

What Makes You So Significant?
Exodus 12:1-12 (12)

For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.

I. The Passover Message

A. Narrative Flow to this point

1. Pharaoh has thrown down the gauntlet with his challenge question: “Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice?”
2. God accepts the challenge
 - a. God reveals Himself and His plan to Moses
 - b. Nine plagues + 1
 - (1) The water in Egypt turned to blood
 - (2) Frogs
 - (3) Gnats
 - (4) Flies
 - (5) Death of livestock
 - (6) Hail
 - (7) Boils
 - (8) Locusts
 - (9) Darkness
 - (10) Death of the Firstborn

B. What we evangelical Christians have come to learn about Passover

1. Tend to interpret the Passover in terms of what God has done for us in Christ
 - a. The Lamb is a symbol of Jesus
 - b. The killing of the lambs is a symbol of sin and our personal participation in the sting of sin which is death
 - c. The blood on the doorpost symbolizes faith and the need to follow through on God’s gospel message of faith and obedience
2. While God’s mercy toward his people is demonstrated in fact and in symbol in the Passover, this event, according to God’s account, is more about Him than it is about us!

C. God demonstrates in the Passover that He alone is I AM

1. God judges the gods of Egypt: Test of Authenticity
 - a. The Death of the Firstborn is the litmus test for true deity
 - b. God judges the gods of Egypt to not only be impotent but non-existent
2. God proves false all the securities in which the people of the world trust.
3. God proves that He alone is God and He alone deserves the worship and dependence of the world He has made

II. God demonstrates His singular existence and power in Christ

A. God applies the test of authenticity (the 10th plague) to Himself

1. God sacrifices His firstborn Son, Jesus, to death
2. God raises His firstborn Son, Jesus to life
3. God does in Christ what no other god, if any other god existed, has done or can do!

4. **God alone is the only authentic, trustworthy God that exists**

B. God Who judged Egypt judges today

1. To judge means to assign ultimate disposition to someone relative to God's holiness
2. God continues to judge as false all the authoritative sources in which people place their trust and upon which people build their lives
 - a. **Psalm 94:2 (ESV) *Rise up, O judge of the earth; repay to the proud what they deserve!***
 - b. **2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV) *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.***
 - c. **Psalm 9:7-8 (ESV) *⁷ But the LORD sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, ⁸ and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness.***
 - d. **Ecclesiastes 12:14 (ESV) *For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.***
 - e. **Revelation 20:11-15 (ESV) *¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.***
3. God judges the false gods people rely on today
 - a. God judges the gods of sinful self-reliance (arrogance, pride, jealousy)
 - b. God judges the gods of sinful self-satisfaction (lust, greed, power)
 - c. God judges the gods of sinful self-identification (philosophies, social trends, religions)
 - d. **God judges and condemns everything human beings rely on to justify themselves that is not authentically God Himself**
 - e. How then can anyone stand before God?
 - (1) **Psalm 130:3 (ESV) *If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?***
 - (2) **Romans 3:23 (ESV) *for all have sinned and fall short of***

the glory of God,

- (3) Every single one of us stands guilty before God and deserving of the judgment God poured out upon Egypt in the days of old
- (4) **Hebrews 9:27 (ESV) *And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,***
- (5) If there is only one authentic and true God who has proved Himself to us through the death and resurrection of His Son, and who stands in righteous and holy judgment over us, what can we do?

C. God invites the people of the world in our day to relinquish their trust in themselves and figments of their imagination and to put their trust in Him.

1. Promises
 - a. **Romans 10:9-10 (ESV) *⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.***
 - b. **1 John 1:9 (ESV) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***
2. Clarity
 - a. **We are saved from God's righteous judgment of our sin through faith in alone in Christ alone**
 - (1) You cannot trust in a prayer said in the past.
 - (2) You cannot trust in a choice made in the past.
 - (3) You cannot trust in a lifestyle lived in the present.
 - b. God invites you to trust in Him and in Him alone.
 - c. The evidence a person has been saved is an ongoing life of faith and obedience.