

Week #:	36	Text:	Exodus 11:1 – 12:51	Title:	Egypt: Plague 10 & the Passover
Songs:	Our God Is An Awesome God (3:30)				
	Victor's Crown – Darlene Zschech (7:25)				
	How Great Is Our God – Chris Tomlin (4:24)				
Videos:					

## Plague #10 and the Passover

The final showdown between Pharaoh and Moses came to an end with the tenth plague. God, through the first nine plagues, had shown His existence, His providence, and His omniscience. Now this tenth plague would show Israel how and why God called them to be different from the Egyptians.

God and all His sovereignty knew that Pharaoh would harden his heart and not let His people go over the last nine plagues. In Exodus 4:21-23, when Moses was traveling back to Egypt after speaking with God as a burning bush heard :

<sup>21</sup> Adonai said to Moshe [Moses], “When you get back to Egypt, make sure that you do before Pharaoh every one of the wonders I have enabled you to do. Nevertheless, I am going to make him hardhearted, and he will refuse to let the people go. <sup>22</sup> Then you are to tell Pharaoh: ‘Adonai says, “Isra’el is my firstborn son. <sup>23</sup> I have told you to let my son go in order to worship me, but you have refused to let him go. Well, then, I will kill your firstborn son!””

God knew it would come to this devastating plague, but it was this plague that would certainly prove His ultimate superiority over all other gods. This was the plague that would let His people be free – free from chains, free from darkness, free from hopelessness. Free to worship Him and have a relationship with Him that He desired.

It is this plague that points to our deliverance as Christians – the death of God's firstborn son Jesus on the cross, who freed us from our slavery to sin and delivered us from evil bringing us into the light of eternal life. This plague is jam-packed with so much Biblical information, so much foretelling of the Gospel account.

## Plague 10 – Death of Firstborn – God vs Pharaoh

Pharaoh was considered to be the greatest god in Egypt and believed to be the son of Ra manifested in the flesh. The tenth plague demonstrated complete power over Pharaoh and all other gods in Egypt as they had the inability to protect their subjects in the face of unparalleled tragedy that had come in the first nine plagues. This plague also undermined Pharaoh's immortality and his inability to unite and protect his nation.

Exodus 11:1-10 (CJB)

*ADONAI* said to Moshe [Moses], “I’m going to bring still one more plague on Pharaoh and Egypt, and after that he will let you leave here. When he does let you go, he will throw you out completely! <sup>2</sup> Now tell the people that every man is to ask his neighbor and every woman her neighbor for gold and silver jewelry.” <sup>3</sup> *ADONAI* made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people. Moreover,

Moshe [Moses] was regarded by Pharaoh's servants and the people as a very great man in the land of Egypt.

<sup>4</sup> Moshe [Moses] said, "Here is what *ADONAI* says: 'About midnight I will go out into Egypt, <sup>5</sup> and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt will die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh sitting on his throne to the firstborn of the slave-girl at the handmill, and all the firstborn of the livestock. <sup>6</sup> There will be a horrendous wailing throughout all the land of Egypt — there has never been another like it, and there never will be again. <sup>7</sup> But not even a dog's growl will be heard against any of the people of Isra'el, neither against people nor against animals. In this way you will realize that *ADONAI* distinguishes between Egyptians and Isra'el. <sup>8</sup> All your servants will come down to me, prostrate themselves before me and say, "Get out! — you and all the people who follow you!" and after that, I will go out!' " And he went out from Pharaoh in the heat of anger. <sup>9</sup> *ADONAI* said to Moshe [Moses], "Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that still more of my wonders will be shown in the land of Egypt."

<sup>10</sup> Moshe [Moses] and Aharon [Aaron] did all these wonders before Pharaoh, but *ADONAI* had made Pharaoh hardhearted, and he didn't let the people of Isra'el leave his land.

This plague was the last and most devastating of all other plagues – and the most far-reaching. It affected every Egyptian – from the lowest slave who grinds the millstone to Pharaoh's first born – all first born people would be killed. It would cripple the individual family's legacies, as well as the nation's dominance in the world.

When you read the account of this tenth plague you read that *not a dog's growl will be heard against any of the people of Israel*. I find it funny that God' caring hand was even seen in His protection from the animals or any small problem that might arise.

Exodus 12:1-51 (CJB)

*ADONAI* spoke to Moshe [Moses] and Aharon [Aaron] in the land of Egypt; he said, <sup>2</sup> "You are to begin your calendar with this month; it will be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup> Speak to all the assembly of Isra'el and say, 'On the tenth day of this month, each man is to take a lamb or kid for his family, one per household — <sup>4</sup> except that if the household is too small for a whole lamb or kid, then he and his next-door neighbor should share one, dividing it in proportion to the number of people eating it. <sup>5</sup> Your animal must be without defect, a male in its first year, and you may choose it from either the sheep or the goats.

