



# EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

## BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 12:1-28

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**1** The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, **2** "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. **3** Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. **4** And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. **5** Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, **6** and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. **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. **15** Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. **16** On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. **17** And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever. **18** In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. **19** For seven days no leaven is to be found in



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your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. **20** You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread." **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 the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. **24** You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. **25** And when you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. **26** And when your children say to you, "What do you mean by this service?" **27** you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.'" And the people bowed their heads and worshiped. **28** Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

## DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 12:1-28

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Chapter 12 gives us insight into how God is a God of detail. He gives the Israelites specific instructions on how to choose the lamb for sacrifice, how to prepare the meal, what to serve alongside, what to wear, and how they should eat it. He has them prepare their doorposts and the lintel with the blood of the lamb as a sign of God's protection and His plan to rescue His people from bondage.

Something else that stood out to me is that God even told them to use hyssop to apply the blood (verse 22). Hyssop was prolific in Egypt and often grew on rocks and walls. This flowering plant would have a fragrant aroma and could be bundled together to form a paint brush. This plant was used for ceremonial cleansing purposes including people, houses and water. David writes in Psalm 51:7, "*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*" He wanted to be spiritually purified before the Lord. If we take notice, the Israelites were to act faithfully on the Lord's instructions, and using hyssop was an act of obedience.



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Moses approached Pharaoh over and over again to let his people go and make sacrifices to the Lord, and each time Pharaoh would hinder their worship. There wasn't an altar in Egypt for them to make sacrifices to the Lord, not to mention the act alone was deplorable to the Egyptians. The Israelites would use hyssop, a way of cleansing, and paint the blood of a lamb, without blemish, on the doorpost of their homes. All of this became a makeshift altar. They prepared their hearts and homes in obedience to the Lord so they would be redeemed by Him.

Another significant mention of hyssop is in John 19:28-30. Jesus hung on a cross, about to proclaim, "It is finished," but right before he spoke those words, he requested a drink. The soldier held a hyssop branch with a sponge soaked with sour wine to the Savior's mouth. For the Jews, this was a vivid reminder of the Passover. David Guzik says it this way, "When Jesus said **"I thirst,"** the worst was over – the price had been paid and He was ready to announce it. When the sinner says "I thirst" the worst is over, because if they bring their thirsty soul to Jesus He will satisfy."

## Questions:

1. Are there areas in your life the Lord could "purge you with hyssop" and cleanse you? Pray that the Lord would reveal where you need sanctification and share it with someone in your Journey Group.
2. Read Matthew 5:6. Would you say that you hunger and thirst for righteousness? Why or why not?
3. Write down some comparisons of the lamb chosen during the Passover to the Lamb of God. 1 Corinthians 5:7 may help spark your thoughts!