

Questions about last week's lesson ? Review questions

1. What did you learn about blood ?
2. Which houses did the Lord "Passover" ?
3. Why is Jesus called a "lamb" so many places ?

29 At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. 30 And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. 31 Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as you have said. 32 Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!" 33 The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead."

Did any of you see that great ole' C.B. DeMille movie, The Ten Commandments ? Well, if you haven't, you should. And if you did, you must remember the sound of that cry that went out in Egypt that fearful night. Poor ole' Pharaoh has finally relented when death touched his own house. I don't know how old his first son was, but it was terrible. At any time during the past 9 plagues, he could have let the Jews go, but he would not. And now death has come to the whole country. What a horrible night. (First born = eldest son, first born boy)

It appears that some time that same night, after the Lord passed over, and forbid the plague to enter any house marked by the blood of the lamb, Moses and Aaron were summoned to appear before Pharaoh. My guess is that they had a royal escort, to make sure they came. Pharaoh tells them to get out of his country, "lock, stock & barrel."

Trivia- In the early days of firearms manufacturing, individual craftsman specialized in making component, one at a time. One craftsman made the "lock" (match lock, flint lock- the part that caused the gun to go "bang"). Another craftsman made the "barrel", and a woodworker made the "stock". At some point, a merchant started advertising "Lock, Stock and Barrel" meaning that you could get your entire gun at one location. No shopping around, fitting or finishing required.

Let me set the stage for us. In less than 1 lifetime Israel will have a miraculous deliverance from their slavery. They will receive a divine revelation making them God's chosen (covenant) people, and receive a code of laws to prepare them to occupy the land of the patriarchs. Israel's deliverance (their **exodus**) is the most significant miracle in their history. Remember the old Tonight Show w/ Johnny Carson? He used to have that funny lead in to some jokes...how bad was it ? It was so bad that ...How long was it ? It was so long that...Well, here it is for Israel. How important was it ? Consider these facts.... Their deliverance was so important that the entire texts of Exodus, Lev, Numbers and Deut are confined to < 50 yrs. 80% of the Pentateuch is devoted to this short period of time. More than 1/6 of the entire OT is devoted to this brief time in Israel's history. That's how important it is.

Vs. 34-36 "spoiling the Egyptians". We discussed this 2 wks ago. God told them it would happen that

way & it did. The Jews didn't leave Egypt w/out back pay and then some. They didn't leave as beggars but had riches & clothes for the whole family.

37 And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about 600,000 men on foot, besides women and children. 38 A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds.

You can see where the estimates of the size of the population of Israel came from. We are told there were 600 thousand men alone. Men = a male who had the ability to fight. IOW over ~13 yoa. What was there total number you think ? (est. range up to 2 million) In addition to Israelites were a "mixed multitude". Who were they ?

NAB (rev) calls them people of *mixed ancestry*. It's not politically correct to use the word half-breed, but that's what they were. Men, women & children who were half Israelite and half something else. You see the Jews had married non-Jews while they lived in Egypt. The OT prohibitions on inter-marriage were not codified yet. That comes later in Numbers and when it comes it appears that the prohibitions are really against marriage to non-believers. Those called *pagan &/ foreigners* were those not of the Jewish faith. They didn't believe in the one God, Jehovah, or if one spouse did, the other did not and they family didn't obey Jewish religious law & ritual. . The non-Jewish spouses of Jews through out their existence has been the cause of great pain for the nation Israel. Even today in Israel, what makes a person an Israelite, is the subject of great debate.

These mixed multitudes will later (Num 11) be the source of many problems and troubles in the Jewish camp. When the murmuring begins, it begins first among the mixed-multitude. You see many of them were not sure if they should leave with the Jews this night. Some probably wanted to stay. Some had not fully made up their minds and later wanted to go "home". These "mixed race" people were not true believers. I know of a pastor who will tell you that often the source of trouble in a NT church comes from those who have all the characteristics of unsaved/non-believers. They may be "members" but not believers.

Vs 37 gives us our first place names in the travels of the Jews. Rameses & Succoth. Next week I'll give you a handout on the route of the Exodus and many place names will be on it. But in advance of that let me say that hardly any 2 commentaries or scholars agree on any place name. If you find & read that one named place has definitely been identified, you'll find another later on that says different. Having said that, one of the most scholarly, modern looks at the exodus route says this travel from Rameses to Succoth took 6 days. Succoth = booths & may have come from the temporary shelters made of marsh reeds along the Nile River.

