

Our Unseen Cosmic War

International Bible Lesson

Exodus 12:1-14

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L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“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” (Exodus 12:12).

The Apostle Paul carefully studied the Hebrew Scriptures and the Holy Spirit inspired him to write: “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12). The human struggle between God’s man Moses and Satan’s man Pharaoh illustrate the truth Paul revealed. Moses obeyed the LORD and Pharaoh claimed to be one of the gods of Egypt. Though the struggle appeared to be between two political leaders, God revealed to Moses that He was going to “bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt.” God did so through ten plagues when God discredited all the gods of Egypt because they could not save the Egyptians from these plagues. Only God and Moses’ prayers could stop the plagues. Eventually, Pharaoh became so angry with Moses that he threatened to murder Moses if he ever saw him again. Finally, the last plague judged Pharaoh and his firstborn son, men who claimed to be a god and a son of god. As a supposed god, Pharaoh was powerless to save his own firstborn son or the firstborn of his people and animals. But when the death angel passed over Egypt, the true God was able to save all those who believed the word of God through Moses, acted in faith, and obeyed the LORD. The Bible shows that many political events in the world may be the result of an unseen cosmic war.

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Thinking Further

1. Thinking about calendar days and why calendars and days are changed, what might be some reasons why many weekly calendars today begin with Monday instead of Sunday?
2. In what way during Passover is the head of the household similar to a priest? Why would this be important in later years?
3. What type of lamb or goat were the Israelites commanded to use in the celebration of Passover? In what way is this Passover lamb similar to the Messiah?
4. Why would the Israelites eat their first Passover in peace instead of fear?
5. Why do you think the Israelites obeyed God in faith and did what God told them through Moses at their first Passover, even though they might not have understood all of God’s reasons for His commands? Why is knowing this important?