

# GOD'S MIRACULOUS PASSOVER

CORE PASSAGES: EXODUS 12:12-13,21-28

## CONTEXT

After a reluctant start, Moses returned to Egypt to deliver God's message to Pharaoh. Through Moses, God performed undeniable displays of power. The Egyptians suffered through plagues that proved the one true God was more powerful than any of the false gods the Egyptians served. Despite seeing God's hand at work, Pharaoh proved hardhearted and ignored God's command. One last plague remained that would strike at the heart of Pharaoh and all of Egypt, and through this final plague, God would deliver His people from bondage.

## KEY CONCEPT

**God will execute judgment but will give grace to those who follow Him.**

As you examine Exodus 12:12-13,21-28:

- Notice how blood was the distinguishing mark of salvation from the Lord.
- Consider how God's deliverance of Israel should encourage us to celebrate and worship Him.



## TIMELINE

God Sends Moses to Egypt to Deliver the Hebrews (Exodus 3–6)

**SESSION STUDY: God Gives His People Instructions and Sends Last Plague—10: Death of the Firstborn (Exodus 11–12)**

God Sends Nine Plagues Against Egypt (Exodus 7–10)

God Leads Israel Out of Egypt and Delivers Them from the Egyptian Army (Exodus 13–14)

### Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Exodus 6:28–7:25
- Day 2:** Exodus 8:1–32
- Day 3:** Exodus 9:1–35
- Day 4:** Exodus 10:1–29
- Day 5:** Exodus 11:1–13:16
- Day 6:** Psalm 116



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

EXODUS 12:12-13

### GOD WILL JUDGE ALL SINNERS, BUT HE GIVES GRACE TO THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIM.

*Underline the actions God promises to take against Egypt.  
Then circle the promises God makes to those who are marked off as His.*

**12** “I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night and strike every firstborn male in the land of Egypt, both people and animals. I am the LORD; I will execute judgments against all the gods of Egypt. **13** The blood on the houses where you are staying will be a distinguishing mark for you; when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No plague will be among you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.”

### CHRIST CONNECTION

The first Passover revealed God’s judgment against those who would not obey Him, but He rescued those who obeyed through the blood of a lamb. Many years later, during the Passover celebration, because of His grace, Jesus Christ provided salvation for those who believed in His name through His blood on the cross, the blood of the Lamb.

**Key Concept:** God will execute judgment but will give grace to those who follow Him.



Through His servant Moses, God commanded Pharaoh, “Let my people go, so that they may worship me” (Exodus 7:16; 8:1,20; 9:1,13; 10:3). Because God is holy, sovereign, most glorious, and more, He alone deserves devotion and worship. As created beings, it is a great offense for human beings to worship anyone or anything instead of our Creator.

God does not need our worship. He lacks nothing. God is not a demanding narcissist in need of praise and honor to fill some depleted worship tank. We glorify God because it is embedded in why we exist—we were created to worship Him.

An artistic masterpiece shows off the splendor of the one who made it. We, as image-bearers of God, continually display the glory of our Maker. When we choose not to worship God, the glory and praise due God is stolen. Sometimes we keep those kudos for ourselves. Other times we divert our devotion to unworthy idols. Instead of presenting the magnificence of God to the world around us, our sinful choices point people away from the only worthy One.

Even in the sinfulness of humankind, God’s glory will prevail: “The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the Israelites from among them” (7:5). When God justly demonstrates His anger against sin, it is not a tyrannical temper tantrum

filled with rage and vengeance. Divine wrath is the right response to stolen glory and offended holiness.

**Why are we prone to think of God’s wrath as an overreaction instead of a right reaction?**

Though we each deserve God’s immediate and thorough wrath—even for just one of our offenses—God is patient. God is a merciful God: “The LORD is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth” (Exodus 34:6).