<sup>6</sup> "You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of the month, and then the entire assembly of the community of Isra'el will slaughter it at dusk. <sup>7</sup> They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the two sides and top of the door-frame at the entrance of the house in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup> That night, they are to eat the meat, roasted in the fire; they are to eat it with *matzah* and *maror*. <sup>9</sup> Don't eat it raw or boiled, but roasted in the fire, with its head, the lower parts of its legs and its inner organs. <sup>10</sup> Let nothing of it remain till morning; if any of it does remain, burn it up completely.

<sup>11</sup> "Here is how you are to eat it: with your belt fastened, your shoes on your feet and your staff in your hand; and you are to eat it hurriedly. It is *ADONAI's Pesach* [Passover]. <sup>12</sup> For that night, I will pass through the land of Egypt and kill all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both men and animals; and I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt; I am *ADONAI*. <sup>13</sup> The blood will serve you as

a sign marking the houses where you are; when I see the blood, I will pass over you — when I strike the land of Egypt, the death blow will not strike you.

<sup>14</sup> ““This will be a day for you to remember and celebrate as a festival to *ADONAI*; from generation to generation you are to celebrate it by a perpetual regulation.

<sup>15</sup> ““For seven days you are to eat *matzah* — on the first day remove the leaven from your houses. For whoever eats *hametz* [leavened bread] from the first to the seventh day is to be cut off from Isra’el. <sup>16</sup> On the first and seventh days, you are to have an assembly set aside for God. On these days no work is to be done, except what each must do to prepare his food; you may do only that. <sup>17</sup> You are to observe the festival of *matzah*, for on this very day I brought your divisions out of the land of Egypt. Therefore, you are to observe this day from generation to generation by a perpetual regulation. <sup>18</sup> From the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month until the evening of the twenty-first day, you are to eat *matzah*. <sup>19</sup> During those seven days, no leaven is to be found in your houses. Whoever eats food with *hametz* in it is to be cut off from the community of Isra’el — it doesn’t matter whether he is a foreigner or a citizen of the land. <sup>20</sup> Eat nothing with *hametz* in it. Wherever you live, eat *matzah*.”

<sup>21</sup> Then Moshe [Moses] called for all the leaders of Isra’el and said, “Select and take lambs for your families, and slaughter the *Pesach* lamb. <sup>22</sup> Take a bunch of hyssop leaves and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, and smear it on the two sides and top of the door-frame. Then, none of you is to go out the door of his house until morning. <sup>23</sup> For *ADONAI* will pass through to kill the Egyptians; but when he sees the blood on the top and on the two sides, *ADONAI* will pass over the door and will not allow the Slaughterer to enter your houses and kill you. <sup>24</sup> You are to observe this as a law, you and your descendants forever.

<sup>25</sup> “When you come to the land which *ADONAI* will give you, as he has promised, you are to observe this ceremony. <sup>26</sup> When your children ask you, ‘What do you mean by this ceremony?’ <sup>27</sup> say, ‘It is the sacrifice of *ADONAI*’s *Pesach* [Passover], because [*ADONAI*] passed over the houses of the people of Isra’el in Egypt, when he killed the Egyptians but spared our houses.’” The people of Isra’el bowed their heads and worshipped. <sup>28</sup> Then the people of Isra’el went and did as *ADONAI* had ordered Moshe [Moses] and Aharon [Aaron] — that is what they did.

<sup>29</sup> At midnight *ADONAI* killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh sitting on his throne to the firstborn of the prisoner in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. <sup>30</sup> Pharaoh got up in the night, he, all his servants and all the Egyptians; and there was horrendous wailing in Egypt; for there wasn’t a single house without someone dead in it. <sup>31</sup> He summoned Moshe [Moses] and Aharon [Aaron] by night and said, “Up and leave my people, both you and the people of Isra’el; and go, serve *ADONAI* as you said. <sup>32</sup> Take both your flocks and your herds, as you said; and get out of here! But bless me, too.” <sup>33</sup> The Egyptians pressed to send the people out of the land quickly, because they said, “Otherwise we’ll all be dead!”

<sup>34</sup> The people took their dough before it had become leavened and wrapped their kneading bowls in their clothes on their shoulders. <sup>35</sup> The people of Isra’el had done what Moshe [Moses] had said — they had asked the Egyptians to give them silver and gold jewelry and clothing; <sup>36</sup> and *ADONAI* had made the Egyptians so favorably disposed toward the people that they had let them have whatever they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

<sup>37</sup> The people of Isra'el traveled from Ra'amses to Sukkot, some six hundred thousand men on foot, not counting children. <sup>38</sup> A mixed crowd also went up with them, as well as livestock in large numbers, both flocks and herds. <sup>39</sup> They baked *matzah* loaves from the dough they had brought out of Egypt, since it was unleavened; because they had been driven out of Egypt without time to prepare supplies for themselves.

<sup>40</sup> The time the people of Isra'el lived in Egypt was 430 years. <sup>41</sup> At the end of 430 years to the day, all the divisions of *ADONAI* left the land of Egypt. <sup>42</sup> This was a night when *ADONAI* kept vigil to bring them out of the land of Egypt, and this same night continues to be a night when *ADONAI* keeps vigil for all the people of Isra'el through all their generations.

