

The Plagues and the Sea

Exodus 5:1~15:21

February 19, 2015

The Plagues and the Sea (5:1-15:21)

I. The Plagues (5:1-13:16)

- A. Problems of Pharaoh, Moses & the Hebrew people (5:1-6:27)
- B. Three sets of three plagues (6:28-10:29)
- C. The tenth plague and instruction for remembering (11:1-13:16)

II. The Sea (13:17-15:21)

- A. Travel from Egypt following the Pillar of cloud and fire (13:17-22)
- B. The narrative of the crossing of the sea (14)
- C. The Song of the Sea (15:1-21)

The Purpose of the Plaques

- To Authenticate God's messenger Moses (4:5,21)
- To introduce Pharaoh to Israel's God (5:2)
- To demonstrate the power of Yahweh (9:16)
- To execute judgment on Egypt's gods (12:12)
- To witness to the greatness of Yahweh (9:16)

The First Cycle of Plagues



First – Nile turns to blood (7:14-25)

- a) A morning warning to Pharaoh at the Nile (7:14-18)
- b) The water struck with Aaron's staff (7:19-21)
- c) The wizards performed the same sign (7:22a)
- d) Pharaoh's "heart became hard" (7:22b-25)



Second– Frogs (8:1-15)

- a) Pharaoh warned of frogs (8:1-4)
- b) Aaron stretched his staff over the waters of Egypt (8:5-6)
- c) The wizards performed the same sign (8:7)
- d) Pharaoh agreed to let the people go sacrifice if the frogs were taken away but later "he hardened his heart" (8:8-15)



Third – Gnats (8:16-19)

- b) Aaron stretched his staff over the dust and it became gnats (8:16-17)
- c) The wizards failed to produce this sign and acknowledge God's power (8:18-19)
- d) Pharaoh's "heart was hard"

The Second Cycle of Plagues



Fourth – flies (8:20-32)

- a) A morning warning to Pharaoh – distinction in Goshen (8:20-23)
- b) The plague came (8:24)
- d) Pharaoh suggested they sacrifice in Egypt close by but later “hardened his heart” (8:25-32)



Fifth – death of livestock (9:1-7)

- a) Pharaoh warned – difference with Israel (9:1-5)
- b) the plague came (9:6)
- d) Pharaoh saw distinction – but His “heart was unyielding” (9:7)



Sixth – boils (9:8-12)

- b) Moses and Aaron threw dust in the air and boils spread on the people and cattle (9:8-10)
- c) The wizards could not come before Moses because they had boils (9:11)
- d) Yahweh “hardened Pharaoh’s heart”

The Third Cycle of Plagues



Seventh – hail (9:13-25)

- a) A morning warning (9:13-21)
- b) Moses stretched his staff to the sky
and the storm began (9:22-26)
- d) Pharaoh confessed his sin, promised to let the people go if the hail stopped but later he hardened his heart (9:27-35)



Eighth – locusts (10:1-20)

- a) Pharaoh warned (10:1-6)
- c) Pharaoh's servants asked him to let the men go (10:7)
- d) Pharaoh suggested that the men only go (10:8-11)
- b) Moses stretched his staff over the land and
the plague came – except in Goshen (10:12-15)
- d) Pharaoh confessed his sin, and asked for the plague to be removed
but later Yahweh hardened Pharaoh's heart" (10:16-20)



Ninth – darkness (10:21-29)

- b) Moses stretched his hand to the sky and darkness fell
except in Goshen (10:21-23)
- d) Pharaoh agreed to let go all the people but not the animals,
but later "Yahweh hardened Pharaoh's heart" (10:24-29)

Comparing the three plague cycles

Horizontally

Compare the three plagues within each set to each other.

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 |

1,2,3 – wizards present
1,2,3 – Staff key instrument
4,5,6 – absence of the wizards
4,5,6 – absence of the staff
4,5,6 – The plague just came
7,8, – Pharaoh Confesses
7,8,9 - Staff, and Hand instrument
1,2,3 - 4,5 - 7 – Pharaoh hardened heart
6 - 8,9 – Yahweh hardened Pharaoh's heart

Vertically

Compare the three plagues across each set to each other

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 |

1,4,7 warning in AM
2,5,8 Pharaoh warned
3,6,9 Plague just comes on people

Paul Asks,

- Is God unjust? Not at all. (Rom 9:14)
- Paul answers it with two quotes from Ex33 where God is forgiving Israel, and Ex 9 where God is judging Pharaoh:
- Exodus 33:19 (NLT)
¹⁹The LORD replied, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh, before you. For I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose.
- Exodus 9:15–17 (NLT)
¹⁵By 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. ¹⁶But I have spared you for a purpose—to show you my power and to spread my fame throughout the earth. ¹⁷But you still lord it over my people and refuse to let them go.

