

November 24, 2015

Exodus Chptr 12

The final plague announced

11:4 So Moses said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, 5 and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. 6 There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again. 7 But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.’ 8 And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Get out, you and all the people who follow you.’ And after that I will go out.” And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger.

Chptr 12- The High point in Exodus. Chptr 12 contains the institution of the Passover. It is probably the oldest continually celebrated religious holiday in the world. It was instituted as a memorial to Israel’s deliverance from Egypt. Chptrs 1-10 concerned the “deliverer” (Moses). Chptr 12-14 concerns the “deliverance”. The deliverance however, was not brought about by Moses. Even he couldn’t deliver that by his self. Before we even begin, let us read theses words from Paul the Apostle, **For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us (1 Cor 5:7)** In the Passover we have a picture of Christ. The Passover lamb, that is to die, is Christ. It is His blood that brings redemption. And it was His blood that brought about the deliverance of the Jews.

1 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2 “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.

It’s not only the new beginning of the calendar yr for the Jews. It is their new beginning, period !!. It’s the nation Israel’s 4th of July actually. Everything begins here. They came into Egypt as a family and are leaving as a nation. However one of the unique things about the Passover is that it is a family celebration. Yes, they are leaving as a nation but it is the family that is emphasized. A nation is only as strong as the families w/in it. The building blocks (or bricks) of a nation are its families. And this redemption/deliverance is wrought by God, one family at a time.

3 Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the 10th day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household. 4 And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb.

Each family is to have a lamb. If a family is too small, for example, just a husband & wife, they would dine w/ another neighbor's family. The lamb won't be too small. There's no mention of the "Lamb" being insufficient for a family. The "Lamb" is sufficient for any family.

2 Cor 3:5 Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God...

You see this chptr has a very evangelistic message. God is interested in every member of the family. Each member must receive a portion of the lamb. It is a personal, private matter but it begins in the family. God is establishing his M.O. (as Dr. McGee says). This is the manner in which He is going to save individuals. No, no one will be saved because they're in a family. But each family member who partakes of the lamb, will be saved. Each person has the chance to partake of the lamb. Those houses will be marked by blood on the doorframe. And that blood, is from the lamb.

Ainsworth (1617 commentary on Exodus) reminds us that on this day the Israelites crossed over Jordan into the land of Canaan; **Jos 4:19**. And Christ, our Paschal Lamb, on this day entered Jerusalem, riding on an ass; the people bearing palm branches, and crying, "Hosanna".

5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, 6 and you shall keep it until the 14th day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

There must've been thousands of lambs killed just before sunset, that 14th day of Abib. Abib = an ear of corn. Afterwards it was called Nissan, which seems to have been the Chaldean name for it. Abib was the 7th month, but now it is the first. While the Israelites were in Egypt they observed the same beginning & course of months as the Egyptians. September (Thot) was the first Egyptian month.

Trivia- Jewish NY (Rosh Hashanah) continues to be in Tishrei (Sept 13 in 2015). Although God commanded the Passover to mark the beginning of their yr, the Jews clung to the Egyptian calendar. They say that their "religious" year begins in Nisan on Passover, but their civil calendar yr still begins in Tishrei. Passover (FUB) is April 3-11 in 2015. Easter Sunday this yr is Apr 5.

7 "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the 2 doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8 They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. 10 And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 11 In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.

The instructions continue to point to the coming of Christ. The lamb (sheep or goat) was to be roasted over a fire. Fire speaks of judgment. The judgment of the Lord came upon Egypt. This night's judgment required a sacrifice. When a person comes to Christ, he/she comes as a sinner. We are judged sinners and admit that we need deliverance from that; redemption from a life of sin. It requires a sacrifice as well. The lamb was not to be eaten raw (or w/out fire) and not be to be watered down. It's all lamb & only lamb that delivers. It's only Christ. Nothing else. We must trust in the "Lamb" alone. The entire lamb was to be roasted and any that was not eaten was to be burned up. None forgotten. Total judgment.

And the Jews were to eat the lamb fully dressed. Shoes were traditionally removed upon entering a home. Not tonight. No PJs' either. They needed to be ready to come "up out of Egypt". As you remember Egypt is a picture of sin in the Bible. That's why people were always "going down to Egypt"

and “coming up out of Egypt”. When each family member ate the lamb they were to be ready to leave Egypt immediately. We too when we partake of the lamb need to be ready to move out of Egypt. Leave the sinful life, leave Egypt.

