



THE EXODUS PART TWO: DEMONSTRATION AND DELIVERANCE INTO THE WORD *LESSON 11*

- WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS LESSON:
 - Moses returns to Egypt
 - The ten plagues
 - The first Passover
- BIBLICAL THEMES:
 - God's Demonstration of Power
(foreshadowing the destruction of sin through Calvary's cross)
 - Jesus as the Passover Lamb
- WORLD EVENTS:
 - 1500 BC: Thutmose III rules Egypt. Empire reaches its height.
 - 1440 BC: Exodus from Egypt. (The Exodus began 480 years before Solomon began to build the temple.)
- SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES:
 - Exodus 7:9-12; 11-14
 - Hebrews 9:22
- FOR FURTHER STUDY:
 - Bernard, David K. The New Birth Experience. Word Aflame Press: Hazelwood, 1984.
 - Sarnum, Nathan. Exploring Exodus: The Origins of Biblical Israel. Shoken: 1996.

INTO THE WORD

LESSON 11

THE EXODUS PART TWO: DEMONSTRATION AND DELIVERANCE

Introduction:

When God met Moses in the burning bush, He equipped Moses with everything He needed to fulfill both the physical and spiritual destiny that God had ordained for him. When Moses re-entered Egypt with his wife and sons after his 40 year sojourn in the desert, he carried the power and authority of Jehovah in the form of the rod, and was accompanied by his brother and spokesman, Aaron. Unlike his earlier failed attempt to reach out to his people after killing the Egyptian taskmaster, Moses was now walking in God's strength and direction.



Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- Have you found yourself in a situation where you have felt very unprepared to fulfill a task, but God equipped you throughout the process as you relied on Him for strength?

Into the Word:

1. God Equips Moses:

God prepared Moses for everything that would take place on his return to Egypt. Firstly, He instructed Moses to approach the elders of the tribe of Israel and deliver the following message:

- Exodus 3:15-17 (NLT)
¹⁵ ...“Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my eternal name, my name to remember for all generations. ¹⁶ “Now go and call together all the elders of Israel. Tell them, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me. He told me, “I have been watching closely, and I see how the Egyptians are treating you. ¹⁷ I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.’”

God also gave Moses the words to deliver to Pharaoh:

○ Exodus 3:18 (NLT)

¹⁸“The elders of Israel will accept your message. Then you and the elders must go to the king of Egypt and tell him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So please let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD, our God.’”

God told Moses that Pharaoh would refuse to let them go, but Pharaoh’s stubbornness and pride would allow the miraculous power of God to be manifested in the form of the ten plagues. The Israelite nation would not only be taken out of slavery, but Pharaoh’s “hard heart” would allow them to “spoil” their oppressors. With each new plague God demonstrated his power over Pharaoh, ultimately causing the Pharaoh and the Egyptians to cry out that the God of the Israelites might bless them also. Perhaps it was as an offer of sacrifice to the God that had demonstrated his great power over them that prompted the Egyptians to give the Israelites their gold, silver and clothing as the former slaves left Egypt (Ex. 3:22).

However, before Moses re-enters Egypt and before Aaron meets him in the desert as God foretold he would, a very strange incident occurs. God suddenly afflicts Moses with an almost fatal illness. Zipporah, Moses’ Midianite wife, responds by circumcising their son. After the circumcision is complete, Moses’ health returns. Clearly Moses had not obeyed this commandment given to Abraham to seal the covenant between Abraham’s descendants and the Lord. Perhaps his years in the desert caused him to forget or disregard this ordinance? However, this incident proves just how important this covenant was to God. (Ex. 3:22-26)

Moses obeyed God’s instructions and went first to the elders of Israel. Having



Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- Why do you think it was so vital that Moses' son was circumcised before Moses re-entered Egypt?
- How important is it that we walk in God's ordinances for our lives if we desire to be used of Him?

gained their confidence, they and his brother Aaron accompanied Moses to Pharaoh’s court. Here they inform Pharaoh that God has spoken with them and they petition Pharaoh to let the Israelite people go into the desert to offer sacrifices to their God. This first visit to Pharaoh appeared to end disastrously. Pharaoh not only refused their request, but increased the work-load for the Israelites, remarking that it was their idleness that prompted Moses to make this request (Ex. 5: 7-21). Understandably, the Israelites complained, and condemned Moses and Aaron. Moses took their complaints before God.



Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- Why do you think God allows this apparent disappointment to happen? What purpose might it serve?

- Why is it significant that Moses takes the complaints of the people to God? How does this demonstrate Godly leadership?

Pharaoh makes it clear that he will not let the Israelites go. The Hebrews have more work than before and they are angry with Moses and Aaron for bringing this disaster on them. It appears the situation is impossible. However, God has orchestrated the circumstances so that His miraculous power will be manifested and that all will acknowledge that He alone is God and deliverer of Israel:

- Exodus 7:5 (NLT)
⁵When I raise my powerful hand and bring out the Israelites, the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.”

