

Exodus 4:21-23

²¹ And the LORD told Moses, “When you arrive back in Egypt, go to Pharaoh and perform all the miracles I have empowered you to do. But I will harden his heart so he will refuse to let the people go. ²² Then you will tell him, ‘This is what the LORD says: **Israel is my firstborn son.** ²³ I commanded you, “Let my son go, so he can worship me.” But since you have refused, I will now kill your firstborn son!”

- This paints a very clear picture of God’s love towards his believers.

Exodus 5:19-6:8

¹⁹ The Israelite foremen could see that they were in serious trouble when they were told, “You must not reduce the number of bricks you make each day.” ²⁰ As they left

Pharaoh’s court, they confronted Moses and Aaron, who were waiting outside for them.

²¹ The foremen said to them, “May the LORD judge and punish you for making us stink before Pharaoh and his officials. You have put a sword into their hands, an excuse to kill us!”

²² **Then Moses went back to the LORD and protested, “Why have you brought all this trouble on your own people, Lord? Why did you send me? ²³ Ever since I came to Pharaoh as your spokesman, he has been even more brutal to your people. And you have done nothing to rescue them!”**

¹ Then the LORD told Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh. When he feels the force of my strong hand, he will let the people go. In fact, he will force them to leave his land!”

² And God said to Moses, “I am Yahweh—‘the LORD.’^[a] ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as El-Shaddai—‘God Almighty’^[b]—but I did not reveal my name, Yahweh, to them. ⁴ And I reaffirmed my covenant with them. Under its terms, I promised to give them the land of Canaan, where they were living as foreigners. ⁵ You can be sure that I have heard the groans of the people of Israel, who are now slaves to the Egyptians. And I am well aware of my covenant with them.

⁶ “Therefore, say to the people of Israel: ‘I am the LORD. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment. ⁷ I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. ⁸ I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the LORD!’”

- Instead of thinking to himself, Moses turns to the Lord and ask Him what his truth is. The Lord gently reminds Moses who He is and then tells him what his plan in.

Exodus 8:8-10

⁹ “You set the time!” Moses replied. “Tell me when you want me to pray for you, your officials, and your people. Then you and your houses will be rid of the frogs. They will remain only in the Nile River.”

¹⁰ “Do it tomorrow,” Pharaoh said.

“All right,” Moses replied, “it will be as you have said. **Then you will know that there is no one like the LORD our God.**

- The Lord wants the whole world to know that there is no God like Him! This is also a reason for attacking each of the Egyptian gods.

Exodus 8:22-23

²² But this time I will spare the region of Goshen, where my people live. No flies will be found there. Then you will know that I am the LORD and that I am present even in the heart of your land. ²³ **I will make a clear distinction between ^[d] my people and your people.** This miraculous sign will happen tomorrow.”

- **The Lord is going to clearly separate who the believers and the unbelievers are. This also made the miracle much more significant.**

Exodus 9:14-16

If you don't, I will send more plagues on you and your officials and your people. Then you will know that there is no one like me in all the earth. ¹⁵ By now I could have lifted my hand and struck you and your people with a plague to wipe you off the face of the earth.

¹⁶ **But I have spared you for a purpose—to show you my power and to spread my fame throughout the earth.**

- **The Lord is preparing to show the whole world who He is.**

Exodus 10:1-2

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Return to Pharaoh and make your demands again. I have made him and his officials stubborn so I can display my miraculous signs among them. ² I've also done it so you can tell your children and grandchildren about how I made a mockery of the Egyptians and about the signs I displayed among them—and so you will know that I am the LORD.”

- **The new nation of Israel is supposed to remember the Lords signs forever.**

Exodus 11

¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will strike Pharaoh and the land of Egypt with one more blow. After that, Pharaoh will let you leave this country. In fact, he will be so eager to get rid of you that he will force you all to leave. ² **(1) Tell all the Israelite men and women to ask their Egyptian neighbors for articles of silver and gold.**” ³ (Now the LORD had caused the Egyptians to look favorably on the people of Israel. And Moses was considered a very great man in the land of Egypt, respected by Pharaoh's officials and the Egyptian people alike.)

⁴ **(2) Moses had announced to Pharaoh,** “This is what the LORD says: At midnight tonight I will pass through the heart of Egypt. ⁵ All the firstborn sons will die in every family in Egypt, from the oldest son of Pharaoh, who sits on his throne, to the oldest son of his lowliest servant girl who grinds the flour. Even the firstborn of all the livestock will die. ⁶ Then a loud wail will rise throughout the land of Egypt, a wail like no one has heard before or will ever hear again. ⁷ But among the Israelites it will be so peaceful that not even a dog will bark. Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites. ⁸ All the officials of Egypt will run to me and fall to the ground before me. ‘Please leave!’ they will beg. ‘Hurry! And take all your followers with you.’ Only then will I go!” Then, burning with anger, Moses left Pharaoh.

