

NLD WBS Exodus 11-13:17 - Ellen Mary Dykas - Jan 6-7, 2026

Study resources:

- [What Is the Meaning of Passover?](#)
- [Last Supper: What Did Jesus Do? - Understanding the Work of Christ with R.C. Sproul](#)
- [The Institution of the Lord's Supper: Kingdom Feast with R.C. Sproul](#)
- [Pesach - The Feast of Freedom](#)
- [The Feast of Unleavened Bread vs. Passover: What's the Difference? - Holy Branches](#)
- [The Message of Exodus Commentary, J. Alec Motyer](#)

INTRO

Before we jump in to Exodus 11-13, let's do a quick review of chapters 1-10, which paint a grim, but not hopeless, landscape for the people of God as they are in the midst of a long hard season.

- 1) **They are enslaved by ruthless leaders**, oppressed and required to do harsh work. Their lives have been plundered and exploited by the Egyptians.
- 2) **Moses** is raised from infancy by Pharaoh's daughter. Moses grows up and remains loyal to God and to his people. God chooses Moses to be his mouthpiece, and to speak boldly not only to his people, but to Pharaoh. However, as we've seen in chapters 7-10, Pharaoh remains hardened, and continues to manipulate from his place of power.
- 3) **God takes action and sends by his mighty hand, nine plagues** upon the Egyptians. God was reaching out to Pharaoh through Moses, *LET MY PEOPLE GO...LET THEM COME OUT* so as to worship me. Pharaoh goes back and forth, yet in the end, each time he refuses to surrender control to the Creator and Lord of Hosts.

And now in chapter 11 we have the longest account of any plague, **and this one is not only the final one, but the most severe: DEATH for each household. What happens is known as the Passover. The Passover is a crisis moment** in the redemptive history of divine judgment, God's wrath, and his protective, saving mercy. It's another example of what we see many times in God's word: His people being saved **BY God, FROM God, and FOR God.**

So let's look at our passage about the Passover through three categories:

One, What HAPPENED as God passed **through and over** the Egyptians and Israelites?

Two, WHAT did God require from His people in the Passover and then finally,

Three, WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US TODAY? In other words: how do we live now, as Passover People?

1. What was the Passover...what HAPPENED to the Egyptians and Israelites?

- a) **Passover is announced in Exodus 11:1.** *The LORD said to Moses, "Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here.*

When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely. This final plague will be dreadful...much death (of people and livestock) will result because of it. Through this display of his awesome power to SAVE and to JUDGE sin, God will show his faithfulness to his people...and his holy wrath against sin. **He was essentially saying, I WILL DO WHAT I SAY I WILL DO BC I AM WHO I SAY AM I AM.**

- b) **Remember: in God's heart, it wasn't ok that Egypt had trapped, enslaved, and oppressed his chosen people.** He wasn't standing aloof or blind to what ruthless taskmasters were afflicting upon his people, and how this brought dishonor to HIS name. He wasn't unaware of Pharaoh's selfish games. NO! He was compassionate towards his people who had suffered for HUNDREDS of years...waiting, grieving, losing hope on some days. I mean, wouldn't we have also struggled to believe what Joseph had prophesied 430 years earlier, in **Genesis 50:24: God WILL visit you and bring you UP and OUT of this land, INTO the land...the home...the safe place He promised you.**
- c) **And now, after 9 acts of judgment, God prepares his people for the final plague, a display of his power, which WILL be the doorway into their salvation, and a new beginning. This was in fulfillment of the promise he gave to Abram, recorded in**
 - **Genesis 15:13-14, when God said**, 'Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them; and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; **afterward they shall come out with great possessions.**"'
 - **BOLDLY and by faith, before the Passover happened, the Israelites followed what must have sounded like a crazy directive from God: GO ASK your enemies for silver and gold. YEP...go ask them to empty their pockets, and hand it all over.** This was a radical ask and required tremendous faith. But the Israelites did it!
 - **Exodus 11 explains what the Lord was about to do.** God would send an angel of death to move throughout Egypt, and he would require a life from every home. Death would mark each household. No exceptions.

4) **Exodus 12 goes into the details we must understand to grasp what God was doing and what he was communicating.** He tells the Israelites what's going to happen, how they are to prepare, AND how they are to remember these events when they enter the promised land.

First, they are to take a lamb without blemish, a spotless one, and kill it. Let's read from Exodus 12:7-14. Listen for who does what.

