

CHANGING WANDERERS INTO WORSHIPERS

From the Exodus to the Promised Land

A New Beginning—Worth Waiting For

Exodus 12:29–36, 40–42

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

STUDY



LET'S BEGIN HERE

A sense of exile—wandering without belonging—has plagued us all from the moment the Lord banished Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden . . . the moment humans became spiritual nomads looking for wholeness in a broken world. Without God, we'll do whatever we can using whatever it takes to find even a taste of that belonging, but all feelings of ease become only a mirage.

Thanks be to God that He did not confine us to our own machinations, but He stepped in to cease our wanderings. From Adam and Eve's animal-skin clothing to Noah's wooden ark to Abram's call from Ur, God proved Himself the God of new beginnings right from the start. Only God can change us from vagabonds with no clear direction to pilgrims who journey along the spiritual path to our eternal home.

In this series, Chuck Swindoll will lead our Bible study from the exodus to the promised land, inviting us to cease our wandering and join in worship of the one true God.



YOUR TURN IN THE SCRIPTURES

In these *Searching the Scriptures* studies, we follow Chuck's four-step method for studying the Bible as detailed in his book *Searching the Scriptures: Find the Nourishment Your Soul Needs*. We provide these studies to help you prepare from God's Word your own spiritual meals. Here's a chart to aid you in your Bible study.

Quotable

*The cross was
the gate that
took us from
slavery to freedom.
Celebrate.
Remember.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES Bible Study Review Chart	
OBSERVATION	
<i>Read the passage thoroughly</i>	When we observe our passage, we examine: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The who, what, where, when, why, and how 2) What you can see, touch, taste, hear, and smell 3) The logical connections, flow of thoughts, and range of subjects 4) What's repeated, emphasized, related, alike, and unlike
INTERPRETATION	
<i>Understand the passage deeply</i>	When we interpret our passage, we study: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The author's language and literary genre 2) The author's culture 3) The historical events 4) The biblical context 5) The author's beliefs about God and life
CORRELATION	
<i>Compare the passage carefully</i>	When we correlate our passage, we compare: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Our passage's history with biblical texts addressing the same event 2) Our passage's theology with biblical texts addressing the same core truths 3) Our passage's application with biblical texts addressing the same principles
APPLICATION	
<i>Internalize the passage personally</i>	When we apply a passage, we: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Look for ways to pray in light of what the passage teaches 2) Ask questions about your behaviors or thoughts that need to change 3) Heed our Lord's warnings 4) Obey our Lord's commands 5) Believe our Lord's promises
<i>Remember: we study the Bible to cultivate our relationship with our risen Lord—and as the great reformer Philip Melanchthon said, "To know Christ is to know his benefits."</i>	



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Because we're at the beginning of a new series, consider adding resources to your library. Chuck recommends adding one per month. You may want to add a:

- Study Bible—we recommend *The Swindoll Study Bible*
- Commentary—we recommend *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* or *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*
- Bible Dictionary—we recommend *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary*
- Bible Atlas—we recommend the *Zondervan Essential Atlas of the Bible*

Chuck's series *Changing Wanderers into Worshipers* catapults us into Jewish history on the night of the Passover prior to the Israelites leaving Egypt through the front door. The Egyptians bid them *and their God* farewell after He struck dead all the firstborn sons in the land who had not been protected by the blood on the door posts. The Passover changed the course of history for the Jewish people and became the central event around which God created the Jewish calendar.

Exodus 12 contains the record of that night. Previously, God made a covenant with Abraham to restore the blessing forfeited by Adam and Eve. God said He would turn Abraham into a great nation but wouldn't do so until Abraham's progeny spent more than four hundred years enslaved in Egypt. After the centuries passed, the great I AM commissioned Moses to tell Pharaoh, "Let my people go!" We enter the scene when Pharaoh finally said, "Leave".

Before we commence, write a prayer asking God's blessing on your study.



Observation

We'll cover *Exodus 12:1–13:16* to lay a foundation for this series. Don't feel intimidated. We'll help you navigate the verses so you can ascertain the author's thrust and key theological principles for belief and practice.



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The First Passover—Exodus 12:1–28

Read through this passage slowly. Summarize it in a couple of sentences and note a few key observations.

How does 12:12 describe God's purpose for the last plague?

According to 12:14–17, how should the Israelites commemorate the event?

How did the people respond to God's commands through Moses and Aaron according to 12:27–28?



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Pharaoh's Release—Exodus 12:29–32

Read through this passage slowly. Summarize it in a couple of sentences and note a few key observations.

Don't forget to read as though you're walking through the homes, along the streets, and in the fields of the Egyptians so you can get a feel for the calamitous weight of the tenth plague.

The Departure—Exodus 12:33–42

Read through this passage slowly. Summarize it in a couple of sentences and note a few key observations.