The Tenth Plague & Passover



Tenth – First Born of everything will die (11:4-9)

The interchange of Narrative and Instruction in the account of the Passover

| | |
|----------|--|
| 11:1-10 | Narrative of the event |
| 12:1-20 | <i>Instruction concerning commemoration</i> |
| 12:21-39 | Narrative of event: The Tenth Plague & Exodus including narrative of instruction for future commemoration |
| 12:40-42 | Summary |
| 12:42-49 | <i>Instruction for commemoration</i> |
| 12:50-51 | Narrative |
| 13:1-16 | Narrative of instruction for commemoration |

The Egyptian Gods

Against whom the plagues were possibly directed

1. Nile to Blood

*Hapi, the bull god, god of the Nile,
Isis, goddess of the Nile,
Khum, ram god, guardian of the Nile;*

2. Frogs

Heget, goddess of birth, with a frog head

3. Gnats

Set, god of the dessert storms

The Egyptian Gods (cont)

Against whom the plagues were possibly directed

4. Flies

*Re, a sun god,
Uatchit, possibly represented by the fly;*

5. Death of Livestock

*Hathor, goddess with a cow head.
Apis, the bull god, symbol of fertility*

6. Boils

*Sekhmet, goddess with power over disease
Sunu, the pestilence god
Isis, healing goddess*

The Egyptian Gods (cont)

Against whom the plagues were possibly directed

7. Hail

Nut, the sky goddess

Osiris, god of the crops and fertility

Set, god of the desert storms;

8. Locusts

Nut, the sky goddess

Osiris, god of the crops and fertility

9. Darkness

Re, the sky god,

Horus, a sun god,

Nut, a sky goddess

Hathor, a sky goddess

The Egyptian Gods (cont)

Against whom the plagues were possibly directed

10. Death of Firstborn

Min, god of reproduction

*Heget, goddess who attended
women at childbirth,*

Isis, goddess who protected children

*Pharaoh's Firstborn son,
considered a God*

The First Passover (12:1-28)

(The Passover provides the KEY to God's redemptive program.)

A. Instructions for the Passover

1. Selection of the lamb (12:1-5)
2. Sacrifice of the lamb (6)
3. Application of the blood (7)
4. Passover supper (8-11)
5. Redemption based on blood (12-13)
6. Permanent memorial (14)
7. Instructions for eating (43-49)