With each plague, God not only gave a glimpse of His wrath and a display of His authority, but He showed compassion for His people, shielding them from the plague’s effects (see 9:26). But with the last plague, God required “a distinguishing mark” (12:13), and those who obeyed His command—painting the blood of a lamb on their doorposts and lintel (12:7)—would be passed over by God’s grace.

**How does God’s patience with you compel you to love and obey Him?**

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

EXODUS 12:21-28

### SALVATION WILL COME THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB.

*Circle all the references to Passover and blood.*

**21** Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go, select an animal from the flock according to your families, and slaughter the Passover animal. **22** Take a cluster of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and brush the lintel and the two doorposts with some of the blood in the basin. None of you may go out the door of his house until morning. **23** When the LORD passes through to strike Egypt and sees the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, he will pass over the door and not let the destroyer enter your houses to strike you. **24** Keep this command permanently as a statute for you and your descendants. **25** When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, you are to observe this ceremony. **26** When your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ **27** you are to reply, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when he struck the Egyptians, and he spared our homes.’” So the people knelt low and worshiped. **28** Then the Israelites went and did this; they did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**CHRIST AS SACRIFICE:** There are several signs, symbols, and pointers in the Old Testament that foreshadowed Christ as being the sacrificial Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. However, unlike the sacrificial system of the Old Testament, whose sacrifices were unable to take away sin (Hebrews 10:4), Christ’s sacrifice on the cross was able to permanently, “once and for all,” take away sins.

**Key Concept:** God will execute judgment but will give grace to those who follow Him.

Through the previous plagues, God poured out punishment upon Pharaoh. But Pharaoh repeatedly refused to submit to God's demand to let God's people go. With this final plague, God would bring Pharaoh to his knees. The angel of death would visit every home in Egypt, and the firstborn would be slain. Yet in His mercy, God supplied a way of escape for His people.

God gave specific instructions to spread the blood of an unblemished lamb on their doorposts (vv. 21-22). This would be the sign of their trust in His rescue plan, sealing security from the destroyer's midnight strike (v. 29). God's people were also instructed to be prepared to escape Egypt at a moment's notice (v. 11).

**Why do you think God called the Israelites to take an active role in their salvation by applying the blood to their door frames?**

True to His word, judgment was executed, hitting every Egyptian household, including Pharaoh's (v. 29). The wrath of God dealt death upon every family that refused to side with Him, "and there was a loud wailing throughout Egypt because there wasn't a house without someone dead" (v. 30).

Also true to His word, for those who followed God's commands, protection was granted—death was deterred for the firstborn of those families. The first Passover involved the judgment of God passing over those who placed their faith in His provision. Then, after centuries of slavery, God's people walked out of Egypt as free people. In fact, "the Egyptians pressured the people in order to send them quickly out of the country" (v. 33)!

God delivered His people from death and destruction, and ultimately their centuries-long enslavement in Egypt, through the blood of a lamb on their wooden door frames. Well over a millennium later, God saved souls from slavery to sin and the death penalty that was due their sin-soaked misdeeds through the blood of the Lamb on a wooden Roman cross.

**How does the Passover story lead you to worship God?**



**GROUP EXPERIENCE**

**ALMIGHTY GOD; ATONING PASSOVER**

*Record what Exodus 12:12-13 says about God's judgment and mercy.*

**GOD'S JUDGMENT**

**GOD'S MERCY**

What are some Passover-type moments when God worked mightily in your life?  
How are you passing those stories on to others?

**Key Concept:** God will execute judgment but will give grace to those who follow Him.



## HEAD

How can remembering the whole of God's character help you grasp that all God's deeds are righteous?

### PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 116. Note specific ways you have seen the truths declared about God in your own life. Then pray through Psalm 116:12-19, thanking God for His salvation and committing yourself to live for Him in the presence of others.



## HEART

What are some theologically rich hymns or songs that can remind you this week of Christ's sacrifice?

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

What is one step you can take this week to better show off the glory of God in Christ and point others to His salvation?

