Abraham his people would be afflicted for 400 years, which appears to be the number of years they were in servitude, 30 years after Jacob and his sons arrived in Egypt (vv40-41; Gen. 15:13). God was watching the entire time, waiting until the perfect time to deliver and save His people. He calls the night that He brings them out a "watching" and sets it up to be a "watching" for Israel too throughout their generations (v42). It's not enough for Him to give this gift to one generation. He always brings His people out of bondage to sin and death through faith in His Son, the greater Moses, Jesus Christ. Every year Israel would remember and celebrate this great deliverance, and look forward to the greater one to come. People live in Israel for lots of reasons, but to become an Israelite means circumcision, and thus to eat from the Passover lamb (v44). This is one of the reasons we welcome baptized people from any church and children of any age to take communion: "All the congregation of Israel shall keep it" (v47). Foreigners were not forced to be circumcised, but when they were ready to become Israelites, they were welcome to do so and partake of Pasover, and no favoritism was to be shown to natives (v49). Those who are not yet Christians are welcome to come to worship, and when they're ready to confess with their mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord, we invite them to the waters of baptism and then the Lord's Supper. Let all the nations hear and be glad!