(As noted in the introduction to the first part of the Exodus lesson, the story of God’s deliverance of the nation of Israel from Egypt goes before the Israelites as they journey to the promised land. Surrounding nations have heard of this amazing event and many are filled with awe for the God of Israel because of this.)

Responding to Moses’ petition, the Lord announces that now He will display His power before Pharaoh and He once again articulates His covenant with Israel and declares that He will deliver His people. He counsels Moses that He will continue to harden Pharaoh’s heart in order to demonstrate fully His strength and His power, promising that ultimately He will deliver His people. He instructs Moses that when they return to Pharaoh, he will demand that they prove their authority by a “sign”. The Lord advises Moses to tell Aaron to throw down His rod at Pharaoh’s request, and that it will become a snake.

At this point in the narrative, Moses must fully rely on God’s miraculous power and trust in His word. When we fully rely on God and have absolute trust in His word, we are fully equipped for the task God lays before us.

2. Moses returns to Pharaoh and God displays His power through the plagues.

As instructed, Aaron threw down the rod before Pharaoh and it became a snake. Not to be outdone, Pharaoh sent for the wise men and sorcerers in his court. They too threw down their rods and they became snakes. In response, however, Aaron’s rod swallowed all their rods. Pharaoh’s heart was still hard and he still refused to give in to the requests of Moses and Aaron.

The Lord instructed Moses to return the next morning to Pharaoh while he was at the river Nile (perhaps bathing). Once again the Lord gave Moses the exact words to say to Pharaoh. In obedience to God's word, Moses requested that the Israelites be let go to worship the Lord in the wilderness. When Pharaoh stubbornly refused, following God's instructions Moses told Aaron to strike the waters of the Nile. Instantly the waters turned to blood and the fish died. Every stream fed by the Nile also turned to blood. There was blood throughout the land of Egypt. Once again Pharaoh's sorcerers did the same thing through their sacred arts, and consequently Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused Moses' request. The river remained blood for seven days and the people could not drink the water from the river.



Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- The Nile was an extremely important natural resource to the Egyptian kingdom. Why do you think the Lord chose to turn the river into blood?

- What lesson can we learn from Moses' example of radical obedience to the word of God? Why do you think God requires radical obedience to His word?

Once again the Lord instructed Moses to return to Pharaoh to make the same request. A similar pattern follows: God sends a plague, Pharaoh agrees to let the Israelites go, then God hardens His heart once more, and another plague is sent. (We do not hear of the Egyptian magicians again after their appearance at the Nile.) Below is a list of the 10 plagues that descended upon Egypt during this time.

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. River turned to blood for seven days. | Exodus 7:16-25 |
| 2. Frogs | Exodus 8:1-7; 17 |
| 3. Lice (dust turns into lice) | Exodus 8:16-19 |
| 4. Flies | Exodus 8:20-32 |
| 5. Cattle die | Exodus 9:4-6 |
| 6. Boils | Exodus 9:10-12 |
| 7. Hail | Exodus 9:18-26 |
| 8. Locusts | Exodus 10:4-6; 13-15 |
| 9. Darkness | Exodus 10:21-23 |
| 10. First born slain | Exodus 11:5 |

After the ninth plague (darkness), Pharaoh's heart was still hard. The Lord spoke to Moses telling He would deliver one final blow to the land of Egypt, and then Pharaoh would let the Israelites go.

- Exodus 11:4-7 (NLT)
⁴ Moses had announced to Pharaoh, "This is what the LORD says: At midnight tonight I will pass through the heart of Egypt. ⁵ All the firstborn sons will die in every family in Egypt, from the oldest son of Pharaoh, who sits on his throne, to the oldest son of his lowliest servant girl who grinds the flour. Even the firstborn of all the livestock will die. ⁶ Then a loud wail will rise throughout the land of Egypt, a wail like no one has heard before or will ever hear again. ⁷ But among the Israelites it will be so peaceful that not even a dog will bark. Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites.

At midnight, the Lord smote the first born of every household which did not have blood applied to the doorpost and lintel of their homes.

- Exodus 12:29-30 (NLT)
²⁹ And that night at midnight, the LORD struck down all the firstborn sons in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sat on his throne, to the firstborn son of the prisoner in the dungeon. Even the firstborn of their livestock were killed. ³⁰ Pharaoh and all his officials and all the people of Egypt woke up during the night, and loud wailing was heard throughout the land of Egypt. There was not a single house where someone had not died.



Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- What do you think is the purpose of the plagues?
- How significant do you think it is that the plagues demonstrate God's power over the natural world?

3. The Passover

If the Israelite first born were to avoid the same fate as those of the Egyptians, they had to follow very specific instructions given to them by the Lord. This was God's way of separating His people from the people of Egypt. He required them to distinguish themselves by radically obeying His word.

