

Exodus 12:29-50 recounts the dramatic climax of the tenth plague, the death of the firstborn in Egypt, and the subsequent release of the Israelites from slavery. Here's a breakdown of its theological and practical messages:

Theological Message:

1. God's Sovereignty and Justice:

- The passage underscores God's ultimate authority and power over nations and rulers.
- It also highlights His justice in delivering punishment for the oppression and idolatry of Egypt.

2. Redemption and Deliverance:

- God's deliverance of the Israelites from slavery is a profound act of redemption. It foreshadows the ultimate deliverance through Jesus Christ.

3. Covenant Relationship:

- The establishment of the Passover and its detailed instructions reinforce the covenant relationship between God and His people. It's a sign of God's commitment and faithfulness to His promises.

4. Holiness and Obedience:

- The specific instructions for the Passover meal and the marking of doorposts with blood emphasize the importance of holiness and obedience to God's commands.

Practical Message:

1. Faith in Action:

- The Israelites' faith is demonstrated through their obedience to God's commands regarding the Passover. This teaches the importance of trusting and acting on God's word even in uncertain times.

2. Community and Remembrance:

- The communal aspect of the Passover celebration fosters unity and collective memory of God's saving acts, encouraging future generations to remember and honor God's faithfulness.

3. Preparation and Readiness:

- The instructions to eat the Passover meal in haste, with their belts fastened and staffs in hand, symbolize readiness to move at God's command. This serves as a reminder to live in a state of spiritual preparedness.

4. Transformation and New Beginnings:

- The exodus marks a significant transition from slavery to freedom, inspiring believers to seek transformation and embrace new beginnings in their spiritual journeys.

This passage is rich in theological significance and practical applications, reminding us of God's powerful deliverance, the importance of obedience, and the call to live in continual readiness for His guidance.

Exodus 12:29-50 Outline

1. **The Tenth Plague: Death of the Firstborn (Verses 29-30)**
2. **Pharaoh's Response: Release of the Israelites (Verses 31-32)**
3. **The Exodus Begins (Verses 33-39)**
4. **Instructions for the Passover (Verses 40-50)**

Detailed Breakdown and Cross-References

1. The Tenth Plague: Death of the Firstborn (Verses 29-30)

- **Exodus 12:29:** At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on the throne to the firstborn of the prisoner, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well.
 - **Cross-Reference:** Exodus 4:23, "And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn."
- **Exodus 12:30:** Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.
 - **Cross-Reference:** Exodus 11:6, "There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more."

2. Pharaoh's Response: Release of the Israelites (Verses 31-32)

- **Exodus 12:31:** During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested."

- **Cross-Reference:** Exodus 8:8, "Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, Intreat the LORD, that he may take away the frogs from me, and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may do sacrifice unto the LORD."
- **Exodus 12:32:** "Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me."
 - **Cross-Reference:** Exodus 10:24, "And Pharaoh called unto Moses, and said, Go ye, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be stayed: let your little ones also go with you."

3. The Exodus Begins (Verses 33-39)

- **Exodus 12:33:** The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!"
 - **Cross-Reference:** Exodus 11:1, "And the LORD said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence: when he shall let you go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether."
- **Exodus 12:34:** So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing.
 - **Cross-Reference:** Exodus 6:6-7, "Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments: And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."
- **Exodus 12:35:** The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing.
 - **Cross-Reference:** Exodus 3:21-22, "And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty: But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians."
- **Exodus 12:36:** The LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.
 - **Cross-Reference:** Genesis 15:14, "And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance."
- **Exodus 12:37:** The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children.

- **Cross-Reference:** Numbers 33:3, "And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians."
- **Exodus 12:38:** Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds.
 - **Cross-Reference:** Genesis 46:6, "And they took their cattle, and their goods, which they had gotten in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him."
- **Exodus 12:39:** With the dough the Israelites had brought from Egypt, they baked loaves of unleavened bread. The dough was without yeast because they had been driven out of Egypt and did not have time to prepare food for themselves.
 - **Cross-Reference:** Exodus 13:6-7, "Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the LORD. Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters."

4. Instructions for the Passover (Verses 40-50)

- **Exodus 12:40:** Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years.
 - **Cross-Reference:** Genesis 15:13, "And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years."
- **Exodus 12:41:** At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the LORD's divisions left Egypt.
 - **Cross-Reference:** Exodus 12:17, "And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever."
- **Exodus 12:42:** Because the LORD kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the LORD for the generations to come.
 - **Cross-Reference:** Deuteronomy 16:1, "Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the LORD thy God: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night."
- **Exodus 12:43:** The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "These are the regulations for the Passover meal: No foreigner may eat it."
 - **Cross-Reference:** Numbers 9:14, "And if a stranger shall sojourn among you, and will keep the passover unto the LORD; according to the ordinance of the passover,

and according to the manner thereof, so shall he do: ye shall have one ordinance, both for the stranger, and for him that was born in the land."

- **Exodus 12:44:** "Any slave you have bought may eat it after you have circumcised him,"
 - **Cross-Reference:** Genesis 17:12, "And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed."
- **Exodus 12:45:** "But a temporary resident or a hired worker may not eat it."
 - **Cross-Reference:** Leviticus 22:10, "There shall no stranger eat of the holy thing: a sojourner of the priest, or an hired servant, shall not eat of the holy thing."
- **Exodus 12:46:** "It must be eaten inside the house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones."
 - **Cross-Reference:** John 19:36, "For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken."
- **Exodus 12:47:** "The whole community of Israel must celebrate it."
 - **Cross-Reference:** Leviticus 23:5, "In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD's passover."
- **Exodus 12:48:** "