



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 33



A PUBLICATION OF GOD'S THRESHING PLACE
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DAY THIRTY-THREE

Exodus 10 - 12

The Blood on the Door

Nine plagues and Pharaoh has not moved. His heart has been hardened and softened and hardened again like metal worked in a forge. And God tells Moses something that should stop us: I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these signs among them -that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the Lord.

The plagues are not just about Israel's freedom. They are a story being written for every generation that follows. Every child who hears this and asks: what does this mean? is the audience God had in mind when He sent the first plague. He was writing something into history that would be retold for thousands of years. And it still is.

God does not just work in your life for you. He works in your life so that the story of what He did becomes the inheritance of those who come after you. Your testimony is not just your testimony. It is a legacy.

The locusts arrive in Exodus 10 -so dense that the land is dark with them. They devour every remaining plant, every piece of fruit on every tree. Nothing green is left in all of Egypt. And Pharaoh's officials finally break: how long will this man be a snare to us? Let the people go. Can you not see that Egypt is ruined? Even Pharaoh's inner circle has seen enough.

But Pharaoh negotiates again: you may go, but not your children. Moses says no. Not your children is not freedom. A faith that cannot be passed to your children is not faith -it is a personal preference with an expiration date.

The enemy has always tried to separate the faith from the next generation. Let the adults go, but keep the children. The battle over what children believe is as old as Exodus. Fight for it.

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The darkness comes. Three days of complete, tangible darkness - darkness that can be felt. But in the dwellings of the Israelites, there is light. Pharaoh calls Moses: go, but leave your flocks and herds. Moses says no again. Not a hoof is to be left behind. Our God requires sacrifice. We do not know yet what He will ask us to offer. We cannot go empty-handed.

-Not a hoof is to be left behind. Nothing that belongs to you and your worship stays in Egypt. You don't negotiate with Pharaoh about what you bring to God.

Pharaoh's last word to Moses: get away from me. On the day you see my face again you will die. Moses says: you are right. I will not appear before you again. This is the end of the negotiation. One more plague is coming -and after it, Pharaoh will not just allow them to leave. He will drive them out.

Chapter 12 is one of the holiest chapters in all of Scripture. God speaks to Moses and Aaron about the Passover -and what He describes is not just a ritual. It is a picture of something that will not be fully understood for another fifteen hundred years.

Each household is to take a lamb on the tenth day of the month. A male, without defect. They are to keep it until the fourteenth day, examine it, know it. And at twilight, the whole assembly of Israel is to slaughter it.

“Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.”

-Exodus 12:7

The blood on the doorframe. Not in their hearts. Not in their intentions. Not in their righteousness. On the door. Visible. Applied. Outside the structure of the house where the family shelters.

And God says: when I see the blood, I will pass over you. Not: when I see your obedience. Not: when I assess your worthiness. When I see the blood. The protection is in the blood, not in the person. The

lamb dies in the place of the firstborn. A life given for a life. It has been happening since Genesis 3, when God covered Adam and Eve's shame with an animal skin. It will not stop happening until a hill outside Jerusalem, where the Lamb of God is slaughtered at twilight during Passover.

The Passover lamb is the clearest picture in the Old Testament of what Jesus would do. Examined and found without defect. Slaughtered at twilight. Blood applied to a wooden structure. A people sheltering under it, protected not by their merit but by the blood. When John the Baptist sees Jesus coming and says “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” -every Jew in earshot knows exactly what he means.

The death angel passes through Egypt at midnight. Every firstborn - from the firstborn of Pharaoh to the firstborn of the prisoner in the dungeon to the firstborn of the livestock -dies. There is not a house without someone dead. Pharaoh rises in the night, he and all his officials, and there is loud wailing in Egypt. And he calls for Moses and Aaron at night and says: up, leave my people. Go. Take your flocks and herds. And go. And bless me also.

Six hundred thousand men, plus women and children. Plus a mixed multitude who chose to go with them. Plus livestock too numerous to count. After four hundred years, in a single night, they leave.

-What four hundred years of slavery could not produce, one night of blood on the doorframe accomplished. There are things God moves in a night that no amount of human effort produces in a generation.

Speak this over yourself today:

The protection is in the blood, not in my merit.

I shelter under what the Lamb has done.

There are things God moves in a single night that no human effort produces in a lifetime.

TOMORROW -Day 34 Exodus 13-15

Pharaoh changes his mind and sends his army. The Israelites are trapped between the sea and six hundred chariots. And God does something that will be sung about for the rest of human history. Come back tomorrow.

Day 33 of 365



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African Praise	6:45am	SAT. / SUN.
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