

# Top 150 Bible Stories

## The Passover

Week 16 April 21

Exodus 12:1-14; 21-28

I know that you have heard of this very famous Bible story. It took this tenth plague to convince Pharaoh to release God's people from Egypt. This is called The Passover Story because this plague of death was to come to all firstborn in the land of Egypt **except** for those whose doorposts were sprinkled with blood. If the Lord saw the blood (taken from a lamb) He would "pass over" the house and not cause harm there. We learn that God is the One who rules justly and who cannot allow sin (like with Pharaoh) to go unpunished. But because of His mercy God allows His covenant people to survive, but does not spare those who harden their hearts to Him. This story is clearly one that foreshadows God's saving work as Jesus becomes the Lamb that was slain. Of course, our sacrament of the Lord's Supper that we observe in church comes from the Passover supper recorded in this story. Our response is the same as seen with the Hebrew people; we are to bow in worship and thanksgiving to a sovereign and merciful God (v.27).

## The Exodus

### Exodus 12:33-51

Have you ever watched an army of ants moving in a long line, going back and forth, probably bringing food back to their anthill? It is fascinating. The ants look like they know exactly what they are doing. They move together perfectly and with purpose. That's what I think about when I read this story. One can't imagine all the moving parts of this operation. A million (or so) people started moving out of Egypt at one time. Among other things that are happening in this story (under God's mighty hand) is His watchfulness (v.42). So it was "a night of watching" by our God. God is one who watches over His people. The Exodus story is primarily about God saving His people. They had lived in slavery for 430 years, now they were free. Without Jesus, we remain bound in slavery. God has freed us from certain slavery by the person and work of Jesus Christ. We are to remember these salvation stories (v.47). They are a heritage for us, they tell us of the certainty of our redemption.

## Jesus calls His First Disciples

### Mark 1:14-22



When I was a kid I got to go deep-sea fishing. Do you know what deep-sea fishing is? As it sounds, you get into a boat and go out into the very deep sea, and fish! We were fishing for black bass. I didn't even know there were bass that were black. Did you? When we were fishing we put cut-up squid on the hook, then dropped the line a long way down into the water. We caught hundreds of black bass that day. I felt like a true fisherman. I think about true fishermen in this story, but not fishers of fish. I think about fishers of men. We learn that God is a King. He owns a Kingdom and His Kingdom is at-hand (v.15). We know that Jesus sits on the throne in heaven

and rules over His Kingdom. It is a Kingdom that is already here, both in heaven and on earth, yet it is not here in its fullness as it will be at the end of time. The gospel is mentioned specifically in this story (vv.14-15). The gospel is a one-word definition of how God saves His people. God makes it such that He brings us into His Kingdom (we are citizens), and we are saved. Our opportunity is to believe in the "good news" and follow hard after our King. Then we can become "fishers of men" (v.17). So, not only can we be fishers of fish, we can be fishers of men!