



HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

June 7, 2020

Main Point: God's people are saved through a substitute.

1. Listen to this Spotify playlist

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2PFq9EG6qySS7pasjKKAxB?_php=1

2. Read this passage two times - Exodus 7:14-18; 12:3-13, and 29-32

3. Process

Having been charged by God to go to Pharaoh, Moses stopped offering excuses and obeyed. God sent Aaron to join Moses, and the two assembled the elders of the Israelites and performed the signs God had given them. Then, Moses and Aaron took the Lord's message to Pharaoh, but he refused to let God's people go. Instead, he made the people's work more difficult. However, God's rescue mission was far from finished.

7:14-18. Most people have understood the plagues in the Exodus narrative to be about judgment from God on the Egyptians or God flexing His power in front of Pharaoh. While those aspects are part of the story, there is something more profound here. The plagues fell on all the areas of life that were supposed to be protected by Egypt's gods. God put His glory on display by judging the false gods. He is the Almighty. God's first display of superior power is appropriate: a miracle on the Nile River.

The Nile was the lifeblood of Egypt. Essentially, Egypt couldn't exist without the Nile. It was responsible for transportation, irrigation, water, food, and the setting of the calendar. It's no surprise that the Egyptians worshiped the Nile as their creator and sustainer. At least three deities were associated with the Nile, but God totally humiliated these gods when he turned the mighty Nile into blood.

Overall, the dominant theme in these passages is this: "You will know that I am the Lord" (Ex. 7:17). God let everyone know that He alone is God. We must not miss this overarching theme in all the details of the plagues. God's desire is to be known and worshiped since He alone is deserving of our love and affection. God unleashed nine plagues, yet Pharaoh remained unmoved. The Israelites were still slaves. Their situation had not improved; it had actually gotten worse.

12:3-8,12-13. This tenth plague did not come without warning. Moses had told Pharaoh about this final plague (Ex. 11:4-8). By this point, Pharaoh should have known that Moses didn't bring empty threats. The ruler of Egypt had seen nine plagues come to pass before this one. He had heard God's words, only to later see God's power. There was no reason to believe this tenth plague would be different. Yet, Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, even if it put his firstborn son's life at risk. The final terrible plague was on the way. Unlike the first nine plagues, the tenth plague would not be reversed and the Jews would not be exempt from its judgment.



Though the Egyptians were the oppressors and worshiped idols, the Israelites were not blameless. They were also guilty of idol worship (Josh. 24:14). Being an Israelite would not spare them from God's judgment. There was only one way of escape, to bring life to the firstborn sons of Israel who were slated to die. The Israelites were to take a spotless lamb—a perfect lamb, without blemish—into each of their homes, slaughter it, and then cover their doorposts with its blood.

12:29-32. That night in Egypt, each Jewish household took shelter under a Passover lamb, yet it was only a shadow of what they really needed. God would one day send a greater spotless Lamb, one who would introduce a greater Passover and spare the lives of all who find refuge under His blood.

Centuries later, before another coming judgment, Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples. That night Jesus took the bread and said, "This is my body, which is given for you" (Luke 22:19). In one sentence, Jesus reframed the meaning of the Passover. Jesus was saying, "I will suffer to give you the ultimate freedom from the bondage of sin and the curse of death." Ultimately, it was not about rescue from Egypt, but from sin. This greater salvation was not realized through the deaths of all the lambs slaughtered that night in Egypt put together. This salvation was realized only through the death of Jesus, "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

5. Think About It

- What are some idols in your life that God may need to confront to draw your attention back to Him?
- What are the false gods our society turns to for security?
- The blood on the door was a public statement for all to see. How does this influence the way we think of our faith?
- Why was it important for the sacrificial lamb to be spotless? What did being spotless signify?
- What warnings might we receive from God today when we refuse to listen to His instruction? What does it take for God to get your attention?
- What are some false gods in your social circles, community, school, family? How can you start addressing these this week with the truth of the gospel?

8th Graders are welcome!

Join Lauren & Nathan in a Zoom Call!

Sundays at 7:00 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/4144653655?pwd=SkYyNVVKaS9OdGQxSTJaeUFpSU5yUT09>

Meeting ID: 414 465 3655

Password: 853104



We are here for you!

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