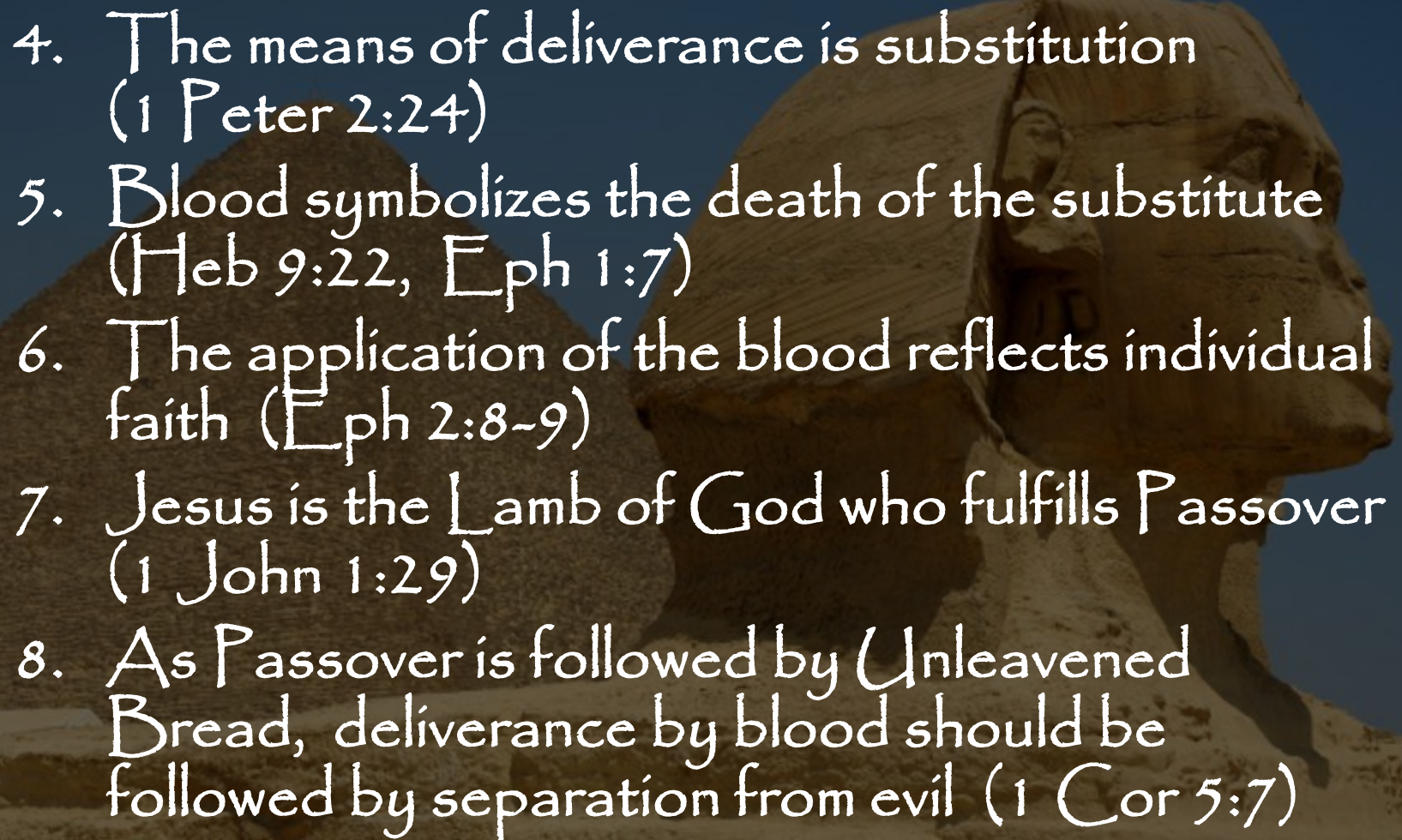
B. Instructions for Unleavened bread (12:15-20)

1. Removal of leaven
2. Days of convocation

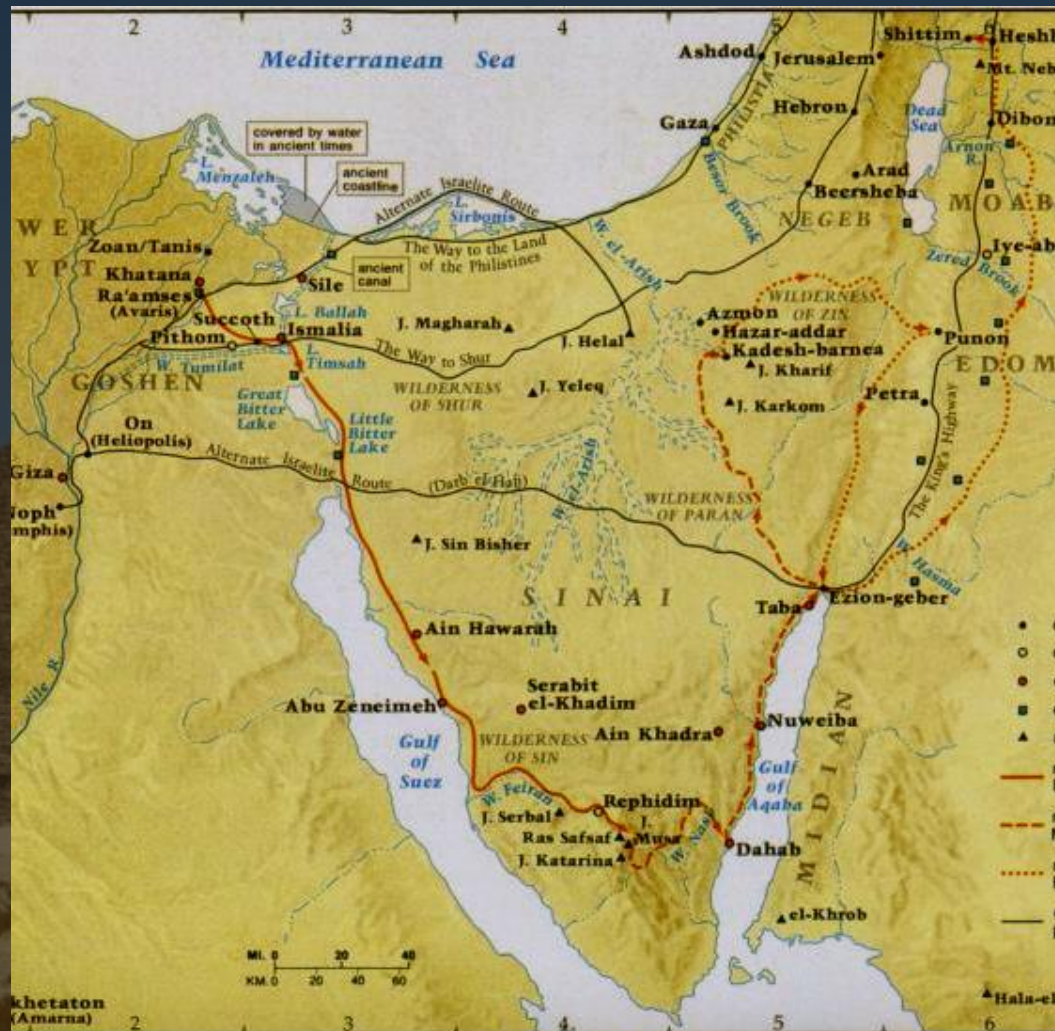
C. Israel's first Passover (12:21-28)

