

First Baptist Church of Academy

Special readings in preparation for Easter 2025

April 6, 2025 Exodus 12

Passover, the historical event of God's final plague, led to the deliverance of the Jews from slavery under Pharaoh in Egypt over 3000 years ago. This story, along with the subsequent chapters we will read this week, will foreshadow much of what we celebrate in the cross and resurrection at Easter. After reading Exodus 12, go back and meditate on vs 23. Prayerfully consider how the LORD, seeing the blood of the lamb, prevented the destroyer to enter their homes.

April 7, 2025 Exodus 13

As you read through these verses, maybe even reading it a second time, consider the issue of leadership and guidance. First, not only did God deliver them from the slavery but He continued to go before them guiding their steps. Second, consider the calls to remind and teach the future generations about God's deliverance. At salvation, not only has Jesus saved us from slavery to sin and death but He gave us the Holy Spirit to guide our steps. In addition, the call is for each of us to tell others (especially future generations) about God's salvation.

April 8, 2025 Exodus 14

Vs 14, "The LORD will fight for you." God had a plan for not only the deliverance out of slavery but also the deliverance into a new life in the land flowing with milk and honey. One of the things we should celebrate and realize even today, the LORD not only delivers us out of our old way of life but He delivers us into a new way of life. Even greater is to believe the truth of God fighting for us when we desire to walk in the new life He has destined us for.

April 9, 2025 Exodus 15

Exodus 15 presents two songs of praise to God for God's deliverance. Pause and reflect on songs of our faith. As praise songs come to your mind, consider taking some time to play those songs from YouTube or whatever player you use. Sing praise to God as a part of your worship today from Exodus.

April 10, 2025 Exodus 16

In the next two days, we will focus on God as provider. So many of us live in such a way that we think we are providing for ourselves...but are we really? What if you were in a desert wilderness situation as the Jews are in this text? How hard would it seem to look around and realize there is essentially nothing available to eat? Exodus 16 tells of God's provision of daily bread for 40 years. Be reminded today of God's care and provision for your daily bread.

April 11, 2025 Exodus 17

There is much to say about God's provision of water in this passage, as in Exodus 16, to provide for the daily needs. With the reflection back on Exodus 16-17, God not only provided for the daily needs of bread and water but God also provided for the greater need of His presence continually. God provides for our physical needs but God also provides for our spiritual needs with His continual presence with us through His Holy Spirit.

April 12, 2025 Exodus 12 / Matthew 21 Lord's Supper 5pm

This evening at 5pm, we will gather for worship in reflection of the Passover lamb of sacrifice and the Lamb of God, Jesus who was sacrificed. Let me encourage you to read once again Exodus 12, reflect on the significance of the sacrificial lamb and blood of the lamb. Read Matthew 21 reflecting on this one fact, Jesus entered Jerusalem that Sunday knowing this was the road leading to His sacrifice.

April 13, 2025 Matthew 22

Some of the things Jesus taught during these few days before the cross were in the midst of intentional attempts to trick Him into saying something wrong. Yet, Jesus takes on these questions by teaching profound truths. One such example is found in vs 34-40. When questioned about the great commandment in the law, I love how Jesus gives us the greatest summary of how we are to live as Christians. We are to be continually striving to love God more and more. We are then able to love people more and more.

April 14, 2025 Matthew 23

Incredible! Look back at vs 2-3, can you see why Jesus pronounces such "woes" against the religious leaders? Look once more at vs 37, and see the nurturing desire of God for us to be His children who are in relationship with Him. A relationship with Jesus that impacts how we live is far more important than a head full of knowledge that is not being applied to our daily living.

April 15, 2025 Matthew 24

One of the things Jesus taught about in the last days of His life was about the second coming or the end times. These next two days will cover these teachings of Jesus. Today and tomorrow, I hope to give you two simple words of encouragement. When the Lord returns, let Him find you busy in His field working (vs 46).

April 16, 2025 Matthew 25

"Well done, good and faithful servant." Those are the words I long to hear, how about you? One thing is clear in chapters 24 and 25. There are only two groups of people, those who are blessed and those who are cursed. What separates these two...might I say, "who" separates these two? Jesus. Jesus knows who are His and who are not. So turn to Jesus today and when that day comes you will hear, "Come, you who are blessed" (vs 34).

April 17, 2025 Matthew 26

Most of what occurs in chapter 26 is happening on Thursday. I challenge you to dwell all throughout the day on these moments in Jesus' life. Think about this last meal with the disciples and what He taught there. Think about the time in the garden praying and desiring that His friends would stay alert in prayer for Him. Think about the betrayal by Judas, Jesus' arrest, and the beginning of a period of incredible trauma and humiliation in this mockery of trials He endured before ever being nailed to the cross.

April 18, 2025 Matthew 27 Lord's Supper 6:30pm

Today is Good Friday. As we look at Matthew 27, we are tempted to say, "Why would we call this Good Friday?" I trust you will be able to join us at 6:30pm for the Lord's Supper. What is good for us was not good for Jesus. Tonight we will take the Lord's Supper being reminded that Jesus' body was broken, His blood was shed, and He died to pay the penalty for our sins.

April 19, 2025 John 14

Jesus says, "Let not your hearts be troubled." If we did not know the rest of the story, then today would represent a really sad day. On Saturday, Jesus' dead body was resting in a borrowed tomb. But our hearts are not troubled as we know Jesus rose from the grave. We also know that Jesus is presently preparing a place in heaven for all of us who follow Christ. We also do not have to be troubled because we who know Christ have received the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

April 20, 2025 Matthew 28

The beginning and the ending of this chapter is awesome as we put them together and celebrate this day. The beginning of the chapter tells of the good news of new life found in the resurrected life of Jesus. The end of the chapter tells us that we have the privilege to go out into all the world and tell others about this good news of resurrected life. Let's honor Jesus by telling others about Him!