

# 9

## Saved by the Blood

Text: Exodus 11-13:16

Key Verse: Exodus 12:13

Next Week: Exodus 13:17-22

Encountering God

# EXODUS

Finding Freedom

### OPEN

This week we come to the final plague God brings to display his power and release His people from Pharaoh's grip. Bible commentator D. A. Carson writes, "The importance of this event cannot be overestimated. It signalled not only the release of the Israelites from slavery, but the dawning of a new covenant with their Redeemer." It's the Passover.

The tenth and final plague is the greatest and worst of all the plagues where God warns Pharaoh that he will send the judgement of death upon the first born male of every household, upon both man and beast. But upon the households of the Israelites, who God commanded be marked with the blood of a sacrificed lamb, God's sentence of death would pass over: *"The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you (12:13).* Only those households marked by the blood would be spared of God's *"judgement on all the gods of Egypt"* (12:12).

From that moment forward, God instituted the Passover meal to commemorate his salvation and mark the beginning of a new year. It was this commemorative meal of Passover that Jesus used at the Last Supper to point to him being God's Passover Lamb for our sin.

### REFLECT

- In Ex. 11:4-5, and in this plague, are there any exceptions to what households are under God's judgement of death? What is the distinction God is making in 11:7 between Egypt and God's people Israel? What is the basis for that distinction?
- God's judgement of death comes upon the people of Egypt but what is God also judging in these plagues according to 12:12? What is the spiritual picture here? What is God's purpose in this verse?
- According to 12:24-28, how important was celebrating the Passover meal to be for God's people and why?

### DISCUSS

- After telling Pharaoh what will happen in this 10th and final plague, why do you think it says in 11:8 that Moses left Pharaoh "hot with anger"? What do you think made Moses so angry regarding Pharaoh's response? What was it that Moses was angry about?
- This last plague is the greatest and worst that God brings to finally break Pharaoh's grip on God's people. Is it hard to accept or reconcile with your view of God? Share.
- Read Ezekiel 33:11. How does what God says here in Ezekiel help us understand the nature of the tenth plague in terms of God's heart?
- In the story of the Passover, God gives detailed instructions and commands about the Passover meal as an 'ordinance' to 'commemorate' his deliverance. What are some of those instructions?
- How do we see Jesus follow this command to observe the Passover in the gospels? Read Mark 14:12-16 and 22-25.
- Throughout the gospels and New Testament, Jesus is referred to as the Lamb (see John 1:29). In your own words, what does this mean, as we consider the story of Exodus? What kind of 'exodus' did Jesus lay his life down for as God's sacrificial lamb for all time? Explain.
- In the Passover meal, Jews were to eat the lamb that had been sacrificed. In John 6:53-56, Jesus says something similar about himself. What does Jesus say? And what do you think he means?
- In response to what God was about to do for them, in Ex. 13:1, God tells the people to 'consecrate' to him every firstborn male. What is the principle behind this that we need to apply to our response to God in terms of what he has done for us through Christ?

### APPLY/PRAY

#### 1. Celebrate the Lord's Supper together as a small group.

Read together Mark 14:22-25. Break bread and drink juice in a spirit of thanks, remembrance, and looking forward to Jesus' return.

#### 2. Pray for those who's lives are not yet marked by the blood.

Pray for names who have not yet seen their need for Jesus' atoning work on the cross for their sin, that God's judgement would pass them.

#### 3. Pray for anyone who needs physical healing or restoration.

