

Open Bible Stories

The Passover

Introduction

Key Idea

The story of the Passover teaches us how God protected his people from judgment.

Creedal Verse

“By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.” Hebrews 11:28

Metanarrative Summary

The eternal God created all things in six days. He made a good and perfect world. He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation. But humans rebelled against God and ruined God’s creation. God set to restore his world through his promise. God made a covenant with Abraham. He promised to bless all nations through Abraham. God kept his promises across the generations. God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac. God gave Isaac a wife and she bore twins, Jacob and Esau. God blessed Jacob and his sons, and the blessing continued to the next generation. God rescued Joseph, one of Jacob’s sons, and used him to rescue his family. God caused his people, the Israelites, to multiply in the land of Egypt; eventually, they became slaves. But, God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to deliver his people from their slavery. God sent judgment on the Egyptians with harsh plagues; in the final judgment, he passed over his people who covered their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificed lamb.

Open Bible Story: The Passover

11-01

[[image124.jpeg]]

God sent Moses and Aaron to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. They warned him that if he did not let them go, God would kill all the firstborn males of Egypt's people and animals. When Pharaoh heard this, he still refused to believe and obey God.

11-02

[[image125.jpeg]]

God provided a way to save the firstborn son of anyone who believed in him. Each family had to choose a perfect lamb and kill it.

11-03

[[image126.jpeg]]

God told the Israelites to put the blood of this lamb around the door of their houses. They should roast the meat. Then they should quickly eat it, along with unleavened bread. He also told them to be ready to leave Egypt immediately after they ate this meal.

11-04

[[image127.jpeg]]

The Israelites did everything just as God had commanded them to do. In the middle of the night, God went throughout Egypt killing every firstborn son.

11-05

[[image128.jpeg]]

All the houses of the Israelites had blood around the doors, so God passed over those houses. Everybody inside them was safe. They were saved because of the lamb's blood.

11-06

[[image129.jpeg]]

But the Egyptians did not believe God or obey his commands. So God did not pass over their houses. God killed every one of the Egyptians' firstborn sons.

11-07

[[image130.jpeg]]

Every Egyptian firstborn male died, from the firstborn of the prisoner in jail to the firstborn of Pharaoh. Many people in Egypt were crying and wailing because of their deep sadness.

11-08

[[image131.jpeg]]

That same night, Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Take the Israelites and leave Egypt immediately!” The Egyptian people also urged the Israelites to leave right away.

A Bible story from: Exodus 11:1-12:32

Biblical Interpretation: Observing the Details of the Story

After reading the crafted biblical story, answer the following questions to familiarize yourself with the details of the story.

Observation Questions

Answer the following observation questions to gain a basic understanding of the the story. Read the story as a community and answer these questions as a group.

11-01

What did God say he would do to the Egyptians if Pharaoh did not let the Israelites go?

He would kill all the firstborn males of both people and animals.

What did Pharaoh do when he heard that God would kill all the male firstborn people and animals if he did not let the Israelites go free?

Pharaoh refused to believe and obey God.

11-02

Who provided a way for the firstborn son to be saved?

God provided a way to save the firstborn son.

How could people save their firstborn son?

People had to believe God and kill a perfect lamb.

11-03

What did God tell the Israelites to do with the blood of the lamb?

God told them to put the blood of the lamb around the door of their house.

What specific food did God tell the Israelites to eat with the roasted lamb?

They were to eat bread that was made without yeast.

What were the Israelites to be ready to do when they ate?

They were to be ready to leave Egypt.

11-04

How did the Israelites respond to God's commands ?

The Israelites did everything that God commanded.

What did God do in the middle of the night?

God went throughout Egypt killing the firstborn son of every family that did not follow God's commands.

11-05

What did God do at the houses that had the blood around the doors?

He passed over those houses with blood around the doors.

What happened to the people inside of houses with lamb's blood around the doors?

Everybody inside the houses with blood around the doors were safe because of the lamb's blood.

11-06

How did the Egyptians respond to God's commands?

The Egyptians did not believe God or obey his commands.

What did God do at every Egyptian house?

God did not pass over the Egyptians houses. He killed the firstborn sons.

11-07

How many of the firstborn sons of the Egyptians were killed?

All of them died, including Pharaoh's son.

How did the Egyptians feel after the firstborn sons were killed?

Many Egyptians cried and wailed because of deep sadness.

11-08

What did Pharaoh tell Moses and Aaron after this plague?

