

## Chapter 16

## Exodus 12, 14

### The Story so Far

God was re-establishing His Kingdom through the family of Abraham – God’s people, living in God’s place, under God’s rule and blessing. God’s promises to Abraham involved his children living in a foreign land as slaves for 400 years. Through Joseph God’s people went to live in Egypt and after some time they became slaves to Pharaoh, king of Egypt. God then sent Moses to Egypt to rescue His people, but Pharaoh refused to let them go. So God responded by sending plagues to show Pharaoh who He was.

### Objectives

- To understand the concept of redemption as seen in the Passover
- To see God as a warrior who rescues His people by fighting for them against the enemy

### Connections

- Pattern of exodus - oppression – war – **redemption – rescue** – living with God – worship
- In order to enter God’s Kingdom His people must first be redeemed and rescued from the enemy

### Summary

**When God redeems His people He buys them back into a new relationship with Himself through the death of an innocent party.**

**When God rescues His people He fights as a warrior for them against the enemy.**

# Redemption and Rescue

## The 10<sup>th</sup> plague (Exodus 11:1, 4-6)

God's 10<sup>th</sup> plague is the death of every firstborn son in Egypt. This judgement is on both the Israelites and the Egyptians (Exodus 12:12). God is coming to judge the Israelites as well as the Egyptians. Later in the Bible we read that the Israelites had started to worship other gods whilst living in Egypt (Joshua 24:14). So they also deserve to be punished with the Egyptians.

## The Passover (Exodus 12:1-3, 5-7, 11-13)

The way of escape from God's judgement is only revealed to the Israelites, and is through the blood of a baby sheep or goat:

- The animal has to be a one-year-old male, with no defects.
- None of the animal's bones are to be broken.
- The entire animal is to be eaten, and anything left over must be burned.
- They are to eat the animal dressed ready to travel.
- The people are to put the blood of the lamb on their doorposts.
- The meal is called "The LORD's Passover".

When God comes to Egypt that night in judgement He will see the blood and **pass over** those houses. But God will judge every house in Egypt that does not have the blood.

**The way of escape from God's judgement is by the blood (death) of an innocent substitute. The innocent dies in the place of the guilty.**

## What does the Passover mean? (Exodus 12:25-27)

God's punishment for disobeying His words is death. Later in the Bible we read that the Israelite people worshipped the Egyptian gods in Egypt:

*"...the gods your forefathers worshipped beyond the River and in Egypt..." (Joshua 24:14).*

They are guilty of worshipping other gods and so deserve to die. This is why the plague of death is on everyone in Egypt. If the Israelites do not follow God's way of escape from His judgement then the firstborn son in their home will die as well. The Passover

means the time when God **passes over** the homes of the Israelites, and spares the firstborn son from death. In the place of the firstborn son an innocent animal has died. The meaning of the **Passover** is that God protects His people from judgement and punishes someone else instead – an innocent lamb.

### **Victory over Pharaoh (Exodus 12:29-32, 37)**

Remember Pharaoh had asked the question “Who is the LORD?” God then demonstrated His power in the first nine plagues, but Pharaoh still refused to acknowledge God’s power. During the 10<sup>th</sup> plague Pharaoh learns just how powerful God is. It was this night that God won the war with Pharaoh, but Pharaoh was not yet destroyed.

### **A promise-keeping God (Exodus 12:40-41)**

God’s promise to Abraham is fulfilled in Egypt when the Israelites leave after 430 years of slavery. God keeps His promises (see Genesis 15:13-16).

### **Redemption (Exodus 6:5; 15:13)**

Why does God take His people out of Canaan, make them slaves for 400 years and then bring them back to Canaan? God’s people have to learn that in order for them to inherit God’s Promised Land they first have to be bought out of slavery. The Bible uses the word “redemption” to describe this. It means the payment for freeing a slave. ***A ransom is paid to allow the slave to be joined in a new relationship with the person who bought him.*** Therefore, in the Bible it says that God **redeems** Israel. God buys Israel out of slavery in Egypt and into a new relationship with Himself. The payment for Israel is the death of the Passover Lamb – an innocent substitute dying in the place of the guilty.

**In the big picture the reason God takes Abraham’s children (the Israelites) to Egypt and makes them slaves, is to show them what it means to be redeemed.**

### **The Warrior-King (Exodus 13:20-22)**

Like a triumphant King God travels in front of His people. God leads His people during the day by a pillar of cloud and at night by

a pillar of fire. God is the victorious Warrior-King who marches out of Egypt with His people.

### **Pharaoh's decision (Exodus 13:18; 14:5-9)**

After the Israelites leave Egypt, Pharaoh changes his mind and decides to go and bring them back. Pharaoh goes with his army into the desert to find the Israelites. The Egyptians find the Israelites at the Red Sea. God has led His people into a dead-end – in front of them is the Red Sea and behind them are the Egyptians. Why has God led them into a dead-end?

### **Israel's complaint (Exodus 14:10-12)**

The Israelites start to complain to Moses, saying that they would have been better to stay and die in Egypt. The reason they complain is because they think that they are about to be killed by the Egyptian army that has chased them all the way to the Red Sea. Israel is now saying they wish they had never been rescued!

### **Rescue (Exodus 14:13-16, 19-28)**

As the Egyptian army approach, God separates the waters of the Red sea and allows the Israelites to pass through on dry ground. But when the Egyptians try to follow them He closes over the waters and they all die. God has rescued the Israelites. The Bible tells us that God is like a warrior fighting on behalf of His people against the enemy (Exodus 14:14, 25b; see also Exodus 15:3). Israel does not fight - God the Warrior fights for Israel against their enemy. God is the Rescuer of His people. When God redeems His people He rescues them by destroying their enemy.

**God the warrior fights for His people against their enemies. God is the Rescuer of His people.**

### **Israel's faith (Exodus 14:29-31)**

When Israel sees God's power against the Egyptians they respond in faith. They trust their Warrior-God.



## Think it through

1. What is the 10<sup>th</sup> plague in Egypt, and what does it mean?
2. What is the redemption price for buying Israel out of slavery?
3. Why does God send His people to Egypt in the first place? Why not let Abraham's children be born and grow up in Canaan?
4. Why does God lead them to a dead-end and then rescue them? (see Exodus 14:13-14)
5. What have you learnt about God from this study?