⁹ Now the LORD had told Moses earlier, **(3) “Pharaoh will not listen to you, but then I will do even more mighty miracles in the land of Egypt.”** ¹⁰ Moses and Aaron performed these miracles in Pharaoh's presence, but the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he wouldn't let the Israelites leave the country.

(1) The Lord wasn't only letting Israel go, he even made them rich in the process and thus giving honor to a group identifying themselves as slaves. This was later fulfilled in 12:35-36.

(2) Moses now has confidence to talk directly to Pharaoh.

(3) The greatest of the signs will be the last.

Exodus 12: 1-14; 21-30, 38

¹ While the Israelites were still in the land of Egypt, the LORD gave the following instructions to Moses and Aaron: ² **“(1) From now on, this month will be the first month of the year for you.** ³ Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household. ⁴ If a family is too small to eat a whole animal, let them share with another family in the neighborhood. Divide the animal according to the size of each family and how much they can eat. ⁵ The animal you select must be a one-year-old male, either a sheep or a goat, **(2) with no defects.**

⁶ “Take special care of this chosen animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of this first month. Then the whole assembly of the community of Israel must slaughter their lamb or young goat at twilight. ⁷ **(3) They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the sides and top of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the animal.** ⁸ That same night they must roast the meat over a fire and eat it along with bitter salad greens and bread made without yeast. ⁹ Do not eat any of the meat raw or boiled in water. The whole animal—including the head, legs, and internal organs—must be roasted over a fire. ¹⁰ Do not leave any of it until the next morning. Burn whatever is not eaten before morning.

¹¹ **“(4) These are your instructions for eating this meal: Be fully dressed,^[a] wear your sandals, and carry your walking stick in your hand.** Eat the meal with urgency, for this is the LORD's Passover. ¹² On that night I will pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the LORD! ¹³ **(5) But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign,** marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This is a day to remember. Each year, from generation to generation, you must celebrate it as a special festival to the LORD. This is a law for all time.

²¹ Then Moses called all the elders of Israel together and said to them, “Go, pick out a lamb or young goat for each of your families, and slaughter the Passover animal. ²² Drain the blood into a basin. Then take a bundle of hyssop branches and dip it into the blood. Brush the hyssop across the top and sides of the doorframes of your houses. And no one may go out through the door until morning. ²³ For the LORD will pass through the land to strike down the Egyptians. But when he sees the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe, the LORD will pass over your home. He will not permit his death angel to enter your house and strike you down.

²⁴ “Remember, these instructions are a permanent law that you and your descendants must observe forever. ²⁵ When you enter the land the LORD has promised to give you, you will continue to observe this ceremony. ²⁶ Then your children will ask, ‘What does this ceremony mean?’ ²⁷ And you will reply, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt. And though he struck the Egyptians, he spared our families.’” When Moses had finished speaking, all the people bowed down to the ground and worshiped.

²⁸ So the people of Israel did just as the LORD had commanded through Moses and Aaron. ²⁹ And that night at midnight, the LORD struck down all the firstborn sons in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sat on his throne, to the firstborn son of the prisoner in the dungeon. Even the firstborn of their livestock were killed. ³⁰ Pharaoh and all his officials and all the people of Egypt woke up during the night, and loud wailing was heard throughout the land of Egypt. There was not a single house where someone had not died.

³⁸ **(6) A rabble of non-Israelites went with them, along with great flocks and herds of livestock.**

(1) The Passover is something so important that Israel was told to establish their calendar around it.

(2) A sacrifice of this importance must be perfect.

(3) By putting the blood over the door of their house the people were trusting in the Mercy of God through the blood of the Lamb.

(4) Getting ready to go was an act of obedience that demonstrated they were believing that God would deliver them that night.

(5) The blood is a sign of faith and obedience to God. The blood of the lamb is the sign, not just the lamb itself.

(6) Some of the Egyptians joined Israel and became believers. Thus, the mercy of God is available to all who accept it.

Main Points of the story:

1. The Lord had a plan and provision for the people of Israel to escape Egypt.
2. The Lord showed His power not only to Israel and Egypt but to the whole world.
3. The Passover became central to the culture of Israel.
4. Something had to die in each household whether it was a lamb or a first born son.

Spiritual meaning of the story:

Just like Adam, Noah and Abraham, Israel had a choice if they were going to obey the Lord or not, and by putting the blood of the sacrifice over the door of their house they placed their faith in God and received His Mercy.

Application:

Have I received the Mercy of God over the door of my house?