Hold on to leaven for just a moment. The Jews think the “bitter herbs” meant some veggie like chicory, endive, or horehound (mint plant easing coughs). Whether bitter herbs or bitter ingredients in general, it was designed to put them in mind of their bitter and severe bondage in the land of Egypt, from which God was now about to deliver them.

12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. 13 The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

The first 9 plagues were attacks on individual Egyptian gods. Egyptian first borns belonged to the gods. This is the first plague that will take the lives of men & women. Beasts too, but the first born in every house if Egypt. Even Pharaoh’s house.

Numbers 33:4 For the Egyptians buried all their first-born, which the Lord had smitten among them: upon their gods also the Lord executed judgments.

Isaiah 19:1 : Behold, the Lord - shall come into Egypt, and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence.

Jeremiah 43:13 The houses of the gods of the Egyptians shall he burn with fire.

The rabbis say that "when Israel came out of Egypt, the holy blessed God threw down all the images of their abominations, and they were broken to pieces." When a nation was conquered, it was always supposed that their gods had either abandoned them or were overcome. Thus Egypt was ruined, and their gods & their Pharaoh, confounded and destroyed by Jehovah.

Verse 7 was the first one to tell them about the blood. It said **7 ...take some of the blood and put it on the 2 doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.** Vs 13 repeats that the blood shall be a “sign” for the Jews. “Sign” = miracle, remember ? It will be a miracle. How ? When God sees the blood of the lamb on the doorframe of any family’s home, He will withhold the plague from that family’s home. No first born shall die in any home, where the lamb was eaten, and His blood displayed.

It is noteworthy that no blood was to be sprinkled on the threshold of the door. This was to teach, as Mr. Ainsworth notes, a “reverent regard for the blood of Christ, that men should not tread under foot the Son of God, nor treat the blood of the covenant by which they were sanctified, as an unholy thing”. It may not seem normal to talk about blood so much, but the blood of Christ is holy.

Heb 10:29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace

14 “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. 15 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if

anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

Vs. 14, statute = an ordinance . A Divine appointment, an institution of God himself, neither to be altered nor set aside by any human authority. Therefore it is a statute/ordinance that can have no end, either in this world or in the world to come. You know that the whole Jewish sacrificial system has ceased. No sacrifices are offered by them in any part of the world today, yet in all their generations and in all countries, they keep up the remembrance of the Passover, and observe the feast of Unleavened Bread. But no lamb is sacrificed. Today the flesh that is used for Passover is partly roasted and partly boiled, so that it may not even resemble the ancient Passover sacrifice. This is because it is unlawful to sacrifice outside of Jerusalem. The truth is, the true **Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world** has been offered, and there's nothing they can do to repeat that sacrifice.

Now leaven. Just like "Egypt", leaven is a picture of sin in the Bible. That's why it shall be removed from every house. Leaven is mentioned 8x in this morning's lesson. It represents evil & it is offensive. Fluffy bread (bread that rises) also speaks of the luxury and opulence of sin. In **Matt 16:6** Jesus reminded us to beware of the **leaven of the Pharisees**. The real Word of God had been poisoned by doctrine that the religious leaders put into it. They added their own ingredients and that was sinful. Unleavened bread is not pleasant and there are a great many who do not find the Word of God pleasant either. It speaks out against sin and sinful practices that are all too commonplace in the world today. Example- if you are a "same-sex partner", you will not enjoy the taste of the unpolluted Word of God.

1 Cor 5:6-8 Purge out therefore the old leaven - for Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth;

Jewish friends might tell you that the unleavened bread reminds them of the haste in which they left Egypt and the journey in which they had to eat bread that couldn't rise because they weren't able to camp long enough to bake bread normally. Well, that's true for the Jews, but we as NT Christians, also see the picture of the Coming of Christ in every detail of the Passover. The Jew can not see it –yet.

Vs. 15- "That soul shall be cut off" – 36x this cutting off is threatened against the Jews for neglect of some particular duty; and what was implied at that ancient time, is not perfectly understood. Some think it meant a violent death, some -a premature death, and some- an eternal death. It is very likely that it meant a separation from the rights and privileges of an Israelite. The person was considered as a mere stranger, who had no part in Israel, nor any right to the blessings of the covenant. This punishment appears to have been nearly the same as excommunication among Christians; and probably borrowed from the Jews.

Trivia- four things that were required in the first Passover that were never required of the succeeding generations.

1. Eating of the lamb in their houses.
2. The taking the lamb on the tenth day.
3. Striking of its blood on the door posts and lintels of their houses.
4. Eating it in haste.