40 The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years. 41 At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. 42 It was a night of watching by the Lord, to bring them out of the land of Egypt; so this same night is a night of watching kept to the Lord by all the people of Israel throughout their generations.

KJV "it was a night to be much observed". They are never to forget this night until the king comes and the millennium begins. Then they'll forget it. Vs. 40 - Several ancient scripture texts

including the Septuagint, add “and in Canaan”, after the word “Egypt”. Most of the scholars I read agree that the Jews couldn’t have been in Egypt > 215 yrs. And the Jews say that this 430 yrs was counted from the 1st vision of Abram until the exodus. About 75% of the sources I read say this 430 yrs is measured from Abram’s first vision and direction from God, to leave his home.

Vision – Isaac	= 30 yrs
Resided in Haran	= 5 yrs.
Isaac – Jacob	= 60 yrs
<u>Jacob - Egypt</u>	<u>= 130 yrs.</u>
225 leaving approx. 205 yrs in Egypt	

43 And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “This is the statute of the Passover: no foreigner shall eat of it, 44 but every slave that is bought for money may eat of it after you have circumcised him. 45 No foreigner or hired worker may eat of it. 46 It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the flesh outside the house, and you shall not break any of its bones. 47 All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. 48 If a stranger shall sojourn with you and would keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised. Then he may come near and keep it; he shall be as a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it. 49 There shall be one law for the native and for the stranger who sojourns among you.” 50 All the people of Israel did just as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron. 51 And on that very day the Lord brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their hosts.

You can see here that the important requirement is that persons who observe the Passover must be circumcised. This is the acceptable act of a foreigner who wants to become a true Israelite. He and his sons must be circumcised. God wants believers to remember & to celebrate the Passover. Why? It points to Jesus.

Chptr 13 -

Exo 13:1 The Lord said to Moses, 2 “Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

Up until this time there was no religious significance to being the firstborn son, only civil. Being the first meant the birthright & the blessing. We spent so much time on these 2 items in Genesis, didn’t we? But there was no dedication to God of the firstborn. In remembrance of the death of Egypt’s firstborn and the preservation of the firstborn of Israel, from here on forever, all the firstborn of Israel, both of man and beast, are now set aside & dedicated to Yahweh.

Later the ritual for consecrating or dedicating the firstborn became more regulated. At the time of Jesus, the first born son was presented to the Lord when he was 1 month old. Since he belonged to the Lord, it was necessary for the father to redeem (buy back) the child from the priest at a redemption price not to exceed 5 shekels.

The firstborn of a clean animal was brought into the sanctuary on the 8th day after birth. If it were without blemish, it was sacrificed. If it had a blemish, the priest to whom it was given could eat it as common food outside Jerusalem, or it could be eaten at home by its owner. The firstborn of clean animals were not to be used for any work since they belonged to the Lord.

Why is this business of the 1stborn important to us. Figuratively, Israel was God's "firstborn" and enjoyed priority status. God compared His relationship to Israel with the relationship of a father and his firstborn son.

Christ is the "firstborn" of the Father (**Heb. 1:6**). He is also described as "firstborn of all creation" (**Col. 1:15**). Paul (**Col. 1:18**) and John (**Rev. 1:5**) refer to Christ as "firstborn from the dead" the first to rise bodily from the grave and not die again. **Heb 12:23** refers to the "church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven." Christian believers, united with and as joint heirs with Christ, enjoy the status of "firstborn" in God's household. The 1stborn was considered the "best", and God wants the best; our best; our first. He doesn't want the last, or the remainder or the 2nd best of us and from us. All this points to Jesus, doesn't it ?

13:5 And when the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you shall keep this service in this month.

When do they begin to observe Passover/Feast of the Unleavened Bread ? When they finally cross over Jordan into their "Promised Land". There is one more Passover celebrated one yr after their exodus, and not again for 39 yrs.

Vs 13:6-7 We talked last wk. about leaven and sin. This 1 day of Passover and 7 days of Unleavened bread is the "double Sabbath" that occurred when Jesus died. There could even be 3 Sabbaths back to back; the wkly, Passover, and UB.

13:9 And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the Lord has brought you out of Egypt. 10 You shall therefore keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year.