7 "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8 They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. 10 And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 11 In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in

your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. 12 For I will **pass through** the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. 13 The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And **when I see the blood, I will pass over you**, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

14 "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

- a) **The angel of death would PASS THROUGH** the entire population. However, God provided an escape for his people! The blood of the lamb was a sign for them, NOT God. It was God who saved, not the blood itself. The sacrificial lamb's blood was a sign for the people, a means by which they were to obey and to have faith as they marked their doorway. This was a way for them to communicate back to God: We are YOURS, we will do as You say, and trust You. **In every home, there would be either a roasted and consumed lamb, or a dead child.** In this way, God's righteous judgment would "PASS OVER" the homes and families of his people. **They were saved only by God's mercy, and through their obedient response based on faith in this substitute sacrifice.**
- b) **Notice my friends, that God said, when I SEE THE BLOOD, I will passover that home. Not when I see you, your good deeds, your family, etc. THE BLOOD.**
- c) **Exodus 12 reveals how, unlike the previous nine plagues, the Passover was** to be remembered annually, and the Jewish calendar is permanently changed to begin now with this ritual remembrance. They were not to forget God's deliverance and provision for them; **their lives were to be that much more dedicated to living as the People Of God...People of the Passover.** Even now, modern Jews continue to observe it, often referred to as a Seder.

2. WHAT DID GOD REQUIRE FROM HIS PEOPLE FOR THE PASSOVER?

Mainly, their loyalty and obedience, which was to be expressed in distinct ways. Here are five of them regarding the actual event of the Passover and also for the yearly remembering:

1. **Whatever it takes obedience, and to not delay.** As David wrote many years later in **Psalm 119:60, I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.** They were to sacrifice a prized possession: a spotless lamb. And to prepare it and eat it according to **God's instructions.** They were to be dressed and ready, not lounging around that night, but ready to follow the Lord's commands to leave Egypt. And in the promised land, they were to repeat these things, remembering the Passover by wearing a belt, dressed and ready.
2. **Bold faith:** ask the ruthless task masters (and their people) for provisions of gold and silver);
3. **Holiness:** Live as SET APART people. (no leaven in the commemoration of Passover); Unleavened bread initially, "Hey there's no time for the dough to rise...those bowls will be tied

to your clothing. Get ready to MOVE OUT from where you don't belong!" Then, in the NT, leaven becomes a symbol of corruption, of the pollution of sin. CLEAR is that the Passover teaches that God's people are to be set apart, not wavering with their devotion or corrupted by idolatry and the worship of false gods.

4. Communally, notice that these commands are given to all of them, not to just one tribe, or one individual family, even as obedience was to be lived out in individual households, and finally,

5. ACTION: they were to LEAVE Egypt. They were NOT to stay, but to move and leave life as they knew it.

Now sisters, before we reflect on what this means for us today, let me name out the obvious: we now live on the OTHER side of the death and resurrection of Jesus, so we have the full meaning of the Passover made plain to us. We understand that Jesus was **the final and perfect passover...he IS the Lamb of God. The Passover** communicates God's love for us through this story in Exodus, experienced in real time by our spiritual ancestors, as it points forward to the accomplished work of Jesus...ONCE FOR ALL. **The Passover of Exodus is meant to instruct us to know, obey, and love our Savior JESUS.**

The gospels reveal the mystery of what Jesus did, He the perfect Lamb, offered up on the cross and his blood shed...covering over us. SO MUCH we could dive into on this!! But a few points to pull it together:

- a. **His death IS the ultimate rescue BY GOD, FROM GOD's wrath, FOR God, so that we can be with him forever...which is the grand narrative of Scripture. Jesus says that His blood is poured out for "many," not for "all" (Matt. 26:28).** His death is not effectual for all people who have ever lived; Christ's death is effectual only for His people, securing eternal salvation for all those who trust in the promises of God through Him.
- b. **Jesus shows his authority as he changes the liturgy of the Passover, giving a new script with a new meaning for all time.**
 - i. There had been a set pattern by which the Jewish people would commemorate the Passover. The designated household leader would guide those in attendance through the ceremony. The meal traditionally included roasted lamb, unleavened bread, bitter herbs, and 4 cups of wine, representing: 1. RESCUE from Egypt, 2: FREEDOM from slavery, 3: REDEMPTION by God's divine power, and 4: RESTORED RELATIONSHIP with God.
 - ii. **Jesus takes bread and says, this is MY body...take and eat and do this in remembrance of Me. Then, he takes one of the cups of wine, and says, in so many words, NO MORE LAMBS need to be sacrificed...no more blood is needed to cover you from God's judgement...MY BLOOD will be sacrificed once for all. BUT...remember this...remember Me. KEEP this feast until I come!..don't forget it.** In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul reiterates this and makes it clear that this is a meal for Christ's *gathered church*. The Supper is a family meal.
 - iii. **BUT...one more thing...On the final cup, Jesus says something shocking, continuing to go off script during this last passover supper:** He didn't finish the meal.

