

## Study guide: Exodus week 2

As the recording didn't work, these notes are more comprehensive than usual to try to cover the material for those who weren't able to be present on Sunday.

In week 1 we looked at God's people being oppressed by the Egyptians and Reg explained that God heard them, He remembered them, saw them and knew them. Moses has pleaded with the Pharaoh to let his people go but the Pharaoh has resisted. Then comes the plagues...

1. Here is what Paul said about the first 9 plagues:
  - God turned the water in the Nile into blood to show that their gods that protected the lifeblood of the Nile were no match for the God who was the source of all creation
  - God sent frogs to mock their frog goddess of fertility because they had forgotten where all life comes from
  - God turned dust into gnats, a miracle that the Egyptians couldn't replicate, to show that He had power over the earth.
  - God sent swarms of flies to mock their fly-headed god of creation. Gods people in Goshen were untouched showing His mercy for His people
  - God sent a disease that killed cattle and horses to show power over their gods represented as sacred bulls and cows that symbolised wealth, agriculture and wealth. They'd forgotten the one true God was the source of all that was good in the world.
  - God sent boils to affect people and animals to show that their gods of healing had no power
  - God sent a storm of hail, thunder & lightning that destroyed crops and trees to mock their gods of the sky, atmosphere & storms to show that He rules over the heavens.
  - God sent locusts to eat up any crops that were left to show that their gods of the harvest were worthless
  - God sent darkness for 3 days as a direct attack on their sun god and the pharaoh who was seen as his living manifestation, showing Yahweh's supreme power.
- Did you know that the plagues were so targeted?
- What do you think about how they are targeting different elements of the Egyptian lives?
- What can we learn from this?
2. Read Exodus 12: 1-13 - The 10<sup>th</sup> plague
  - What stands out to you from this reading?

On Sunday Paul talked about the similarities to Jesus in this passage:

- *The Provision of the Lamb*  
Each household must select a flawless, unblemished lamb. It must be a part of their household life, emphasizing the closeness and cost of the provision.
- *The Application of Blood*  
The blood must be put on the sides and tops of the doorframes. It is a visible sign of dynamic trust in God's protective promise. It isn't just about knowing the lamb died but applying it.
- *Salvation by Grace Alone*  
When the Lord passes through, He looks for the blood. Israel escapes judgment not because they are inherently better or holier than the Egyptians, but because they are sheltered by the blood of the substitute.

What similarities can you see and what can we learn from them?

3. On Sunday Paul pointed out the obedience that this required. There were very strict instructions that God's people had to follow, and it was not clear why they were important or what benefit they would bring.

Paul preached without wearing his shoes, as he'd felt God reminding him of the verse "take off your shoes, for the place you are standing is holy ground" (Ex3:5) and emphasised that sometimes these acts of obedience don't always feel like they make sense, but that isn't really the purpose of them.

- How easy or difficult do you find being obedient to God?
  - How obedient are you when it's not clear why it is necessary?
4. Paul talked about being obedient in our planned decisions and our unplanned decisions, both as individuals and collectively as a church. For example, planned decisions such as new jobs, how we spend our time/money and decision making in church, as well as unplanned decisions such as being too task focussed and not leaving space for God to interrupt, noticing the quiet unexpected prompts from God.
    - What do you see as being the differences between planned and unplanned obedience?
    - Do you find one easier than the other?
    - What could you do to be more obedient in both these types of situations?