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**The Exodus**

**Freedom and Its Cost**

***Exodus 12:29–13:16***

**Purpose:** To grasp the implications of God's gift of spiritual freedom.

Freedom has a high price. For some political refugees today it means a perilous sea journey along the coast of Southeast Asia. For others, a dangerous trek over Central American mountains. In Europe it often costs job and even family. In this study we find what Israel's freedom cost—both the losers and the winners. God secured the liberation of his people, but this in turn cost them the rights to their most precious possessions.

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**1.** In what ways are we accountable to God for the freedom he gives us?

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**2.** Read Exodus 12:29–51. What contrasts do you observe between Pharaoh's attitude and behavior now and his earlier encounters with Moses and Aaron (vv..29–32)?

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**3.** How would you describe the emotional intensity of Egyptians (vv. 29–36)?

Why were the Israelites “driven out” of Egypt (v. 39)?

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**4.** God fulfilled his warnings and promises (see Ex 3:20–22; 4:23). What significance would this have for Israel's understanding of God's nature and character?

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**5.** In what ways have you found God's warnings and promises to be true?

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**6.** How would the Passover restrictions (vv. 43–49) encourage foreigners and others to worship God and, at the same time, preserve Israel from religious compromise and contamination?

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**7.** What message is God sending to the Israelites by these rules at the outset of their independence?

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**8.** How can we guard the essential elements of our faith in Jesus Christ and, at the same time, extend his offer of salvation to all people?

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**9.** Read Exodus 13:1–16. God calls Israel to dedicate to him that which he has just delivered—the whole nation, not just the firstborn of man and beast. What plan does God have for perpetuating this ordinance (vv. 8–10, 14–15)?

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**10.** To keep the ritual from becoming sterile, what was required of the worshiper?

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**11.** How do you maintain fresh impressions of your own deliverance from the guilt and enslavement of sin?

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**12.** What was the basis of God's authority to claim the first-born as his own?

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**13.**  On what basis does he claim Christians as living sacrifices (see Rom 12:1–2)?

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**14.** In what ways have you responded to his claim on your life?