<sup>43</sup> *ADONAI* said to Moshe [Moses] and Aharon [Aaron], "This is the regulation for the *Pesach* lamb: no foreigner is to eat it. <sup>44</sup> But if anyone has a slave he bought for money, when you have circumcised him, he may eat it. <sup>45</sup> Neither a traveler nor a hired servant may eat it. <sup>46</sup> It is to be eaten in one house. You are not to take any of the meat outside the house, and you are not to break any of its bones. <sup>47</sup> The whole community of Isra'el is to keep it. <sup>48</sup> If a foreigner staying with you wants to observe *ADONAI's Pesach*, all his males must be circumcised. Then he may take part and observe it; he will be like a citizen of the land. But no uncircumcised person is to eat it. <sup>49</sup> The same teaching is to apply equally to the citizen and to the foreigner living among you."

<sup>50</sup> All the people of Isra'el did just as *ADONAI* had ordered Moshe [Moses] and Aharon [Aaron]. <sup>51</sup> On that very day, *ADONAI* brought the people of Isra'el out of the land of Egypt by their divisions.

One commentator wrote:

Despite the calamity to come, God would grant the Egyptians the ability to see the situation as it really was: the fault of their own Pharaoh, not the fault of Moses or the Israelites.

We even read back in Exodus 10:7, Moses' official's pleading with Pharaoh to let the people go as they see their fate is dim and Egypt will soon lie in ruins. The people saw God's might, Pharaoh's officials witnessed his sovereignty, yet Pharaoh missed it because of his heart.

Where is your heart? I think this is a question we need to constantly keep in mind with everything we do.

Exodus 13:1-22

Adonai said to Moshe [Moses], <sup>2</sup> "Set aside for me all the firstborn. Whatever is first from the womb among the people of Isra'el, both of humans and of animals, belongs to me." <sup>3</sup> Moshe [Moses] said to the people, "Remember this day, on which you left Egypt, the abode of slavery; because Adonai, by the strength of his hand, has brought you out of this place. Do not eat hametz [yeast]. <sup>4</sup> You are leaving today, in the month of Aviv. <sup>5</sup> When Adonai brings you into the land of the Kena'ani [Canaanites], Hitti [Hittities], Emori [Amorites], Hivi [Hivites] and Y'vusi [Jebusites], which he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you are to observe this ceremony in this month. <sup>6</sup> For seven days you are to eat matzah, and the seventh day is to be a festival for Adonai. <sup>7</sup> Matzah is to be eaten throughout the seven days; neither hametz [yeast] nor leavening agents are to be seen with you throughout your territory. <sup>8</sup> On that day you are to tell your son, 'It is because of what Adonai did for me when I left Egypt.'

<sup>9</sup> “Moreover, it will serve you as a sign on your hand and as a reminder between your eyes, so that Adonai’s Torah may be on your lips; because with a strong hand Adonai brought you out of Egypt. <sup>10</sup> Therefore you are to observe this regulation at its proper time, year after year. <sup>11</sup> When Adonai brings you into the land of the Kena’ani [Canaanites], as he swore to you and your ancestors, and gives it to you, <sup>12</sup> you are to set apart for Adonai everything that is first from the womb. Every firstborn male animal will belong to Adonai. <sup>13</sup> Every firstborn from a donkey, you are to redeem with a lamb; but if you choose not to redeem it, you must break its neck. But from people, you are to redeem every firstborn son. (Maftir) <sup>14</sup> When, at some future time, your son asks you, ‘What is this?’ then say to him, ‘With a strong hand Adonai brought us out of Egypt, out of the abode of slavery. <sup>15</sup> When Pharaoh was unwilling to let us go, Adonai killed all the firstborn males in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of humans and the firstborn of animals. This is why I sacrifice to Adonai any male that is first from the womb of an animal, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’ <sup>16</sup> This will serve as a sign on your hand and at the front of a headband around your forehead that with a strong hand Adonai brought us out of Egypt.”

<sup>17</sup> After Pharaoh had let the people go, God did not guide them to the highway that goes through the land of the P’lishtim [Philistines], because it was close by — God thought that the people, upon seeing war, might change their minds and return to Egypt. <sup>18</sup> Rather, God led the people by a roundabout route, through the desert by the Sea of Suf. The people of Isra’el went up from the land of Egypt fully armed.

<sup>19</sup> Moshe took the bones of Yosef [Joseph] with him, for Yosef [Joseph] had made the people of Isra’el swear an oath when he said, “God will certainly remember you; and you are to carry my bones up with you, away from here.”

<sup>20</sup> They traveled from Sukkot [Succoth] and set up camp in Etam [Etham], at the edge of the desert.

<sup>21</sup> Adonai went ahead of them in a column of cloud during the daytime to lead them on their way, and at night in a column of fire to give them light; thus they could travel both by day and by night.

<sup>22</sup> Neither the column of cloud by day nor the column of fire at night went away from in front of the people.