What did the Israelites leave Egypt with according to 12:34–36?

Who left with the Israelites according to 12:38?



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Passover Instructions for Foreigners—Exodus 12:43–51

Read through this passage slowly. Summarize it in a couple of sentences and note a few key observations you see in the passage.

Dedication of the Firstborn—Exodus 13:1–16

Read through this passage slowly. Summarize it in a couple of sentences and note a few key observations you see in the passage.

Now that we've applied the blood to the doorposts, eaten the lamb, viewed the dead carcasses, and exited Egypt with the Israelites, let's dig a little deeper into the history and theology of Exodus 12:1–13:16.



Interpretation

Let's begin with our Bible dictionary. Look up *Passover* and record below notes you gleaned from your reading.



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Exodus 12:1–28 records the instructions for the first Passover. Then 12:43–51 restates and adds information regarding the celebration. Considering the presence of a “rabble of non-Israelites” that exited Egypt with the Israelites (Exodus 12:38), why is Exodus 12:43–51 important?

Exodus 12:2–3, 14–17, 24–27; 13:3, 5, 8–9, 16 all explain the importance of *remembering* and *celebrating* the work God had done for the Israelites. Based on your understanding of these passages, why is our act of remembering and celebrating important in our walk with God? What do we lose if we don't remember God's Word or His acts?

If you want to study further, we recommend perusing your commentary or visiting *Lumina*, which has the NET Bible and Constable's Notes—both of which are free. We've provided space below for you to record any notes from your personal study.



Correlation

Because we'll spend about a third of our series in the book of Exodus, we'll use correlation to examine the core text for understanding this book and the Israelite journey to the promised land. In Exodus 6:6–8, God spoke to Moses and revealed what He was going to do for His people.



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“Therefore, say to the people of Israel: ‘I am the LORD. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment. I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the LORD!’”

Review the passage carefully and record the key ideas in the passage. Look for what God planned to do, why He was doing it, and His desired outcome.



Application

We’ve spent a lot of time observing and interpreting our passage in this study. For application, we’ll focus on only one principle: *the value of reflection*. Remembering is as relevant for the Christian life today as it was for the Israelites back then. That’s why we have holidays to celebrate our Lord’s death and resurrection as well as the meal He gave us to partake when we meet.

Reflect and record the importance of spiritual celebration in your own life. Have you thought much about this spiritual discipline? What are some ways you can add spiritual depth to your next holiday? Or perhaps you can create a special holiday to mark spiritually significant events, such as a celebration for the day you became a Christian or were baptized. What are some of your ideas?



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Is there something new you can do to enhance your awareness and appreciation of how God has worked in your life and what He's done for you through the work of His Son, Jesus Christ? You could make remembering a key part of your devotional time, prayer time at the dinner table, or schedule a short retreat to simply remember God's faithfulness.

Almost fifteen hundred years prior to Jesus' coming, God was preparing the world for His reception. The institution of the Passover reveals that God is a promise-keeping God who, through Jesus, redeems people from spiritual slavery so that they may know Him, worship Him, and gain hope in Him.

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16–17)



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, how amazing it is that we get to read of Your work that occurred thousands of years ago. We have Your words from Moses through which You have proclaimed that You are the great I AM—having no beginning or end. Thank You for preparing the world for Your Son in whom I've received a new beginning. Help me to remember this. I'm no longer wandering but living with Your unshakable joy that will only grow in my relationship with You, which also will have no end. In Jesus' name, amen.



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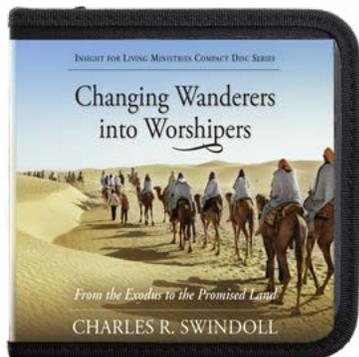
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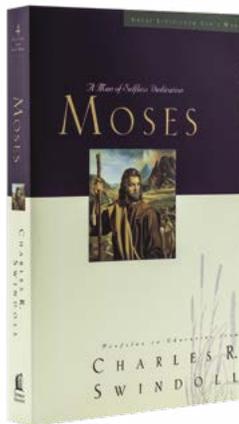
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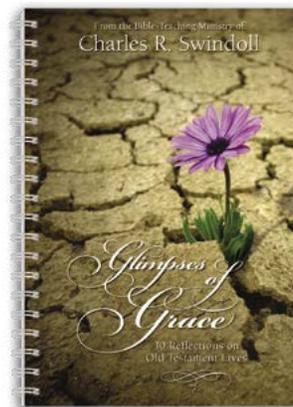
Tools for Digging Deeper



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by Charles R. Swindoll
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For the 2018–2019 broadcast, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Aaron Massey in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, executive vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages.



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