

# EGYPT & EXODUS- PART ONE (B)

Read: Exodus 12-18

Corresponds to Workbook pp. 44-46, 48

## Exodus 12:1-28: Institution of the Passover

The Lord gave Moses and Aaron very specific instructions to relay to His people regarding the Passover. What were some of its requirements? Ex 12:3-8. \_\_\_\_\_

What was the significance of:

\* The flesh (Ex 12:8)- \_\_\_\_\_

\*Unleavened bread (Ex 12:34) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Bitter herbs (Ex 1:14) \_\_\_\_\_

“The feast of Passover is charged with typological significance: the lamb offered in sacrifice prefigures Christ as the unblemished Lamb slain for our redemption (John 1:29; 1 Cor 5:7; 1 Peter 1:19), and the lamb eaten in the meal looks ahead to our communion with Christ in the Eucharist (John 6:52-58; 1 Cor 10:16). Both ideas are present at the Last Supper, where Jesus transforms the Jewish Passover into the memorial meal of a new exodus from sin (Matthew 26:17-29, CCC 608, 1340).”<sup>1</sup>

What title does John the Baptist give his cousin in John 1:29, 36? \_\_\_\_\_

At what hour does the crucifixion occur, according to John 19:14? \_\_\_\_\_

Are any of Jesus’ bones broken? John 19:36; Exodus 12:46 \_\_\_\_\_

Moreover, John 19:29 states that Jesus was given sour wine from a sponge on a hyssop branch (Ex 12:22). Hyssop was used for the Passover sprinkling of the lamb’s blood. John uses the word for Jesus’ bartered garment that referred to the vestments worn by the high priest when he offered the sacrifices such as the Passover lambs. The parallels between the Passover Lamb and Jesus (typology) are numerous.

Write out Revelation 5:12 here: \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus is called the “Lamb” twenty-eight times in the twenty-two chapters of Revelation!

## Exodus 12:12

Repeatedly God has told Pharaoh that he shall come to “know” that the Lord is God, and with the first nine plagues, God decisively demonstrates that He is more powerful than the Egyptian gods. God, being merciful, has punished Egypt step by step with successive plagues, to give adequate time for repenting. Yet Pharaoh obstinately refuses to let the Israelites leave to

<sup>1</sup> *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Exodus*. Commentary & Notes by Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch. © 2012 by Ignatius Press, San Francisco, CA, pp 32.

worship the Lord. What will the tenth plague prove once and for all, according to this verse?

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In your life experience, how has God progressively disciplined you when necessary? What is the purpose of God's discipline? Hebrews 12:5-12 \_\_\_\_\_

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Who has given you warnings that you ignored? (Christian fraternal correction in Scripture is known as admonishment). Is your heart presently teachable? \_\_\_\_\_  
"Some people come in your life as blessings. Some come in your life as lessons"- Mother Teresa.

### **Exodus 12:13**

The word "Passover" is derived from the Hebrew verb "pasha" which literally means "to skip over." Why is this descriptive of what happens at midnight, in the tenth plague, according to Exodus 12:23-29? \_\_\_\_\_

Given that the Egyptians considered lambs (and cows, etc) sacred, how was placement of the blood of the lambs on their doorposts a daring denouncement of Egyptian idolatry? How was God forcing them to choose whom they will serve: the God Almighty of the Patriarchs or maintain allegiance to the pagan idols they had adopted during their sojourn in Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_

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What ultimatum does Joshua, the military successor to Moses who later leads the Israelites to victory in the Promised Land, issue in Joshua 24:14-15? \_\_\_\_\_

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What might God be asking you to renounce from your culture in order to choose Him and His ways unequivocally? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Exodus 12:37**

Note that if 600,000 men left Egypt, then the total number with women and children probably approached two million. Remember they numbered a mere 70 upon arrival 430 years prior.

### **Exodus 13:17**

Why did God prevent the Israelites from taking the most direct route from Egypt to Canaan (across the top of the Sinai Peninsula)? \_\_\_\_\_

*Note:* The Philistines were skilled in military combat (and would later prove problematic to Samson and the Jews). Also, the Egyptians maintained numerous military posts along the northern portion of the Peninsula.