D. Theology of Passover

1. All people stand under the penalty of death
(Rom 3:23, 6:23)
2. Because of His grace and mercy, He did not execute His wrath in a manner commensurate with our sin. (Rom 3:25)
3. God provides a means of deliverance from death. (Rom 5:8)

- 
4. The means of deliverance is substitution (1 Peter 2:24)
 5. Blood symbolizes the death of the substitute (Heb 9:22, Eph 1:7)
 6. The application of the blood reflects individual faith (Eph 2:8-9)
 7. Jesus is the Lamb of God who fulfills Passover (1 John 1:29)
 8. As Passover is followed by Unleavened Bread, deliverance by blood should be followed by separation from evil (1 Cor 5:7)

The Journey to Sinai



They crossed at
Yam Suph
(REED Sea, NOT
the red sea)

They entered
into the
Wilderness of
Shur

The Structure of the Sea Crossing Narrative

1. The Egyptians will know that I am Yahweh (14:1-4)
2. Pharaoh chased after the Israelites who left (14:5-9)
3. The people cried out, Moses responded
See the salvation of Yahweh (14:10-13)
4. Yahweh's Fight
 - a. Moses "Yahweh will Fight for you" (14:14)
 - b. Yahweh "Lift up our staff" (14:16a)
5. On Dry Ground through the sea (14:16b)
6. The Egyptians will know that I am Yahweh (14:18)
7. On Dry Ground through the sea (14:22)
8. Yahweh's Fight
 - a. Egyptians "Yahweh is fighting for them" (14:25)
 - b. Yahweh "Stretch out your hand" (14:26)
9. The sea closed up over the Egyptians
"Thus Yahweh saved Israel" (14:27-30)
10. Delivered by his great hand (14:31a)
11. They believed in Yahweh (14:31b)

The Structure of the Sea Crossing Narrative

1. The Egyptians will know that I am Yahweh (14:1-4)
2. Pharaoh chased after the Israelites who left (14:5-9)
3. The people cried out, Moses responded
See the salvation of Yahweh (14:10-13)
4. Yahweh's Fight
 - a. Moses "Yahweh will Fight for you" (14:14)
 - b. Yahweh "Lift up our staff" (14:16a)
5. On Dry Ground through the sea (14:16b)
6. The Egyptians will know that I am Yahweh (14:18)
7. On Dry Ground through the sea (14:22)
8. Yahweh's Fight
 - a. Egyptians "Yahweh is fighting for them" (14:25)
 - b. Yahweh "Stretch out your hand" (14:26)
9. The sea closed up over the Egyptians
"Thus Yahweh saved Israel" (14:27-30)
10. Delivered by his great hand (14:31a)
11. They believed in Yahweh (14:31b)

God intervened with three miracles

- He provided protection
- He parted the sea
- He closed the sea on the Egyptians



Quick Question,

In defeating Pharaoh's armies, we read in Vs.
That they may know Yahweh!

Why was God so intent on the Egyptians
knowing this just moments before their deaths?

Exodus began with a Pharaoh throwing infants into the sea;
We close this portion of Exodus, Celebrating in song
Warrior Yahweh Throwing the army of Pharaoh into the sea.

Let's try and sing Moses' Song

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH

(A LITTLE TRANSLITERATED HEBREW & ENGLISH)