The Lord gave the Israelites the following instructions:

- Exodus 12:3-14; 22-23 (NLT)
³ Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household. ⁴ If a family is too small to eat a whole animal, let them share with another family in the neighborhood. Divide the animal according to the size of each family and how much they can eat. ⁵ The animal you select must be a one-year-old male, either a sheep or a goat,

with no defects.⁶ “Take special care of this chosen animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of this first month. Then the whole assembly of the community of Israel must slaughter their lamb or young goat at twilight.⁷ They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the sides and top of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the animal.⁸ That same night they must roast the meat over a fire and eat it along with bitter salad greens and bread made without yeast.⁹ Do not eat any of the meat raw or boiled in water. The whole animal—including the head, legs, and internal organs—must be roasted over a fire.¹⁰ Do not leave any of it until the next morning. Burn whatever is not eaten before morning.¹¹ “These are your instructions for eating this meal: Be fully dressed, wear your sandals, and carry your walking stick in your hand. Eat the meal with urgency, for this is the LORD’s Passover.¹² On that night I will pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the LORD!¹³ But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt.¹⁴ “This is a day to remember. Each year, from generation to generation, you must celebrate it as a special festival to the LORD. This is a law for all time.

²² Drain the blood into a basin. Then take a bundle of hyssop branches and dip it into the blood. Brush the hyssop across the top and sides of the doorframes of your houses. And no one may go out through the door until morning.²³ For the LORD will pass through the land to strike down the Egyptians. But when he sees the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe, the LORD will pass over your home. He will not permit his death angel to enter your house and strike you down.

And so, any door that had blood applied to its post would be "passed-over" by the plague of death. The Israelites were separated in this way.



Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- Why do you think the Lord required them to eat bread made without yeast?
- Does God require His people to be distinct and separate today?
- Why might distinction and separation be important to God?

4. Jesus is our Passover Lamb

As Exodus 12:14 states, this night, when the death angel passed over the Israelite homes and Israel was separated and saved from the judgment of the Egyptians, was so sacred that the Lord commanded that it be remembered from generation

to generation and that it be celebrated as a yearly festival. The sacrificial, passover lamb, whose blood was applied to the doorpost of the Israelite homes in Egypt, is a type of Jesus Christ. This dramatic and powerful story of God's protection and saving power clearly foreshadows the saving blood of Jesus, and as Corinthians 5: 7-8 states, "Christ is our Passover". And according to John 1:29, Jesus is "The lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" (NLT).

God's word is so beautifully structured. We know that it was the feast of the Passover that Jesus and his disciples had come to Jerusalem to celebrate when he gathered with them to share the last supper. This was the final meal he ate before being delivered into the hands of his accusers; the final meal he would eat before he shed his blood on Calvary's cross. (Matthew 26: 17-23)

When the death angel saw the shed blood of the innocent lamb, the judgment of God turned to mercy. Hebrews 9:22 tells us that, "...according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness" (NLT). Just as the shed blood "saved" the Israelites, Romans 5:9 tells us that, "we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of the Christ, [and] he will certainly save us from God's condemnation" (NLT). Similarly, Revelation 12:11 speaks of the overcoming power of the blood of our sacrificial lamb, Jesus Christ:

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

The below table captures the some of the Biblical references to the saving power of Christ's blood.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8	Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us
John 1:29	The Lamb of God
Revelation 12:11	Overcame them by the blood of the Lamb
Hebrews 9:18-22	Without the shedding of blood is no remission of sin
Ephesians 2:13	Made nigh by the blood of Christ
Romans 5:9	Justified by His blood, saved from wrath through Him

It was crucial that the Israelites followed God's instructions for the passover exactly. They, like Moses had to display radical obedience to the word of God. Their very lives depended upon it. If the blood was not applied to their doorposts, the death angel would not passover and their first borns would be lost. It is important that we too display radical obedience to the word of God. Clearly, Jesus shed his blood for all of us. Salvation is available for all: "...whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev 22:17). However, we must allow the blood of Jesus to be applied to the "door-posts" of our lives through our radical obedience to the Biblical plan of New Testament Salvation.



Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- I Corinthians 5:7-8 says that "Christ is our Passover", how was the Passover Lamb like Jesus Christ?
- Why was the blood significant?
- How do we identify with the death of Jesus and have the blood of our sacrificial lamb applied to our lives? (Romans 6:3-10)

Conclusion:

Israel had been in slavery to Egypt for approximately 400 years. Their years of bondage had been long and hard. When the moment of deliverance came, it came quickly in one single night. Following the tenth and final plague, Pharaoh awoke in the night, immediately summoned Moses and Aaron and released the Israelites to go. Exodus 12:33 relates that the Egyptians were so desperate to see the Israelites depart that when the Israelites asked for their silver, gold and clothing, they instantly complied with their request. God had not only ended their slavery, He had allowed His people to "spoil" their oppressors, taking with them the treasures of Egypt. The "spoiling" of a nation meant that the victors in battle would take the treasures of the land they had conquered. This battle clearly belonged to the Lord! The obedience of Moses and the Israelite people had won them their freedom. The day of deliverance had dawned and the young nation of Israel began their journey toward the promised land, guided by God's pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night (Ex. 13:22).