How is God proving Himself to be a protective Father to His people in this verse and Exodus 13:21-22? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Exodus 14: Parting of the Red Sea**

**Exodus 14:5-7**

Why does Pharaoh change his mind? How many Egyptian officers and chariots (the most intimidating military equipment of that era) does he dispatch? \_\_\_\_\_

**Exodus 14:11-14**

What lesson will the people of God learn (repeatedly throughout their history), as explained by God in Exodus 14:13-14 and 2 Chronicles 20:15, 17? \_\_\_\_\_

How would God gain “glory” from what ensued? Exodus 14: 17-18 \_\_\_\_\_

*Life Application:* “God will keep us. He’ll help. He’ll intervene—perhaps just in the nick of time. Is that too close for comfort? Maybe. But our trust in Him was never meant to be comfortable—only close. And the nick of time is close enough.”<sup>2</sup>

**Exodus 14:21-31**

What happens each time Moses “stretches out his hand over the sea”? What effect does it have on the Israelites in 14:31? \_\_\_\_\_

What has caused you to “believe in the Lord”? (In Exodus, the people grew in faith when they saw signs). \_\_\_\_\_

How does their crossing through the water prefigure Baptism (CCC 1094, 1221)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Exodus 15: Praising God vs Complaining**

In the victorious song of Exodus 15:1-18, the Jews praise Yahweh for His works, calling him Savior (15:2), Warrior (15:3), Redeemer (15:13), and King (15:18).

In awe and wonder, what question do they ask in Exodus 15:11? How is this particularly poignant after the ten plagues? \_\_\_\_\_

If you were to write a booklet telling your children or grandchildren how you have seen God work throughout your life in mighty ways, what would you include? (This makes a great First Communion or Confirmation gift). \_\_\_\_\_

Note that this song of worship not only thanks God for His past actions (14:1-12), but also confidently anticipates what God will do for them in the future (14:13-18).

<sup>2</sup> Tad, Joni Eareckson. Quote on a note card produced by Dayspring in Siloam Springs, ARK.

Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron, then leads the women in dance and praise (15:21). According to Micah 6:4, Miriam is listed alongside Moses and Aaron as being appointed by God as leaders of Israel.

*Life Application:* God has a purpose for you in your present wilderness experience. He is wanting you to trust Him, not just look to Him to solve your problems. As Deuteronomy 8:16 states, God feeds you manna in order to humble and test you, for your ultimate good. (Remember Joseph being sold into Egyptian slavery, but it serving a salvation purpose).<sup>3</sup>

### Exodus 15:22-23

Why do the Jews complain to Moses? \_\_\_\_\_  
Looking ahead to Exodus 16:2-3, Numbers 11:4-6, and Exodus 17:2-3, it is apparent that they are quick to complain whenever hungry or thirsty. What effect did this constant complaining have on Moses? Numbers 11:15 \_\_\_\_\_  
How often do you complain? Who is most adversely affected by your complaints? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Exodus 15:26

God gives the people a conditional promise. What three stipulations must the Jews keep? (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_  
If they keep these three conditions, what benefit will they experience? \_\_\_\_\_  
What new name of God surfaces here? \_\_\_\_\_

### Exodus 16: Manna in the Desert

Exodus 16:1 occurs exactly one month after they left Egypt.  
How does the provision of manna in the desert by God prefigure the Eucharist, “the true bread from heaven” (John 6:32; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6)? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Slowly read and ponder the entire chapter of John 6.

“Every time I hear a televangelist emphasize a personal relationship with Christ, I thank God that I am Catholic. For only here can I receive the Lord body, blood, soul, and divinity. It doesn’t get much more personal than that!”<sup>4</sup>

**New Testament Connection:** How does Jesus contrast the manna given by the Father in the wilderness to the Eucharist? John 6:48-50, 58 \_\_\_\_\_  
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What “I am” startling title does Jesus reveal in John 6:51? \_\_\_\_\_  
How do the people react in John 6:60-62, 66 \_\_\_\_\_  
How do you respond to this bold statement? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>3</sup> Cavins, Jeff. *DVD #5: Exodus and Egypt: Part I*, Timeline Study.

<sup>4</sup> Father William Casey.

“To put your faith in Jesus means choosing to believe what he says, no matter how strange it may seem, and choosing to reject the claims of evil, no matter how sensible or attractive they may seem.”<sup>5</sup>

Who is the “hidden manna” referred to in Revelation 2:17, when the Holy Spirit is addressing the churches (you!) \_\_\_\_\_  
To what does Jesus invite you today (Revelation 3:20)? How is this a beautiful picture of Mass?

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You are invited to a family meal, a heavenly banquet, where Jesus Himself is our Bread and life.

