**6**

**The Passover**

**Night of Death and Deliverance**

***Exodus 11:1–12:28***

**Purpose:** To appreciate and praise God for delivering Israel and for giving us Christ, our Passover lamb.

Because of the crucial tie-in between the Old and New Testaments regarding the Passover, this story requires careful study. It also requires a confrontation with Jesus Christ. For some, this may be their first realization of what Jesus did for them on the cross.

The story takes a decisive turn at the end of chapter 11. The acts of God in which there is no redemption are over. They are distinct from God's redemption to come. The Passover sacrifice protected the Israelites and gave them the deliverance that the earlier plagues could not secure.

Death is a powerful, painful lesson. It gets our attention as nothing else does. It's also unavoidable. It was God's final recourse in showing both his supremacy to Pharaoh and his power to liberate his people. When Pharaoh refused God's ultimatum, thousands perished; when Israel heeded his way of deliverance, thousands lived. The final act of judgment is thus a stark portrayal of how every person's fate hinges on either believing or disbelieving the one true and living God in heaven.

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**1.** Why do people avoid facing the issue of possible alternatives alter death?

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**2.** Read Exodus 11. What is God's promise and instruction to Moses (vv. 1–2)?

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**3.**  How do you account for the Egyptians' change in attitude toward God's people and Moses (v. 3)?

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**4.**  What is to be the nature, scope and result of God's final judgment on Egypt (vv. 4–7)?

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**5.**  In what sense could Moses' anger either be justifiable or not (v. 8)?

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**6.** From the human standpoint, why do you think Pharaoh was so obstinate that even this impending judgment failed to move him (vv. 9–10)?

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***Question 6.*** *Refer again to the note in Study 5, Question 3, about the hardening of Pharaoh's heart.*

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**7.** Like Moses, how can we continue to trust God in the face of seemingly irresistible unbelief among friends, family or relatives?

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**8.**  Read Exodus 12:1–28. What steps are the Israelites to take to be spared (vv. 1–13)?

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**9.**  Why were they to eat the meal “in haste” (v. 11)?

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***Question 9.*** *“This applies only to this celebration, but the point is of permanent relevance; the redeemed are committed to pilgrimage” (D. Guthrie & J. A. Motyer, eds., The New Bible Commentary, Revised [Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1970], p. 127).*

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**10.**  Describe the memorial Feast of Unleavened Bread (vv. 14–20).

How effective do you think it would be as a perpetual commemoration? Why?

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**11.** Imagine yourself as a family head in Israel. How would you explain the meaning of the Lord's Passover to your children (vv. 26–27)?

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**12.**  To make deliverance possible, the people had to believe and obey Moses. Why or why wouldn't you have done so? (See Heb 11:28.)

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**13.**  The apostle Paul says Christ is our Passover lamb (1 Cor 5:7). What is required of a person for Jesus to be his or her Passover?

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**14.**  The shield against the “destroyer” (v. 23) in Egypt was the blood of a perfect lamb. Christ's blood secures the Christian's deliverance from eternal death (Jn 1:29; Heb 9:14; Rev 5:13). As you reflect on the powerful imagery of the Lord's Passover, and also on Christ's sacrifice, what response and deeds would be appropriate?

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***Question 14.*** *Be sure to allow time for studying the New Testament references. Give people a chance to reflect quietly. Don't push them into saying things*.

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