

## Life-Study of Exodus Summaries – Messages 21-25

### MESSAGE 21 – The Hardening of Pharaoh’s Heart

The Bible says clearly both that God hardened Pharaoh’s heart and that Pharaoh hardened his heart himself. We need to recognize that we are clay and that God is the potter. He has the **authority** out of the same lump to make on vessel to honor and another to dishonor. Moses was one to whom God willed to show His **mercy**, whereas Pharaoh was one whom God willed to **harden**. God’s mercy is in His sovereignty; in His **sovereignty**, He has chosen to be merciful to us. God took the first step in the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart, then Pharaoh carried out this hardening through his own free will. (Life-Study of Exodus, 21)

### MESSAGE 22 – God’s Demand and Pharaoh’s Resistance (6)

Time after time God had sent a plague upon the Egyptians, but Pharaoh still continued to **resist** His demand. Throughout the course of Moses’ negotiations with Pharaoh, God came in to manifest His **sovereignty**. Pharaoh’s stubbornness forced God to **slaughter the firstborn**. When the slaughter was taking place, the children of Israel were preserved from any kind of bothering and were at rest. It is of the Lord’s **mercy** that we can attend the church meetings. In the Lord’s sovereign grace, we can be **stubborn** only for a **short while**. May we all worship the Lord for His sovereignty and thank Him for His mercy! (Life-Study of Exodus, 22)

### MESSAGE 23–25 – The Passover

The **Passover** portrayed in Exodus 12 is a **clear, adequate, and even all-inclusive type of the redemption of Christ**. The Passover is a type of Christ. Christ is not only the lamb of the Passover, but the very Passover itself. Because we are **in** Christ, and because Christ is the **house** that covers us, **He is our Passover**. The unit of God’s salvation is the house, not the individual. It does not matter whether our family is large or small or whether it is joined together with another family. Christ is **sufficient** to meet all our need.

The redeemed ones applied the Passover in such a way that they could become God’s **army**. By **girding** ourselves we make ourselves ready to fight. Only when we have girded our loins are we **qualified** to apply the Passover. If we are still **loose**, we **cannot** take the Passover in a **proper** way. We also need the right kind of **shoes** on our feet and the **staff** in our hand to apply the Passover lamb. Because a battle lies ahead of us, we must eat the Passover lamb in haste.

A bunch of hyssop was used to put the blood of the lamb on the lintel and the doorposts. God requires that we have just a **little faith**. Even if our faith is very small, we still can apply the Passover lamb. By applying the blood in faith, we have an **entrance** into Christ, and we are immediately ushered into Him as the house, where the whole Passover becomes ours. However, this is not sufficient to **equip** us. For this, we need to roast the lamb, eat its flesh in the house hastily, and be filled with the lamb.

The feast of unleavened bread is a **continuation** of the feast of Passover. As Christians, we should live a sinless life, not **tolerating** any sin that has been exposed. To deal with manifested sin is to observe the feast of unleavened bread. Our **whole life** after we are saved should be a feast of unleavened bread. The only thing we are permitted to do is **eat**. We all must learn to drop our **natural doing** but continue with our eating. Thank the Lord that we are the purchased and circumcised ones and that we eat the Passover according to God’s principles. (Life-Study of Exodus, 23–25)