

When we dig into God's Word, we want to see the character of God, first and foremost. That is easy to do in the story of the exodus. We see His sovereignty and glory in delivering the people that He chose demonstrating His power, grace, mercy, compassion, patience, truth, justice and wrath. The glorious majesty and supremacy of God was on display in the theatre of the Egyptian empire. We wait to see what all else He will manifest.

In the first part of Exodus 12, we experienced the Passover by letting our senses be involved subjectively by eating and drinking the elements the Israelites took that Passover night. The types of Christ involved in the feast are incredibly detailed in so many ways looking to the fulfillment in the person of Christ.

We continue this morning with the second section of chapter 12, after the Israelites have done their Passover meal. God does exactly as He said He would do in bringing His judgment on the Egyptians first-born. They are told by Pharaoh, finally, to leave and so they made their exodus. Let's focus on the supremacy of God as we work through this classic passage of the exodus. It is all about what He did.

1. GOD'S JUDGMENT (12:29-30)

There are two groups of people that God treats in two different ways. His justice is satisfied by His judgment upon the Egyptians, while He gives grace and mercy to the Israelites.

A. THE TIME THE LORD STRUCK—MIDNIGHT

God had said what would happen and here it is in its fulfillment. The midnight hour added to the terror of it all. The three nights in the previous plague were horrible to have to go through in the complete darkness. They were probably just wanting a good night's rest. This had to be alarming as they were awakened at midnight to a national tragedy.

B. THE FIRST-BORN

The first-born were treated as the joy and hope of their families. The Israelites had lost their baby boys at one time, now God slays the first-born of the Egyptians.

C. NO RESPECT OF PERSONS

It reached from the throne to the dungeon. Prince and peasant were equal as they received God's judgments for there is no respect of persons with God.

Job 34:19-20

D. THE GREAT CRY

Multitudes and multitudes died that night and there was universal lamentation. It was a loud wailing, for there was no home that did not have death. It was eerie and ghastly and deadly that night. The land was overwhelmed with terrible wailing. Can you hear it? What a shattering night that was to the whole nation. Our minds

can't fully conceive of this.

Exodus 11:6, Psalm 119:120

2. GOD'S MERCY AND GRACE (12:31-36)

While we have seen the wrath of God, at the same time we see the grace of God in how He treats His own. He withholds His justice from them and grants them favor. They had been saved by the blood of the lambs. Everyone of the Jews was alive. There was no crying in Goshen.

It is of the Lord's mercies that the Israelites and yes, even us, are not consumed.

A. PHARAOH'S COMMAND TO LEAVE

Pharaoh had told Moses before that he did not want to see him again. Here, he calls for Moses again

Get out of here. Scram. Take everything and leave, now.

Pharaoh's pride is brought down and he gives in to all what Moses had said.

B. EGYPTIANS BEG THE ISRAELITES TO LEAVE

Even the people urge the Israelites to leave at once, which they do, but not before they plunder the Egyptians. Nobody had more help getting their bags packed than those Israelites that night.

C. THE FAVOR OF THE LORD

The Egyptians freely gave of their wealth. Of course God had His hand in this that they would be glad to give to the Israelites what they needed. God had told Abraham centuries before that this would happen.

The Egyptians just wanted them out of there. Silver? Of course just go. Gold? Yes, just leave. Clothing? Yes and get out of here.

There was favor given to the Jews here and this demonstrates God's grace. He made sure they would have what they needed in the future. This was divine providence.

The wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

Proverbs 13:22, Job 27:16-17

3. GOD'S DELIVERANCE IN THE EXODUS (12:37-51)

A. THE NUMBER OF JEWS DEPARTING

600,000 men + women + children This would probably mean as much as two million left Egypt. Think of that. That many took off. What about the next meal? What about sanitation problems? No nation had ever done this before. There was no map or GPS to tell them where they were going. There was no Exodus handbook. They were depending on God's spokesman, Moses to get them where they needed to be. They had no idea they were making history. This is something that has been remembered for 3,500 years.

Like an army—Ex 12:17, 51 Like an army with its divisions they marched quickly in orderly fashion with their flocks and herds. This was an unmistakably large group who had just a minimal amount of time to depart and they marched out in full array. Oh for two million songs to sing.

B. WHAT THE EGYPTIANS WERE DOING

Numbers 33:3-4 The Egyptians were busy burying the dead as the Israelites marched out.

C. MIXED MULTITUDE

This could be other races, other Semitic people.

Some of this crowd were probably Egyptians who had married Jews, even though that was contrary to God's law. Others were probably Egyptians who were impressed with God's power and wanted to go with the Jews for they were with the right God. Maybe they wanted to get out of Egypt for there might be more plagues in the land. They sure wanted to identify with the winning side.

A snare (Numbers 11:4) Exodus 9:20

D. THE PROPHECY IS FULFILLED

It was 430 years from the promise made to Abraham (Gen 15:13) God is always punctual to His time. His timing may seem to long of a time period for us to wait, but its always perfect.

Acts 7:6 / Galatians 3:17

This represents when we left Egypt behind us. We left years of slavery and began to drink from the wells of grace. Nothing ever tasted so great and so sweet. He didn't just get us out of bondage but got us into His family,

E. MEMORIAL OF GOD'S POWER.

A solemn observance throughout the generations. The remembrance of God's deliverance was to be perpetuated throughout all ages. Passover regulations---All that share in God's mercies should praise God for them. This is all about worship. The Passover was a way to worship God that emphasized the redemption story. It certainly puts the spotlight on the omnipotence of God. As long as that feast is celebrated, it will magnify the very power of God. Future generations, looking back at the this generation and it's obedience, are expected to do the same.

God is true to His covenant with Abraham. God was calling a people to Himself, and every spring the Israelites were called to remember that.

Nothing is to be done without the command and direction of the Lord.

In the regulations God provides for even Gentiles to partake of the Passover if they have been circumcised. This is a picture of the church, for anyone who has professed Christ and is baptized participates in the community of believers in the Lord's table.

This chapter concludes with Israel committing to do as they were commanded and God did for them as He promised, for He will certainly be the author of salvation to those who obey Him.

What happened that night emphasizes that the Lord was in charge. God all along told Moses what was going to happen and then the promises came true. God's Word never fails and His plan and timing is always right. If that be true during the time of the Exodus, it also applies for us today. His plan will always go as He wants it, no matter how and when we think it ought to go.