That same night, Pharaoh told them to take the Israelites and leave Egypt immediately! What did the Egyptians urge the Israelites to do?

The Egyptians also urged the Israelites to leave right away.

Translation Questions

Use the following translation questions to understand specific details of the passage. Discuss how you might translate these specific elements of the story.

11-01

the firstborn males of Egypt's people and animals God warned Pharaoh that if he did not let the Israelites go, God would kill the eldest son in every Egyptian family and the first male offspring of any of their animals. How would you express **the firstborn males of Egypt's people and animals** to mean the eldest son in every Egyptian family and the first male offspring of any of their animals?

if he did not let them go The word if means that something will happen in the event that something else happens first. God would kill the firstborn males in Egyptian in the event that Pharaoh did not let the Israelites go free. How would you express **if he did not let them go** to mean God would kill the firstborn males in Egyptian in the event that Pharaoh did not let the Israelites go free?

believe Pharaoh did not trust that what God said was true. What words in your language mean **believe** as in to trust that something is true?

11-02

God provided God is the only one who could supply the way to save the Israelites' sons from death. How would you express **God provided** as in God was the one who supplied a way to save the Israelites' sons from death?

to save God supplied a way to rescue firstborn males from death. This rescue was possible for those who believed in God. How would you express **to save** as in to rescue from death, destruction, or judgment?

a perfect lamb This perfect lamb was a young sheep or goat that had no blemishes or defects. How would you express **a perfect lamb** to mean a young sheep or goat that had no blemishes or defects?

11-03

They should roast the meat The word should explains something is expected or supposed to happen. It does not explain that the action actually happened yet. God was giving the Israelites instructions and telling them what he expected them to do. How would you express **They should roast the meat** to mean God was giving the Israelites instructions that he expected them to roast the meat of the lamb?

unleavened bread Unleavened bread is bread that is prepared without yeast. Yeast is mixed into bread dough to make the dough expand and rise as it bakes. This bread was made without something that would make it rise. Making bread with yeast takes longer than without it, so **unleavened bread** shows that this meal was urgent and the people needed to do it quickly. How would you express **unleavened bread** to mean bread that is prepared without yeast that would normally cause the bread to rise?

immediately after they ate this meal The Israelites needed to be prepared to leave before they started to eat so they could leave Egypt right away after they finished eating their meal. How would you express **immediately after they ate this meal** to mean the Israelites needed to be prepared to leave before they started to eat so they could leave Egypt right away after they finished eating their meal?

11-04

God went throughout Egypt God in to every place in the land of Egypt where the people lived to bring judgment on the families who did not follow his command. How would you express **God went throughout Egypt** to mean God went in to every place in the land of Egypt where the people?

every firstborn son This means **every firstborn son** of families who had not made the blood sacrifice, that is, the Egyptians. Every Egyptian firstborn son. The firstborn of the Israelite families lived because they had put the blood on their doorposts. This is explained in 11-05. How would you express **every firstborn son** to clearly mean that God killed the firstborn of the families who did not follow his command to put the lamb's blood around the door?

11-05

passed over This means that God passed by those houses and did not stop to kill anyone there. This phrase became the name of the Jewish festival, 'Passover.' How would you express **passed over** to mean God moved by the houses which had the lamb's blood around the door and did not stop to kill anyone there?

because of the lamb's blood The reason God did not kill their firstborn son was the lamb's blood around the door. The Israelites did not save themselves. Without the lamb's blood, even the Israelite families would have their firstborn males killed. But God saw that they had killed their lamb as he had commanded, so he did not kill their son. How would you express **because of the lamb's blood** to mean the reason the Israelites were saved was they had killed their lamb as God had commanded and he did not kill their son because he saw the lamb's blood around the door?

11-06

did not believe God or obey his commands The Egyptians did not trust God and so they did not follow his commands. How would you express **did not believe God or obey his commands** to mean the Egyptians did not trust God and so they did not follow his commands?

did not pass over God did not pass by the Egyptian houses. Rather, he stopped at each house and killed their eldest son because they did not have the lamb's blood around their doors. How would you express **did not pass over**

to mean God did not move by the Egyptian houses but stopped at each house and killed their firstborn males?

11-07

from the firstborn of the prisoner in jail to the firstborn of Pharaoh

This is a way of saying that everyone's firstborn son died from the son of the least important person to the son of the most important person, and everyone in between. How would you express **from the firstborn of the prisoner in jail to the firstborn of Pharaoh** to mean everyone's firstborn son died—from the son of the least important person to the son of the most important person, and everyone in between?

wailing The Egyptians were so sad that they were crying out loud and expressing their sadness with sobbing sounds. What words in your language mean **wailing** as in crying out loud and expressing their sadness with sobbing sounds?

