



THE STORY BEGINS

Although our study has covered a lot of ground through *Genesis*, today we meet both the audience and very people whose history and rescue it sets up.

This Week, we'll meet Moses, the author of the first five books of the Bible (often called the Torah). Saved as a baby by Pharaoh's daughter, he grew up as an Israelite in Pharaoh's household. He received the best education in the world: military, business, logic, law, dance, and other academic, artistic, and athletic pursuits.

However, Moses's story isn't about Moses. It's about the God Moses met in a burning bush—the God who delivered Israel from the 400 years of slavery foretold to Abraham back in Genesis 15.

RHYME REVIEW

1	CREATIONS GLORY NOW UNDONE
2	FLOOD OUT THE WORLD, START FRESH WITH YOU
3	NEW LANGUAGE BRINGS DISUNITY
4	THE SOD, THE SEED, AND BLESS SOME MORE
5	WALK THROUGH RED SEA AND STAY ALIVE

EXODUS 12:21–36 (SELECTED)

²¹ Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. ²² Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. ²³ For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over...”

²⁹ At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. ³⁰ And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. ³¹ Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, “Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said.

³³ The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, “We shall all be dead.” ³⁴ So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders. ³⁵ The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. ³⁶ And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

In today's study, we mentioned that each of the ten plagues put God's supremacy on display over a specific Egyptian god. And the tenth plague, the death of the firstborn, is where Passover began—the night the blood of a lamb spared God's people.

Scan the QR code to learn how each plague defeated Egypt's gods. You'll also see how the final plague points us to the ultimate Lamb—slain for us, received by faith.



DISCUSSION

If you could instantly be free from one chore or responsibility, what would it be?

1. What did Moses tell the people to do with the lamb's blood and why? (12:21–23)

2. What happened at midnight and what was the effect? (12:29, 31–32)

3. What did the Lord provide as they fled? (36)

4. How did God both free Israel and provide for them—and what does that reveal about Him?

5. Just as God rescued Israel and provided everything they needed, the gospel is God's rescue and provision for us in Christ. How should being saved like that shape the way a person lives?

You didn't rescue yourself—Someone paid to set you free. That changes everything about how you live. If you are struggling to experience freedom, talk to your coach today!

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION



STUDY NOTES

FOR/FROM

When you see someone running, it begs the question: are they running to something or from something? The answer is, obviously, both. The same is true of freedom. Author and theologian, Os Guinness, puts it, *“Negative freedom is freedom from - freedom from oppression, whether it’s a colonial power or addiction to alcohol oppressing you. You need to be freed from negative freedom. Positive freedom is freedom for, freedom to be. And that’s what’s routinely ignored today.”*

This Week we’re examining Israel’s release from 400 years of slavery in Egypt. The Bible frequently looks back on these events to remind Israel, not only what they were freed *from*, but what they were freed *for*—to serve God. The Old Testament frequently looks back on these moments to declare freedom as *the* primary motivator for their obedience to the Lord. And guess what, it should be ours too.

A JOURNEY WITH GOD SETS YOU APART

After God’s calling through a burning bush, Moses boldly commanded Pharaoh, “Let my people go!” (Exodus 5:1). Not surprisingly, Egypt’s leader refused to release his Israelite slaves. For nearly a year, God used Moses to afflict Egypt with nine separate plagues. Each plague caused not only physical suffering, but illustrated the Lord’s superiority over particular Egyptian gods. Finally, God instructed Moses to prepare for the last and most catastrophic plague. It would forever be remembered and practiced as Passover.

Since becoming slaves, the Israelites lived together just outside of Egypt in Goshen. Here, separated from the general population of Egypt, they enjoyed God’s protection from numerous plagues (Exodus 8:21-22; 9:6-7; 9:26; 10:22-23). With Pharaoh still resisting, God prepared his people for the final plague.

Moses ordered the **elders of Israel** to **“select lambs... and kill the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.”**

At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. This plague was so terrible that **there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead.**

Pharaoh **summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, “Up, go out from among my people... The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, ‘We shall all be dead.’”** The Israelites fled so quickly they took their **dough before it was leavened.** Additionally, they weren’t sent away empty handed. Israel **had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.**

#5, WALK THROUGH RED SEA AND STAY ALIVE

God didn’t just deliver Israel, he resourced them. Through no effort of their own, Israel went free with wealth beyond imagining just a year earlier.

The ten plagues showed God’s greatness, but nothing compares to what came after Passover. Israel fled and Pharaoh changed his mind—he mounted his army and chased Israel to the shore of the Red Sea. So what did God do? He cut the sea in half so Israel could walk across on dry land—again, showing his supremacy over Egypt’s gods.

Galatians 5:1 says, **“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”** How should a freed slave live? For Israel, escape from slavery was meant to drive their worship, gratitude, and obedience (Exodus 20:2). The Bible also called Israel to remember the oppressed and downtrodden (Deuteronomy 10:18–19) because they had once been slaves. In the same way, salvation through Christ offers more than freedom from earthly bondage. Christ offers freedom from our eternal debt of sin, plus an assured hope of an eternity where gold paves the streets.

If Christ has freed you from slavery to sin, how should you live? You certainly shouldn’t live like sin is still your master. You should look different (set apart) from lost friends and family. You should worship your redeemer in gratitude and obedience. And you should be marked by compassion, offering others the same rescue that you received.