Later on when "The Law" was given and they began to write down their laws, this was the way it was recorded in Deut 6. Listen to it.

Deut 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

God tells them now to remember this miracle. Keep it in your heart as if it was written on your hand or between your eyes. He wants them to "keep it in mind" or "in view", so that when they arrive in Canaan and celebrate the Passover they will remember the reason for it and remember what God did for them. Vs 9 even gives them another example. Remember it as if it were written on your door frames. (Just as the blood was sprinkled). Sometime after their return

from another captivity in Babylon, the Jews began to take these words literally.

These miniature scriptures that they later tied to their hands & heads were called *frontlets* or *phylacteries*. Jewish men wore them during prayer times, except on the Sabbath and feast days. Phylacteries were bound with thongs to the forehead, though some were worn on the upper arm so that when a person crossed his arms the Scriptures contained in the phylactery would be close to the heart. Jesus condemned individuals who called attention to themselves by wearing larger than usual phylacteries (**Matt. 23:5**).

Described by Leo of Modena: the Jews take 4 pieces of parchment, and write with a special ink in square letters, these 4 passages. (1.) "Sanctify unto me all the first born," etc., **Exodus 13:2-10**. (2.) "And when the Lord shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites," etc., **Exodus 13:11-16**. (3.) "Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord," etc., **Deut 6:4-9**. (4.) "If you shall hearken diligently unto my commandments," etc., **Deut 6:13-21**.

13:14 And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. 15 For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’ 16 It shall be as a mark on your hand or frontlets between your eyes, for by a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt.”

They were to remember that God redeemed them. The Lord did it when they could not. The Jewish father redeemed his firstborn, because God redeemed the Israelite first borns during this first Passover. This was another way to make him remember. Christ redeemed us also. Now is a good time to re-read

1 Pet 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Peter tells Jews who are new Christians that they weren't simply redeemed by 5 shekels of silver. They were actually redeemed by the "precious blood of the lamb". (Hard to get away from the blood, isn't it ?) All this points to Jesus.

Exo 13:17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, “Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt.”

The shortest way to Canaan was over a road that followed the sea coast. You can see it in your own Bible's maps. It was fortified, and patrolled and would surely have led them to a battle which they were not ready for. God did not want them to lose heart and give up if they were forced into war, so soon after leaving slavery.

Let's play a game ? Who can invent an adage or wise saying about vs. 17 ? Pretend you're

Confucius or one of those “wise men of ancient times” and make up your own saying from vs 17.

That’s the way I read the Bible a lot of the time. I read the verses and my mind translates them into something simple and easy for me to grab onto. Try it some time. I have shared w/ you before what I read once a long time ago about the scriptures. “Each time you hear or read the scriptures, some decision should be made”. So, in this case, we read vs 17 and decide what the Bible is saying to me here today. My wise saying - “I may have to go the long way around (this problem, this crisis). But if it’s God’s way, it’s the best way.”

Exo 13:18 But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle.

Translation lesson. Let’s look at the last words in vs 18. Mine says “equipped” for battle. NIV says “ready” for battle. Bad translations. Both real bad. The word is *harnessed*. Just as good ole’ KJV uses. (You know sometimes the oldest is the best, even if it’s a little old timey sounding.) It means *staunch*. Its a word that is used in other places to describe “able bodied soldiers or armed (men)”. But here, they were not soldiers or maybe even able bodied. They had zero weapons of war & were until recently, a nation of slaves. We just read in vs 17 that God is sparing them from battle right now. So as you read these I know you said , “how can they be ready for war in one vs and detouring around trouble in the other.”

Since they did not have an army it seems to mean “like soldiers” or as some have it – “marching in formation”. Some translators, like YLT says it means walk in “fives or fifties”. We’ll read later in Numbers that God told them to walk in 5’s. A few commentaries said it meant therefore, to walk in file, 5 abreast. But Dr. Clarke computes that just the 600,000 men would need 68 miles to walk 5 abreast.

Strong’s offers a possible explanation, if it means in “fives”. In ancient times, large armies often marched in a diamond shape formation. The center group, a front & rear guard, and 2 wings-1 on either side. 1, 2, 3, 4 5 –sided or in fives. Maybe this is what God meant. The best understanding may be simply be, “well-ordered or disciplined”, not as a mob.