

Let the Journey Begin

a study in the book of Exodus

It's Time! – Exodus 12:29-51 and Exodus 13:1-16

Lesson 4

After 430 years of bondage and watching Egypt's refusal to yield to the LORD through nine plagues, the time had arrived for Israel to begin their journey. As believers, our journey has already begun. Each of us has chosen paths along the way, some profitable, some not. For the purpose of this Bible study, we are at the starting point of a new journey. As Israel prepared to move forward, there were certain things God wanted them to know and do. The same applies to each of us. May you sense in a sweet way, God's preparation and enabling in your life to move forward and exclaim within your soul...It's time!

Read Exodus 12:29-51 and Exodus 13:1-16

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). In this lesson, we will be marking the key characters of the text. Mark each of the key characters each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to each one.

Key Characters: *LORD, Pharaoh, Moses/Aaron, Egypt/Egyptians, and the children of Israel*

3. Make a list of some things that stood out to you about the *LORD* (what He did and His commands to His people).

4. Make a list of things the Israelites (*children of Israel*) did in response to God's commands to them.

Read Exodus 12:29-36

1. Exodus 12:29 begins with the words, *And it came to pass*. After nine plagues, that seemed to only result in the hardening of Pharaoh's heart, the LORD *struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt*. Using verses 30-32, describe Pharaoh's response.
 - a. What did the LORD tell Moses at the burning bush about Pharaoh? Exodus 3:19,20
 - b. In your own words, define a *heart* that is *hardened* towards God.
2. Pharaoh didn't simply allow Israel to leave; now he was commanding them to go. Record the LORD's promise to Moses in Exodus 11:1.
 - a. Record the assuring words of 1 Kings 8:56.
 - 1.) Although this specifically refers to the people of Israel, explain why you believe it is true for all of God's children.
3. Consider the phrase, *bless me also* (Exodus 12:32). What does this say to you about Pharaoh's viewpoint of Israel's God?

4. Using Exodus 12:33, describe the response of the Egyptians.
 - a. What do Psalm 105:38 and Exodus 11:8 declare about this?
 - b. What do you think it was like for the children of Israel to watch those who had ruled over them suddenly *fear* them?
5. Summarize the words of Exodus 12:35,36.
 - a. Consider what the LORD told the children of Israel to do when He told them to ask the Egyptians to give them *articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing*. How might you have reacted to this command?
 - 1.) Share a time when you felt like the LORD asked you to do something that didn't make sense.
6. Compare the freedom granted to Israel from slavery to the freedom that has been granted to you, as a believer, from the bondage of sin. What are some similarities?

Read Exodus 12:37-42

1. Exodus 12:37 begins with the words, *Then the children of Israel journeyed*. What does Numbers 33:3,4 add to your understanding of this event?
2. Among the 600,000 on the journey were a *mixed multitude*. These were probably mostly Egyptians. As you consider these people, what do you think were some things/thinking/beliefs that they were choosing to leave behind?
 - a. What did you leave behind when you left your old life of bondage?

3. Verse 40 uses the word *sojourn* to describe the 430 years that the children of Israel lived in Egypt. Describe the word *sojourn* as it relates to your personal journey here on earth.

4. Bask in the words, *on that very same day*. What does this say about God's promises?

5. What words are used to describe that day in verse 42?
 - a. If you were to *observe* the day God delivered you from sin, what might you to do *observe/remember* it??

Read Exodus 12:43-51

1. These verses describe some important aspects of the Passover meal. This meal was to be in remembrance of God's deliverance of His people. List the instructions.

2. What does it say to you that God welcomes anyone who wants to be a part of His people?

3. What does 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 add to your understanding and appreciation of Jesus?

Read Exodus 13:1,2 and 11-16

1. Exodus 13:2 begins with the LORD's words, *Consecrate to Me*. Define the word *consecrate*.

2. Exodus 13:2 ends with the LORD's words, *It is Mine*. Reflect upon God's claim to ownership as recorded in the following verses:

Exodus 4:22

Numbers 3:13

Numbers 8:14-18

Psalm 50:10-12

Isaiah 43:1

- a. What do you think God is saying when He claims something or someone to be His?

- 1.) What is your reaction to God's claimed ownership of you?

3. Exodus 13:3-16 has been titled, "The Law of the Firstborn". Notice particularly verse 14. Their children would come to them regarding the law of the firstborn and ask, "What is this". God's ways often do not make sense. Why is it important to have answers about our observances for our children?

Read Exodus 13:3-10

1. This section of Exodus 13 is a reminder to *remember* and to *keep*. The celebration of the Passover is intended to be a reminder of God's incredible work to free His people from bondage. As New Testament believers, communion serves as our reminder of God's incredible work to save us. Record Jesus' words of Luke 22:19.

- a. In what ways is communion a reminder to you of God's deliverance?

2. Ponder on the phrase from Exodus 13:8, *This is done because of what the LORD did for me when I came up from Egypt*. What are some things you do because of what the LORD has done for you?

3. Exodus 13:3 and 14 describe Egypt as a *house of bondage*. Describe a *house of bondage*.
 - a. Why is it important to remember our lives before Jesus as such?

Review Exodus 12:29-51 and 13:1-16

1. In what ways were you reminded of the importance of preparing for the journey according to the word of the LORD?

2. What are your thoughts/feelings as you contemplate the *journey* ahead of you?

*"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of bondage."
- Exodus 20:2*

Observation Worksheet

Exodus 12:29-51 And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD struck 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 livestock. ³⁰ So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead. ³¹ Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said. ³² Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also." ³³ And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might 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, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders. ³⁵ Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. ³⁶ And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians. ³⁷ Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. ³⁸ A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds--a great deal of livestock. ³⁹ And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves. ⁴⁰ Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. ⁴¹ And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years--on that very same day--it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. ⁴² It is a night of solemn observance to the LORD for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations. ⁴³ And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it. ⁴⁴ But every man's servant who is bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then he may eat it. ⁴⁵ A sojourner and a hired servant shall not eat it. ⁴⁶ In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones. ⁴⁷ All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. ⁴⁸ And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. ⁴⁹ One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you." ⁵⁰ Thus all the children of Israel did; as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. ⁵¹ And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the LORD brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt according to their armies.

Exodus 13:1-16 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine."
³ And Moses said to the people: "Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out of this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten. ⁴ On this day you are going out, in the month Abib. ⁵ And it shall be, when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, that you shall keep this service in this month. ⁶ Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the LORD. ⁷ Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days. And no leavened bread shall be seen among you, nor shall leaven be seen among you in all your quarters. ⁸ And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, 'This is done because of what the LORD did for me when I came up from Egypt.'⁹ It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the LORD's law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt. ¹⁰ You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year. ¹¹ And it shall be, when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and your fathers, and gives it to you, ¹² that you shall set apart to the LORD all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males shall be the LORD's. ¹³ But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴ So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is this?' that you shall say to him, 'By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ¹⁵ And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'¹⁶ It shall be as a sign on your hand and as frontlets between your eyes, for by strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt."