

SUMMARY Exodus 12:1-11

Exodus 12:1-11 outlines the instructions for the first Passover, a pivotal event in the history of the Israelites. God commands Moses and Aaron to establish a new calendar, with this month as the first of the year. Each household is instructed to select a year-old male lamb without blemish, which will be slaughtered on the 14th day of the month at twilight. The lamb's blood is to be applied to the doorframes of their homes as a sign for God to "pass over" and spare the household from the plague of the firstborn.

The lamb is to be roasted and eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. The Israelites are instructed to eat the meal in haste, dressed and ready for travel, symbolizing their imminent departure from Egypt. This event marks the beginning of their liberation from bondage and serves as a reminder of God's deliverance and protection.

Summary Exodus 12:12-30

Exodus 12:12-30 describes the climactic moment of the tenth plague and its aftermath. God declares that He will pass through Egypt at midnight, striking down every firstborn, both human and animal, as a judgment against the gods of Egypt. The Israelites are instructed to mark their doorframes with the blood of the Passover lamb, ensuring their households are spared.

At midnight, the plague unfolds, causing widespread mourning throughout Egypt, as every household experiences loss. Pharaoh, devastated by the death of his own firstborn, summons Moses and Aaron, urging them to take the Israelites and leave Egypt immediately. The Egyptians, fearful of further calamities, hasten the Israelites' departure, providing them with silver, gold, and clothing.

This passage underscores God's power and the significance of obedience, as the Israelites' faith and adherence to His instructions lead to their deliverance.

OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT CONNECTION

The connection lies in the symbolism of sacrifice and redemption. In the Old Testament, the Israelites celebrated Passover to commemorate their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. God instructed them to sacrifice a spotless lamb and mark their doorposts with its blood. This act protected them from the plague that struck Egypt, symbolizing salvation through the lamb's sacrifice.

In the New Testament, Jesus is often referred to as the "Lamb of God." ([John 1:29](#), [John 1:36](#), [1 Peter 1:19](#), [Revelation 5:1-13](#)) His crucifixion during the Passover festival is seen as the fulfillment of this symbolism. Just as the Passover lamb's blood saved the Israelites, Jesus' shedding of blood on the cross brings salvation and deliverance from sin for all humanity.

This parallel highlights the continuity between the Old and New Testaments, emphasizing themes of sacrifice, redemption, and divine grace.