

HE WAS GOD'S FRIEND

*A Study of the Life and
Ministry of Moses*

A Study at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2014 A.D



The New Testament is filled with references to "Moses and the Prophets". Jesus quoted Deuteronomy, written by Moses, more than any other book of the Bible. No one was there when God created the universe, but God inspired Moses to write his account. Moses served as prophet, priest, and political leader, just as Jesus is our prophet, priest and king. No one ever knew where Moses' grave was located...because God buried Moses himself.

Of all the people in the Bible, Moses is special. His life, his experiences, his ministry—the things God did through him; all of it was exceptional. But of all the things that made Moses special, perhaps the greatest was this, "The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend" (Exodus 33:11).

As we study the life and ministry of Moses this summer we will see his dedication to the LORD, his faith, his love for God's people, and also his faults—and there especially we will see the undeserved love of God.

#3 THE PASSOVER

1. What was the most influential day of your **life**?

EXODUS 11:1-10

2. Raise your hand if you are a firstborn son. What effect would this plague have on **Egypt**?
3. What about all the children? How could God do that to the **children**?

EXODUS 12:1-50

4. How did the Israelites demonstrate their faith in the details of the first Passover **feast**?
5. Compare the origin of the Passover celebration to the origin of the Thanksgiving celebration. What was special about the **Passover**?
6. What would children learn about God by celebrating the Passover **yearly**?

Comment [DP1]: Aim: At the end of this lesson all participants shall be able to describe the religious significance of the Passover both to the Jewish people, and its significance to us who know its fulfillment.

Comment [DP2]: For me it was my wedding day. It divided my whole life into before and after. It changed my status, my priorities and many of my actions. It was so significant that I celebrate the anniversary of that day every year. Today we are studying the Passover. This event was so significant to the Israelites that it divided their history into before and after. It changed their lives politically and religiously. It was so significant that they celebrated the anniversary of it every year. And not only was it significant for their past, it also pointed to their future. And in this future significance we find the passover's significance for us as well.

Comment [DP3]: This plague must have decimated Egypt for years to come. Even if it were only the firstborn sons who were still children it would be a disaster—much more so if it included all firstborns, even adults. (I question it since Pharaoh doesn't end up dead and it mentions the firstborn of pharaoh and the firstborn of a slave woman and the prisoner in 12:29 but not Pharaoh or the prisoner died. And in 12:30 the officials woke up during the night and had dead sons, but it doesn't say any of the officials died. The other side of the argument would include 12:12, where the LORD says every firstborn and 12:33 where the Egyptians fear that all will die.) The LORD certainly shows his power here.

Comment [DP4]: How often and how subtly the idea that children are innocent or sinless or not quite as bad as adults creeps into our minds. We are all sinners. There is nothing in us that requires God's mercy and grace. If it were grace could not be grace. So how wonderful grace is!

Comment [DP5]: The blood on the doorframes would look a little silly if nothing happened that night. Usually you don't prepare for a feast by getting yourself ready to leave (vs 11). In fact, you do the exact opposite!

Comment [DP6]: Usually a celebration or holiday grows over time to commemorate an event in the past. The Passover celebration began before the event commemorated, which once again displays the faith of the people, and accentuates the activity of God.

Comment [DP7]: That God keeps his promises, that he is a holy God who also carries out his threats, that a sacrifice is required for people and God to be at one. They would also review the history of what God did for them, which would remind them that all they had they owed to God.

7. Compare the Passover lamb to Jesus.

Comment [DP8]: The Passover lamb had to be male and flawless. The blood of the lamb saved. None of the lamb's bones were to be broken, just as Jesus' bones were not broken.

8. Compare the Passover feast to the Lord's Supper.

Comment [DP9]: Both are meals. In both the lamb that saves is eaten. Both were intended to be a memorial of a very important event. Both were instituted before the event they commemorate. Both are intended to be corporate celebrations rather than individual celebrations.

9. Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13. How does an understanding of the Passover help you understand these verses?

Comment [DP10]: As the yeast which was in their houses before the Passover had no place in their homes afterward, sin has no place in our lives now that Jesus' sacrifice is ours by faith. This section also reminds us that God will judge those outside the church. He did with the Egyptians. The actions of the Israelites were a warning to them, but they did not listen. Excommunication is a warning to sinners, and we hope they listen.

EXODUS 13:1-16

10. What would the people of Israel learn because of these "firstborn customs"?

Comment [DP11]: They would be reminded that they owed the lives of their firstborn sons and animals to the LORD who spared them. It would also remind them that they all owed their freedom and their land to the LORD who gave it to them. They would learn that it is good to give thanks to the LORD for the blessing of the birth of children and the birth of their cattle, which was their wealth. They would remember that all birth is a blessing from God.

11. Read Numbers 3:39-45. What did the firstborn become?

Comment [DP12]: They were substituted for the tribe of Levi. As the firstborn belonged to the LORD so the Levites became the LORD's for service in worship and the priesthood.