16 On the 1st day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the 7th day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. 17 And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever. 18 In the first month, from the 14th day of the month at evening, you shall eat

unleavened bread until the 21st day of the month at evening. 19 For 7 days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. 20 You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread.”

God gives the Jews instructions for the Passover Feast & for what would later become known as “the Feast of Unleavened Bread”. And it continued just that way, right up to & including the time that Christ, our Passover lamb, was slain. After eating the lamb, another 7 days was to pass in which the remembrance of that meal (and their exodus from Egypt) was to be memorialized. Part of the Passover Feast will forever be, the inclusion of 7 days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. One could not happen w/out the other. The penalty of eating regular bread, was to be cut off from the community of Israel.

The “holy assembly” = convocation. We get our word *holiday* from “holy day”. Required of every Jew. And pls notice how much food could be prepared on those days. Only enough for that day & no more. Reminds me of the Lord’s Prayer. **Give us this day our daily bread.** The Jews would find out this same restriction would be placed on them in the wilderness during their travels. They would have to learn to depend upon God for their “daily bread”, each & every day. I think that’s why Christ included that phrase in the prayer He taught His disciples.

More instructions of placing the blood follows.

22 Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. 23 For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the 2 doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

No paint brushes were to be used, but stalks of a reed that grew in abundance along the marshy shores of the Nile. Faith in Christ isn’t a complicated thing. It doesn’t have to be dressed up and presented in any special manner. The Jews painted the blood of the lamb on the doorframes, just simply and effectively. They used what was at hand, and the blood did the miracle.

Vs. 12-13 say “I” these vs says “he”. The first ones are God talking to Moses and these are Moses talking to the people. It’s God that will “Passover” the house. It’s God that will see the blood. It’s God that will be executing His judgment. I say this just to clear up any confusion about “the death angel”, the “destroyer” or any other term used. We understand what is happening, right? No one is taking a census of the neighborhoods. There’s no guy in black shroud w/ a tall sickle. This is serious business.

Please note that no one is to leave the house. No one is to come out and say “we’re all Israelites in here”. Blood marks the house and God will see it and pass over ONLY because of the blood of the lamb. He won’t pass over because they are honest. Or doing their best, or moral. God won’t hold back our judgment, because “we are a member of this or that church”. Or because “we gave 11% every month when others only gave 10”. “I went to seminary. I taught Sunday school”... none of that matters. It’s too late for all that when God executes judgment. The only thing that matters is “have you have an experience w/ the lamb? Is the lamb’s blood is on your doorframe.” Is it visible, can it be seen?

24 You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. 25 And when you come to the land that the Lord will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. 26 And when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ (vs 27 continues)

27 you shall say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.’” And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

There are a great many interesting parts and speeches made during a modern Passover. Each person in the family has some part to play or questions to ask. We won't have time to cover them this morning. But I say this is to remind us that this was (as Sly & the Family Stone put it) “a family affair”.

In 1899 Lewis E. Jones wrote a gospel song about this very night. It's called There Is Power in the Blood. I bet some of us “recovering Baptists” remember the words.

Would you be free from the burden of sin ?

There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;

Would you o'er evil a victory win ?

There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

◦ *Refrain:*

There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r

In the blood of the Lamb;

◦ There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r

In the precious blood of the Lamb.

Redemption from the sin of Egypt and from the sin in our lives is by the shed blood on the cross by Christ. It's all about the blood. Jesus' blood wrought the miracle this night in ancient Egypt. And it works the miracle in our lives today. Exodus chptr 12 might just be the right time for an old fashioned Gospel tent revival. Remember this one ?

*Are ye' washed, in the Blood ?

In the soul cleansing blood of the lamb.

Are your garments spotless, are ye white as snow?

Are ye washed in the blood of the lamb ?

* E. A. Hoffman, Presyb minister, author of >2000 hymns including Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.

The sprinkling of the blood of the paschal lamb was an emblem of the sacrifice and atonement made by the death of Jesus Christ, and it is most clearly spoken of in these vs.

1 Peter 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood

Hebrews 9:11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was instituted to keep this true paschal sacrifice in commemoration, and this has been religiously observed by the whole Christian world from the foundation of Christianity to the present day! The Jews were commanded to eat the paschal lamb; and our Lord, commemorating the passover, commanded his disciples, saying, **Take, eat, This is my body,**

which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. Instructions to Christians in the communion service of the Church of England, goes like this, "Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for Thee; and Feed upon Him, in thy heart, by Faith with Thanksgiving.

Next week the Exodus. Pls re-read chptr 12 & chptr 13.
