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| **SERIES** | Finding Jesus |
| **BIBLE** | Exodus 12 |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | Passover & Culture  |
| **OVERVIEW** | The book of Exodus is the story of God rescuing his people from slavery in Egypt. Exodus 12 is a climactic part of this story, where we read of the first Passover. When we look at the events leading up to Exodus 12 and what happens within it, we see how God was always present and working. These powerful accounts point to the counter-cultural nature of faith in Jesus and the redeeming power of His sacrifice for humanity.  |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | **Background to Exodus 12:** * To fully appreciate Exodus 12, we must understand what led up to it.
* The Israelites are in slavery because of the consequences of sinful choices:
	+ Gen 11:1-9 – humanities disobedience. The very thing they used to create a city of disobedience (bricks) would be used against them in slavery as Pharoah made his city (Ex 1:13)
	+ Gen 37 – Joseph’s brothers sell him into slavery
* God reminds Israel that He is in covenant with them and will rescue them! Exodus 6:1-9
* Pharoah would not listen to Moses’ command to release the people, even after seeing different signs. Pharoah was then told, “By this you shall know that I am the LORD” (Exodus 7:17). The plagues to come would be clear communications that the Lord was real and to be taken seriously.

The story of Exodus 12: * 9 plagues have already happened: water to blood, frogs, gnats, flies, livestock dying, boils, hail, locusts and darkness.
* The Israelites are given the instructions and explanation for the first Passover –
	+ Their preparations:
		- A lamb without blemish
		- Blood from the lamb is put on the two doorposts and lintel.
		- They are to eat with unleavened bread and bitter herbs
		- They are to eat ready to go! (Belt fastened, sandals on, staff ready)
	+ The explanation why:
		- The Lord will pass through the land and will kill all of the firstborn, human and animal.
		- This is also an executed judgement on the gods of Egypt
		- The blood is a sign – when the Lord sees it, he will pass by, will Passover that house and the firstborn there will be spared.
	+ The promise:
		- This rite will be practiced from here on out as a testimony to the generations to come.
		- And when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ you shall say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the LORD’s Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.’ ” And the people bowed their heads and worshiped. 12:26-27

How does this story of the Exodus, and specifically Exodus 12, point to Jesus? **#1 – The good news of Jesus is counter-cultural** * Across all 9 of the plagues, statements like these are made:
	+ “by this you will know that I am the Lord.” – 7:17
	+ “that you may know that there is no one like the Lord our God.” – 8:10
	+ “that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.” – 8:22
	+ “the lord will make a distinction between Israel & Egypt’s livestock” – 9:4
	+ “that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth.” – 9:14
	+ “that you may know that I am the LORD.” – 10:2
* Each of the plagues is a judgement on the Egyptian religious system.
	+ They believed there was a god of the Nile, a god of livestock, a god over crops, that the sun was a god. Everything was a god.
	+ Each plague then was an opportunity for the Egyptian gods to show up – and they didn’t. They weren’t there. They weren’t real and didn’t do what they said they would do.
* In our own culture, different gods are worshipped which aren’t really gods at all
	+ The god of money, pleasure, control, politics, sexuality, etc.
	+ They all offer something, but none of them deliver. They all say they’ll be there, but none of them show up. They are like the Wizard of Oz – all show and promise, no truth and reality.
* Jesus is offering something counter to our culture. He is inviting us to a Kingdom, not a fairytale. He is offering us real life, not a con-man’s pitch.

 **#2 – The sacrifice of Jesus is what rescues us from the consequences of sin*** Because of the blood shed by the innocent, without-blemish lamb, the consequences of sin, the consequences of Pharoah’s choices, did not come upon those covered by the blood.
* Jesus is our Passover lamb!
	+ Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 1 Corinthians 5:7 –
	+ 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3:21–26
	+ John 1:29
	+ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29

**#3 – The hope of Jesus should be proclaimed to everyone*** Just as the truth and reality of Passover was to be proclaimed from generation to generation (Ex 12:26-27), we should not stop that message. But now we get to speak of it in its fullest sense: Jesus has died for you! Jesus rose from the dead so you can have life!
* He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:2
* For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16-17
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| **GOSPEL** | Article - [How Jesus Fulfilled the Passover](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-jesus-fulfills-passover/)Book - [The Gospel in the Passover](https://www.amazon.com/Gospel-Passover-Glaser-Chosen-Ministries-ebook/dp/B0743DGGPD) |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple |