

Passover

Exodus 11:1 – 13:16

by Don Falkos

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Even though God had sent nine plagues against Egypt, Pharaoh refused to release the people of Israel from slavery. But God said to Moses:

I will send one more plague. Then Pharaoh will let the people go.

Each Israelite family is to select a one-year-old male lamb without defect. Kill the lamb and smear the blood above your door and on the doorposts. Then roast the meat and eat it while wearing your traveling cloak and sandals and holding your staff in one hand as though you are on a journey and are in a hurry.

At midnight I will pass through the land killing the first-born of every household – from the household of Pharaoh to the household of the lowliest slave. But when I see the blood on your houses, I will pass over them and will not kill your first-born.

The people of Israel did exactly as God had said.

That night God passed through the land of Egypt killing the first-born of every household including the first-born among the cattle. People screamed and cried during the night. But God passed over the homes of the Israelites because of the blood on the doorposts and did not kill their first-born.

Pharaoh said to Moses, "Go! Take your people and go!"

From that day on, the people of Israel were to celebrate the Passover every year to remind them of what the Lord did for them that night.