



EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 12:29-42

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. **32** Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!"

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.

37 And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. **38** A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds. **39** And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, because they were thrust out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

40 The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years. **41** At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. **42** It was a night of watching by the Lord, to bring them out of the land of Egypt; so this same night is a night of watching kept to the Lord by all the people of Israel throughout their generations.



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DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 12:29-42

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The unwavering faithfulness of God continues to amaze me! God, as promised, took the lives of all the firstborn of Egypt (verse 29). This was a final act to free the Israelites from slavery to the Egyptians. God knew what it would take to break Pharaoh's heart. He continued to show mercy to Pharaoh and the Egyptians, revealing His beautiful heart of not wanting even one to perish (2 Peter 3:9). Pharaoh's prideful heart (thinking he knew better than God) drove him to attempt to write his own story. He refused to surrender to God and it ended up costing him everything he was trying to protect. He became so consumed with what he might lose that he failed to recognize that he was given the opportunity to possess something much greater than the temporary saviors he placed his hope in (power, prestige, family, money, buildings, kingdoms, being his own god, etc.). His gods had failed him. The one true God was reaching out and inviting him to trust him (Proverbs 3:5). His choice was to acknowledge God, giving up on everything he had previously placed his hope in, or partially surrender to God by letting the Israelites go, avoiding further consequences from his disobedience. He failed to realize the severity of his actions and that his life and the lives of those under his care would end in destruction apart from God (2 Thessalonians 1:9). It was only after his heart was broken that he finally acknowledged that God was greater than his gods and the god he thought he was. He only wanted relief from the consequences of his sin which resulted in a shallow repentance that did not stick.

Israel cried out to God for deliverance (Psalm 34:17). God showed them that he would go to great lengths to set them free. He had not only prepared the hearts of the Egyptians during the plagues but had prepared theirs as well. He continually showed His provision and faithfulness. He even made a way for the Israelites to plunder the Egyptians by asking for their possessions which they willingly gave. Again, his faithfulness is shown in providing for their journey and their future. They were at a place where they were not only ready to listen to but obey God as well. After a lifetime of bondage, they were set free!

This passage reminds me of my own life. I have placed my hope in the gods of this world, failed to heed the warnings God placed in front of me, and have experienced a broken heart. I have found myself in bondage that lasted a lifetime, cried out for deliverance and have experienced God's faithfulness and provision. Most of all, He is my Passover Lamb, the sacrifice necessary to provide me right standing and fellowship with my wonderful God. I pray that we not only remember this Passover once a year but that we remember and act on it every day of our redeemed lives.



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Questions:

1. Is there something you are holding on to that God is telling you to let go of? Are you willing to take the necessary steps to drive that sin out of your life? Take the first step by confessing to your Journey Group or other biblical community.
2. Are you placing the things of this world above obedience to God? What false gods are you allowing to influence your decisions?
3. Have you reflected lately on the faithfulness of God? (Read 2 Timothy 2:13; Deuteronomy 7:9, Psalm 33:4; Psalm 86:15; and Lamentations 3:22-23) I encourage you to respond by sharing how he has shown to be faithful in your life with a coworker or friend who does not know the Lord.