*Life Application:*

“Every Consecrated Host is made to burn itself up with love in a human heart” - St. John Vianney.

### **Exodus 16:15**

How does Moses describe the manna/bread? \_\_\_\_\_  
What test of obedience does God give? Do the Israelites ‘pass the test’? (Exodus 16:4, 16, 20)?

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What lesson is God trying to teach His immature children according to Deuteronomy 8:2-3, a lesson which Jesus evidently mastered (Matthew 4:3-4)? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Note:* An omar is approximately two quarts (per person).

### **Exodus 16:23**

For what purpose does God command that twice as much manna be collected the day before the Sabbath? What are they to do rather than work? \_\_\_\_\_

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What do you learn about the appearance and taste of manna in Exodus 16:31? How long does this act as a staple of their diet? (Exodus 16:35) \_\_\_\_\_

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What does this tell you about God’s providential care? How does Jesus later reinforce this in Matthew 6:25-34? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Exodus 17:1-7: Water from the Rock**

#### **Exodus 17:1-4**

What do the people bitterly complain of now? What are they ready to do to Moses?

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What basic issue of trust is at play according to Exodus 17:7b? \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>5</sup> McMaster, Fr. Brian. *Totus Tuus: A Consecration to Jesus through Mary with Blessed John Paul II*. © 2013 by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, Huntington, IN, pp 43.

**Exodus 17:5-6**

What does God tell Moses to do with his rod? What miracle of provision occurs?

What specifically do you complain about? How does it show a lack of trust in God? \_\_\_\_\_

“The goal of the Exodus was not simply freedom *from* slavery, but freedom *for* the Israelites to know and serve the Lord with all their heart. The murmuring of Israel, so quick after the signs and wonders worked in Egypt, shows that Israel is far from knowing and trusting God. God knows his children are weak, and in his mercy he provides good things, water from the rock and manna from heaven. These new signs and wonders are given to help strengthen Israel’s faith and trust, that they may know the Lord, not only his mighty power but also his fatherly love (Exodus 16:12).”<sup>6</sup>

**Exodus 17:8-13**

How is Moses depicted here as an intercessor, given that the posture of prayer in the Old Testament is frequently that of raised arms? (This is not the first time Moses has raised his arms/rod and witnessed God work. Remember Moses raised his staff at the Red Sea for deliverance from the Egyptians). \_\_\_\_\_

*Life application:*

In what “battle” are you presently engaged in which you need the assistance of two praying friends to support you? Write your intention here and the names of your intercessors whom you will contact this week to ask for their support. \_\_\_\_\_

“A man of prayer is capable of everything”- St Vincent de Paul.

*Going deeper:* The battle against the Amalekites can also be interpreted as spiritual warfare. It is only through reliance on God and prayer that we become “more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:37), for “they (the saints) conquered (the Accuser/ Satan) by the blood of the Lamb” (Revelation 12:10-11).

*Interesting Note:* Hur is thought to be “the man from the tribe of Judah whose grandson, Bezalel, becomes the chief architect of the wilderness Tabernacle (Exodus 31:1-11).”<sup>7</sup>

**Exodus 18:18-23**

What prudent counsel does Moses’ father-in-law Jethro give him? \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>6</sup> Gray, Tim and Jeff Cavins. *Walking with God: A Journey Through the Bible*. © 2010 by Ascension Press, West Chester, PA, pp 75.

<sup>7</sup> *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Exodus*. pp 40.

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Do you try to carry out ministry alone? Why is this both dangerous and prideful? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Summary:**

“It is I, the Lord, your God, who brought you out of the land of the Egyptians and freed you from their slavery, breaking the yoke they had laid upon you and letting you walk erect”- Leviticus 26:13.

This theme of God’s mighty deliverance of His people is repeatedly a point of wonder through the books that follow Exodus in the canon, and yet it speaks most profoundly of the future Baptism and deliverance from sin that will be brought about by the Lamb provided by none other than God Himself (Genesis 22:8). And this Lamb will be consumed as in the prototype of the Passover, in a form that harkens back to the manna or bread from heaven—the very Eucharist of the Mass. For Jesus the Lamb is both sacrificial victim and high priest, son of man and of God. God’s wonderful plan of full deliverance is just beginning to unfold!

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**Suggested reading:**

*The Lamb’s Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth* by Scott Hahn. © 1999 by Doubleday, New York, NY.