

## Lesson 5 Exodus Chapters 11-13

### **PART A: EXODUS 11, 12:1-28**

#### **FIRST READING: EXODUS 11:1-10**

A1. The first three verses are an explanatory aside, a break in the narrative of conversation between Pharaoh and Moses.

a) Moses is told that the 10<sup>th</sup> plague will finally succeed where others have failed, and cause Pharaoh to “thrust out” the Israelites. What do these verses tell Moses to do that will take advantage of Pharaoh’s change of mind? Cite verse.

b) Why do you think Moses inserts a sentence about “being very great in the land of Egypt” both with the people and with Pharaoh’s servants? What does this explain?

c) What does the footnote say for the word borrow in verse two?

A2. Verse 7 contains a critical clue about why the Lord arranged the Exodus as He did. After all, He could have put the whole country under a sleeping spell, and just had the Israelites walk out.

a) From this verse, what does the Lord say his overall purpose is?

b) Here is a list of possible “differences” the Lord could have been drawing between Israel and Egypt. Circle each one that you think might apply.

1. Egypt and Israel are different because one culture was being formed by God himself for the purpose of reflecting God to the world; and the other was a culture that had arisen from the hearts of natural men, and reflected the sin-nature of the natural man.

2. The nations are different because God loves some people and hates others.

3. Egypt was the poster-child for idolatry—its gods known over the whole ancient world. Jehovah was relatively unknown at the time. God was showing the essential differences between idolatry and the worship of Jehovah, the true and living God.

4. God makes a difference between people He has covenanted with, and people who are not in His covenant. There are blessings and protections that go with the covenant.

5. Anything else you can think off:

#### **SECOND READING: EXODUS 12:1-28**

A3. What does it suggest that God gave the Israelites a new calendar, the first month being the month of Passover? What would this have taught them?

A4. a) What phrase reveals how many of the people were to be involved in preparing and eating the Passover meal? Cite verse.

b) Consider Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" How is this verse related to the answer for the last question?

A5. The lambs for Passover had to be inspected and chosen by certain criterion. What were the criteria, and what would cause rejection? Cite verse.

A6. The following verses all bear testimony that Jesus met the criterion for being "The Lamb of God." What is something that you learn from each verse?

- Mark 14:55-56 And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none. For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together.

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- Matthew 27:3-4 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

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- John 19:4 Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.

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- Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

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A7. What were the details of the meal, and also the manner in which it was eaten, that symbolized *haste*?

A8. a) God says he is "executing judgment against" whom? Cite verse please.

b) In your opinion, how did God "execute judgment" against idolatry by His actions during the plagues and exodus of Israel?

c. Why was it important for the Israelites to see the “defeat” of the Egyptian gods?

A9. God said the blood of the lamb must be struck on the doorposts and the lintel of the houses.

a) Do you think they could have done this on the inside of the houses? Why or why not.

b) CHALLENGE QUESTION: Can you find a verse to support your answer to part a?

c) What do you think this symbolizes for our own faith in Christ?

A10. a) What other feast is instituted in these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

b) How many days were they to eat unleavened bread? \_\_\_\_\_

c) What two verses, and what phrases, show how important or serious this practice was to the Lord?

A11. a) What were the Israelites supposed to get completely out of their houses in order to properly keep the Festival of Unleavened Bread?

b) Yeast or leaven, is an “influencer.” A small amount can affect the whole. God had said, “Let my people go, that they may serve me.” (Ex. 7:16) It was His purpose to make them a nation that would reflect His name to the world. What kinds of Egyptian influences had to be removed from the lives of His people before they could be that holy nation?

c) How can we liken this Old Testament feast to our own lives?

A12. What do verses 26 and 27 teach about our obligation as believers to the children of our community?

**PART B: EXODUS 12:29-51, 13****FIRST READING: EXODUS 12:29-51**

B1. What do you think Pharaoh meant by his request of Moses, "And bless me also." What does this show?

B2. Read verses 31 through 34. Now read Deuteronomy 16:3. "*Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.*"

a) Describe what you imagine the scene of the Israelites' departure to have been like.

b) How would unleavened bread help them "remember this day...all the days of [their lives]"

B3. What did the Egyptians give the Israelites when they left?

B4. How many men left Egypt? Give your own estimate of how many people were in the group.

B5. a) Who left in the exodus? Cite verse. (Check out the footnote)

b) Why do you think some non-Israelites went with them?

B6. Starting in verse 48, there is a second set of instructions concerning Passover observance.

a) Who is allowed to eat at the Passover celebration?

b) Who is not?

c) Can you think of what purpose might be behind these regulations?

**SECOND READING: EXODUS 13**

Look for the following three themes as you read this chapter. (You may circle or underline each mention of them.) 1) "Strength of hand" or God's "strong hand." 2) "Firstborn" or "firstling." 3) Remembering, or memorializing or teaching to others what God did in the past that those in the present have cause to be grateful for.

B7. Though it doesn't say so, "firstborn" in the second verse refers only to sons. (Ex. 22:29) A firstborn male animal is called a "firstling." Baby girls did not need to be redeemed in this way<sup>i</sup>.

a) What does God say about the firstborn according to verse 2? What does the footnote add?

b) Look up the word you found in the footnote in a dictionary. What does it mean?

c) The roots of this practice go much farther back in history than the Exodus. Read Moses 5:5-7. What reason was given for doing this by the angel?

B8. a) According to verses 5-6 and 11-12, when were the two memorials—the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the consecration of the firstborn—to be instituted as practices among the people?

b) What would the consecration of the firstborn cause them to remember? Cite verse.

B9. a) What phrase is found in verses 3, 9, 14 and 16 that tells how God brought out the children of Israel from Egypt? What do you think this means?

b) PERSONAL: Has the Lord ever delivered or protected you "by strength of hand"?

B10. a) What are some phrases from this chapter that show the importance of memory of and gratitude for God's blessings to former generations?

b) The chief holidays of the Christian world are Christmas and Easter. In light of all that this chapter says about the use of such occasions, *how should we use such days in LDS homes?*

c) Is it true that "mercies to our fathers are mercies to us"? Can you think of a mercy to one of your ancestors that you feel grateful for today?

B11. Why didn't God take the Israelites the short route to Canaan through the country of the Philistines? Please give the reason given in chapter 13 and any others you think apply. (You might want to review Exodus 3:12, and note Deuteronomy 8:2.)

B12. There were no roads in the wilderness through which the Israelites traveled.

a) Describe what God provided as a guide to them?

b) Read Psalm 105:39. What does this scripture seem to indicate and why might that be necessary considering what you know of the Sinai Peninsula?

c) What functions as the fiery cloud in the Christian life?

d) PERSONAL: Have you ever been in a "wilderness," meaning there were no usable maps and no clear paths? Share how the Lord guided you through this time.

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<sup>i</sup> God regarded the firstborn as His own, meaning they were to be His servants, or priests in Israel. A female didn't have to be redeemed because she couldn't be a priest. Though this was the obligation of all the firstborn, in practice God designated the tribe of Levi to be His priesthood under the Mosaic system. The firstborn sons of the other tribes were redeemed from their obligation to be God's priests by a payment of 5 silver shekels. The animal firstlings offered to God were actually used by the priests and their families as food after being sacrificed upon the altar. The money paid to redeem firstborn baby sons from the other tribes was also paid to the priests for their living. The 5-shekel payment to a priest is still done today in Israel and in Orthodox Jewish homes for a male firstborn. See Numbers 3:45-48 and Numbers 18:7, 9, 15-20.