

A note from Kathy

God loves his creation so much that he is unwilling to simply let us go our own way. Over and over he displays his love, mercy and power in order to stop our foolish choices and lead us to repentance. God's wondrous attributes are easily seen in Exodus 11-12. Pray, asking him to speak to your heart as you open his word today.

Observation

1. Even though there is a chapter division between Exodus 10:29 and 11:1, look at verse 8; Moses had actually not left Pharaoh's presence. What was Moses' emotional state as he left that day?
2. Preparations for the final plague had begun. What instructions were given?
3. What was about to happen in Egypt?
4. One might think that God was merely angry and that was why this final plague was poured out on the Egyptians. What do Ezekiel 18:32 and 2 Peter 3:9 say that would contradict that thought? Put it in your own words.
Ez. 18: 32 *For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!*
2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*
5. What did this plague reveal about God's desired will and purposes? Even though the will of even an earthly ruler might oppose God, where can we place our confidence?
Job 42:2 *"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted."*

6. Briefly state the details given in Exodus 12 concerning the Passover.

When was it to happen? What were the specific instructions given the Israelites to prepare for the Passover? What was the distinguishing mark?	What were the Israelites to do annually? Why were they doing this?	What was going on throughout Egypt?

7. Long before morning light we see Pharaoh agreed to let the Israelites go. Was this repentance or defeat? Exodus 12:33

8. God's purpose in the plagues was not to vent his anger but to lead many to truth. The Egyptians believed in many false gods. God was showing them the futility of faith in anything other than the Sovereign God of the universe. What was the result? Exodus 12:38

9. What was the good news seen in Exodus 12:50?

Application

1. Why do you believe Moses was so angry when he left Pharaoh's presence for the final time? How do you respond to those who defiantly refuse to obey God and, in doing so, lead others in their rebellion?

2. Death is a very painful and powerful experience for all of us. It is even worse when we feel that a life has been cut short by someone else's terrible choice. Pharaoh is not the only example in scripture of one who had seen God's power, yet refused to humbly obey. In 1 Samuel 15:23, the prophet Samuel spoke to King Saul about his rebellion. *"For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and defiance is like wickedness*

and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you as king.” What examples of this do we see today? Is our rebellion any less wicked in God’s eyes? What will be the cost for your rebellion?

3. In spite of the warnings, Pharaoh and his people had hardened their hearts over and over, and now they have experienced the Lord’s final plague, just as God told Moses would happen. It is a very dangerous thing to refuse to humble one’s self and obey what God has clearly asked. God is longsuffering, but each refusal allows our hearts to grow harder and makes it even more difficult to repent. Is God speaking to you about something and you are refusing to humbly obey? When is the best time to respond to God?

2 Cor. 6: 2 “...*now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.*”

4. Pharaoh rebelled against the authority of God, and many suffered. Do we see this same type of thing happening in our world today? God’s people suffer simply because we are his and the world opposes him. Does this surprise you?

1 John 3:13 *Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you.*

John 15:18 *"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.*

5. How are we to handle opposition? 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 speaks to this; can you think of any other verses that might pertain?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.*

6. Exodus 12 was full of specific instructions for God’s people. How important was it for them to carefully carry out these instructions? How important is it that we know and carry out God’s instructions carefully?

Micah 6:8 *He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*