

Life of Moses Study (October 11, 2020)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Exodus 12:1-13

NOTE: In the last study (Exodus 5:22-6:8, 7:1-5) Moses's first approach to Pharaoh resulted in the increased sufferings of the Israelites. God repeatedly sends Moses back to Pharaoh who repeatedly refuses to let God's people go.

Each refusal is met with a plague (for a total of ten plagues-Exodus 7-11). Each time Pharaoh hardens his own heart (Exodus 7:13,14, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7, 34, 35). "It appears that Pharaoh reached the limits of his circumscribed freedom during the fifth plague, for after that time, during the last five plagues, God consistently initiated the hardness (Exodus 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8, 17). (Hard Sayings of the Bible by Kaiser Jr., Davids, Bruce, Brauch)

"Pharaoh's heart has been hardened by God *for the very purpose* that the Lord's 'wonders may be multiplied in Egypt' (11:9). What is about to happen will fulfill His plan on a level much deeper than simply retribution for the king's actions. Rather, Pharaoh is being used by God. His actions have been scripted so that God can execute His plan." (The NIV Application Commentary-Exodus by Peter Enns)

1. What do you think was God's purpose for the Israelites to celebrate the Passover on a specific date, "the first month of the year" which became The Hebrew Calendar (Exodus 3:15; 10:2; 12:2,14)?

2. Ever since the fourth plague (the flies), the Israelites had been set apart from the Egyptians (Exodus 8:21-23). Why do you think they were spared the impact of God's judgment from the fourth to the ninth plagues **without any action on their part**? What was different for the Israelites in the tenth and final plague (Exodus 11:4-6; 12:1-13)? What do you learn regarding God's people and plan of salvation?

3. What similarities do you find between the account of Noah (Genesis 6:13-18) and the Passover event?

4. From this passage describe how the details of the Passover represented the greater deliverance that was to come by God (John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:19). How can you be delivered from God's judgment?

5. The Egyptians witnessed that the obedience of the Israelites by spreading lamb's blood on their doorposts identified them as belonging to God and therefore spared them of judgment. How might others in your life recognize that you belong to God and have no need to fear judgment and death (Romans 8:1)?

6. Why were the Israelites instructed to eat bitter herbs (Exodus 1:13-14; 12:8)? How and why were they to be dressed and eat their meal (Exodus 12:11)? List the applicable principles you detect for believers.

7. **NOTE REGARDING EXODUS 12:12:** "By sending plague after plague—nine in all—God was showing His power over creation...yet the more Pharaoh suffered, the harder his heart became. This was because his heart was committed to serving other gods. So one by one God defeated the gods and goddesses of Egypt. The plague of the blood defeated the river gods of the Nile, the locusts defeated the field gods of the harvest, the darkness defeated the gods of the sun and sky, and so forth."

(Preaching the Word-Exodus by Philip Graham Ryken)

"The tenth and final plague was the ultimate one—and fittingly, it was the plague of death, showing that the gods... could not save anyone or anything from death. If every household in Egypt should have been able to understand who held the power of life and death and who, by implication, did not. The gods did not. Yahweh did. Indeed, false gods do not exist...Therefore, 'judgment on the gods of Egypt' is practically speaking a judgment on *belief in those gods*, trusting in what cannot save as opposed to the only one who can."

(The New American Commentary-Exodus by Douglas K. Stuart)

Identify some of the false gods you see worshipped today in society. How do you find it tempting to rely on something else or someone else besides the Lord? What helps you keep your reliance on the Lord?