11-08

called for Pharaoh told his servants to tell Moses and Aaron to come to him. How would you express **called for** to mean Pharaoh told his servants to tell Moses and Aaron to come to him?

Take the Israelites and leave Egypt immediately! This is a command. It is stated as an exclamation because Pharaoh was finally afraid of God and urgently wanted the Israelites to leave Egypt. The words Take and leave describe one action. Pharaoh is commanding Moses and Aaron to go out of Egypt with all the Israelites without delay. How would you express **Take the Israelites and leave Egypt immediately** as a command in which Pharaoh is ordering Moses and Aaron to go out of Egypt with all the Israelites without delay?

Theological Dialogue: Discussing the Meaning of the Story

Take time to explore the meaning of this story together as a community. Use the following discussions as a way to grasp what truth the story teaches.

Discourse Questions

Use the following discourse questions to understand the meaning of the story. Pay attention to how the story itself addresses each question or theme.

What did God say he would do because of Pharaoh's refusal to believe and obey God? Warning: God sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh to tell him to let the Israelites go free. They warned Pharaoh that God would kill all the

firstborn males of Egypt if he did not let them go. God brought a warning of judgment to Pharaoh. (11-01)

Unbelief and Disobedience: Pharaoh refused to believe and obey God. His heart was hard and stubborn. He chose to disobey God and did not listen to the warning of judgment. (11-01)

How could people escape God's judgment and have their firstborn males saved? Divine Provision: God provided a way for anyone to save the firstborn males of their household. This was not something people could provide on their own. Only God could provide the way to save their male firstborn. (11-02)

Belief: To save their male firstborn, people had to believe in God. Only if people believed in God would they be able to have the firstborn saved. (11-02)

Sacrifice: God told the Israelites that they had to sacrifice a perfect lamb. They had to put the blood from the lamb around the door of their houses. (11-02, 11-03)

Haste: God told the Israelites to eat roasted meat and unleavened bread. God would bring them out of Egypt quickly. They should be ready to leave as soon as they left the meal. (11-03)

Obedience: The Israelites not only believed in God, but they did all that God commanded them to do. (11-04)

What happened to the Egyptians because they did not believe or obey God? Death: God went throughout Egypt and killed every male firstborn. The Egyptians did not believe or obey God. God did not pass over their houses. Their firstborn males died. The Israelites believed and obeyed God. God passed over their houses. Their firstborn males lived. (11-04, 11-05, 11-06)

All People: Every Egyptian firstborn male died. This happened to the firstborn of the prisoner to the firstborn of Pharaoh and everyone in between. God's judgment was not determined by people's social class. It was determined by whether someone believed in God and followed his ways. (11-07)

Sadness and Grief: The people of Egypt cried and wailed loudly. They were deeply sad. Not believing God and not following his ways brought about great sadness and grief to the Egyptians. (11-07)

What happened to the Israelites because they did believe and obey God? Passover: God passed over the houses with the lamb's blood around the door. God killed the male firstborn of the houses without the lamb's blood around the door. (11-05, 11-06)

Freedom: The same night, Pharaoh told the Israelites to leave Egypt. He told them to leave immediately. In fact, the Egyptians urged the Israelites to leave

right away. God caused the Israelites to be free swiftly. (11-08)

Theological Questions

Answer the following theology questions as a community. Discuss what truths this story teaches.

1. Why does God bring judgment upon humans? How does the story of the Passover teach us about how and why God brings judgment on people?
2. How does God save his people? What does this story teach us about how God brings about salvation and freedom for his people?
3. How can people receive God's salvation and freedom? How does the story of the Passover teach us about how humans can escape God's judgment and receive salvation/freedom?

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Personal Reflection: Following the Teaching of the Story

Take a moment to allow this story to evaluate your own life and to consider how God would have you respond. After this reflection, use the quality checking questions to check your translation draft among the translation team.

Journal Reflection

Prayerfully think about the following personal reflection questions. Write/Record your answers and/or discuss them as a group.

1. How are you growing in your understanding about how God saves and frees his people?
2. What things keep you from (make it hard) believing and obeying God?
3. How would your life be different if you knew God's judgment would pass over you?

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[[conclusion]]