

2.09 THE FIRST PASSOVER

EXODUS 3-12

God's people, the Israelites, lived in the country of Egypt. They worked very hard for the leader of the country. He was called Pharaoh. The Israelites prayed to God for help. They prayed a long, long time. At that time, there was a man named Moses. He loved God and God loved him. One day, God told Moses He had a job for him to do. Moses was worried he could not do all the work, so God said Moses could take his brother, Aaron, to help him. So, God told both of them that they would need to go to Egypt and rescue the Israelite people from Pharaoh. But first, Pharaoh would have to be convinced to let the Israelite people leave the country.

God had a plan to cause Pharaoh to let the people go. He planned ten different bad things, called plagues, to come to the people of Egypt, so Pharaoh would see that God was more powerful than he was. God told Moses and Aaron to warn Pharaoh about each of these plagues. But Pharaoh was very stubborn and resisted letting the Israelites leave.

1. First, the water in the country turned to blood. It happened everywhere. There was no clean water anywhere.
2. The second plague brought frogs. There were many, many frogs. Frogs in the houses; frogs in the beds; frogs when people tried to walk down the street.
3. The third was lice.
4. The fourth was flies.
5. The fifth plague caused the farm animals to die.

Pharaoh kept saying, "Okay! You can take the people away. Stop the plagues!" But, as soon as everything was back to normal, he changed his mind. So, God allowed more plagues.

6. The sixth plague was sores all over people's bodies.
7. The seventh plague was hail, big balls of ice falling from the sky.
8. The eighth was locusts, irritating the people and eating the crops of food.
9. The ninth was three days of darkness all over Egypt—no daylight at all.
10. But, the tenth plague was the worst. God told Pharaoh that the firstborn child in every family would die. This was very serious!

The Israelite people listened to God. He protected them from all the plagues. It was especially important to obey Him now. He told them to sacrifice a perfect lamb and to put the blood of the lamb over the door to their house. When the angel of death went over the country that night, if he saw the blood at a house, he would pass over that house then everyone inside would be safe. No child would die. That's why it is called "The Passover".

The night came when the angel of death was passing over. Many children died—even Pharaoh's son. But the Israelites obeyed God and all of their children were safe. Finally, Pharaoh was convinced of God's power and he let the Israelites go.

This was the first Passover. God told the Israelites to always remember this night. Even today, we remember and celebrate this special time when God delivered His people.

2.09 THE FIRST PASSOVER - TEACHER'S GUIDE

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) Moses was sent from God to rescue the Israelite people from Pharaoh.
- 2) Pharaoh was stubborn and thought he was just as powerful as God.
- 3) Ten plagues came upon the Egyptian people.
- 4) The last plague would cause the firstborn child of each family to die.
- 5) God protected the Israelite children when the parents obeyed Him by putting the blood of a lamb on the doorposts of their houses.
- 6) Pharaoh let the Israelites leave. He finally learned God was the most powerful.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Why did the Israelites want to leave Egypt?
- 2) Who did God ask to go rescue the Israelite people?
- 3) How many plagues did God cause to happen?
- 4) What was the worst plague?
- 5) How could the Israelite people protect their children?
- 6) What happened when this last plague was over?

ANSWERS:

- 1) Pharaoh was mean and made the Israelite people very work hard.
- 2) God asked Moses to go rescue the Israelites.
- 3) God caused ten plagues to happen.
- 4) The worst plague was the death of the firstborn child.
- 5) The Israelites had to obey God by putting the blood of a lamb on the doorposts of their houses.
- 6) Pharaoh let the Israelites go. He realized God was the most powerful.

This Story explains how Jesus came as God's perfect son to die on the cross for each of us. When we choose to receive his Blood over our heart, He rescues us from the power of Sin and Death!