



EXODUS SERIES: FREEDOM TO LIVE

#8: WHO IS THE LORD?

August 26, 2018

Pastor Alex Lessler

BIBLICAL TEXT

“The tenth plague is exactly like Pharaoh’s judgment on the children of Israel—kill the children—except for one key difference. With God, there is always a way out.”

—Pastor Alex

“Who is the LORD, that I should obey him...?” (Exodus 5:2)

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb[a] for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 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. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover.

“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance. (Exodus 12:1-14)

In Exodus chapter five, Pharaoh asks, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey him? (5:2) It’s an important question. Why should we listen to God? Why should anyone? The question begs another that Pharaoh poses, “Who is the Lord?”

Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, answers that question by miraculously revealing Himself to Moses as the only true God who will lead His people to freedom. But freedom isn’t free. The cost of Israel’s freedom included humbling Pharaoh, who considered himself god. The Lord judges Pharaoh through ten plagues, but with each plague offers mercy if Pharaoh will only humble himself. God’s love and judgment are on display in a dance choreographed by the Perfect Lover who judges rightly, saying to the evil that enslaves His people, “No more!” With the final plague, God makes His loving mercy explicit, instituting Passover, a sacrificial provision that finds its final expression in the last Passover Lamb, Jesus. There is historical traditional, and even some clues in the text (11:3), that Egyptians also spread the blood on the lintels, and were passed over. God’s invitation to trust Him—ultimately expressed in Jesus—remains a spreading goodness that will only be spurned by prideful people.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Describe a time where you were called to make a judgment about something or someone. What was the outcome?
2. Was there ever a time where you were judged? What was that like?
3. Where do you see the need for someone to take a strong stand for right over wrong?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What do you think about the timing of the Passover?
2. What do you notice about the animal in question, and the instructions surrounding it?
3. What do you notice about the impending last plague that's unique?
4. How does God end His instructions. Why do you think He does it that way?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Where do you see a need for freedom today, whether close to home or far away?
2. Why do you think, evil, bondage, and slavery persist?
3. How do you see slavery, freedom, and the Passover relating to what you observe in the world today?
4. What are the lingering effects of pride? Where do you see its impact, its evil influence?
5. Why do you think people long for freedom, and how do you see that desire suppressed in them?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What makes you nervous about how God handles Pharaoh, Egypt, and His people's deliverance? Is there anything that you find confusing, encouraging, or just plain weird?
2. How do you answer the question, "Who is the Lord...?"
3. Are there times when you feel like God isn't who He says He is? What's that like for you?
4. What about those times when you're really sure God is as He reveals Himself?
5. Where do you need God to lead you into freedom? How do you see that happening, if you do? If you don't, why not? How does remembering Jesus play into this?
6. Is there a little of "pharaoh" in you that proudly resists God? If so, what do you want God to do about that?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. How can you get to know God better in the coming week so you can answer for yourself, "Who is the Lord...?"
2. What's one thing can you do to cultivate humility?
3. What can you do to free someone in the coming week? Could it be canceling an obligation? Offering forgiveness? Honoring a long-ignored commitment?

**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS,
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