In Luke 22:17-18, Jesus, the lamb of God is sitting at the Passover table with his disciples. "And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. **18** For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." What does he mean? That is when we are with Christ in heaven and human history has ended as we know it, we will enjoy the wedding supper of the Lamb of God: Jesus, our Passover Lamb is waiting for us to pass over into our heavenly kingdom...and to be with him.

3. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US TODAY...HOW DO WE LIVE AND RESPOND AS PASSOVER PEOPLE?

1. **We live as People who belong to the Lamb: JESUS. We live loving him and shining a light on him for others to see him, to be led by him so that others smell the fragrance of the knowledge of him, as 2 Cor. 2:14 says.**

Tim Mackie, cofounder of The Bible Project which is an amazing online ministry producing educational videos and teaching about God's word in creative ways. It's solid and trustworthy.

In 2021, 5 years into founding the Bible Project, which was growing and expanding beyond his dreams, he realized, with great sadness, that he had an underdeveloped soul, due to a lack of "real relational connection with Jesus". As a mid 40s man, he discovered that for all his years of deep immersion in, and study of the Scriptures, he had somehow missed much of the Lord. A pivot happened in his heart and in the way he pursued Christ, and how he studied God's word. Now, 5 years out from that pivot, his rich bible knowledge and his real intimacy with our Savior, is bearing beautiful fruit. The Bible Project is impacting millions of people!.

Our passage today which teaches us about a pivotal event in the story of Scripture, can also become ONLY a stunning bible story that points us to more information about Jesus. But, let's go deeper: to pray and help each other understand how the truth of this historical event, YES, can amaze us as we understand the cross and resurrection of Jesus through it. But sisters, it is also **meant to draw us into real relational connection with God through Jesus...to love him, obey and hold fast to him, to prioritize and anchor our affections toward loyalty to him**. In our small group times, in the lobby after worship services, when we are on walks together, or texting... to not only talk **about** him...but to help each other remember that He is here...now...moving in our midst, drawing us near in the context of our life circumstances.

2. **Remembering the Lord's work in our lives and loving him as we do. Here are 5 ways we can do that...but there are many more.**

ONE. BEHOLD JESUS! I just love how in the gospel of John chapter 1, John the Baptist says BEHOLD the Lamb of God 2X and in both, interpreters thought the tone and context merited exclamation marks. I'm an exclamation mark kind of girl so I appreciate that because the Bible doesn't throw those out so easily like I can do.

Passover people, don't sit content to talk about Jesus like he's not in the room, no...we seek to grow in our awareness that he is present and wanting real relational connection.

TWO. We seek holiness...we actively engage the battle to remove sin, to get rid of it, to starve it out. **1 Cor. 5: addresses it this way, Verses 6-8.** *6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.* **Holiness means that we grow to HASTEN our obedience.** We're dressed and ready to go. We're not in heaven yet, so we aren't to be lounging around in our pajamas.

THREE. We act on God's AUDACIOUS commands and promises.

- Go ask your enemies for gold and silver; they'll give it to you and you will leave their land with great abundance.
- Put the blood of the lamb on your door; I will pass over you and your sin will be atoned for.
- I.WILL.BRING.YOU.OUT...but you have to leave where you are.
- Sisters, are you willing to step out in faith, to walk on water? To give him your loaves and fishes? To give you an entirely new kind relationship with himself...one of real relational connection and intimacy? His word and Spirit will guide you, he will not fail you! Start by asking him to help you really know and love him.

FOUR. We REMEMBER. **2 Peter 1 mentions in a few different ways, the danger of spiritual amnesia. He exhorts us to stir each other up by way of reminder.** Communally, we help each other know, obey, and remember God's words to us. This week I was reminded and I was a remindOR.

Sunday morning: sad and lonely. God rescued me, reminded me of the enemy's accusations and schemes. Brought Clint and Benjamin across my pathway. They asked how I was doing and I told them, STRUGGLING.

FIVE. We LOOK forward to the feast...the one Jesus is fasting for! The one we've all been invited to...that's how Passover People live.

PRAYER: we don't want to talk about You like You're not in the room! ❤