

REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE Sunday, November 10, 2013

Unifying Topic: BEGINNING OF PASSOVER

Lesson Text

I. Preparing For Passover (Exodus 12:1-11)

II. Experiencing Passover (Exodus 12:12-14)

The Main Thought: And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. (Exodus 12:14, KJV).

Unifying Principle: People who are living under oppression, hunger for freedom. What is the meaning of freedom? The freedom God promises to the Hebrew people will create a new beginning in their relationship with God—a beginning they will commemorate for generations to come.

Lesson Aim: To teach us to understand the significance of Passover to the Jewish nation. The lesson aim is to also help us understand why the Lord commanded the Israelites to celebrate this day every year moving forward.

Life aim: To teach us the connection between the events of Passover and the substitutionary death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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- 12:1 And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying,
12:2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.
12:3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:
12:4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.
12:5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:
12:6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.
12:7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.
12:8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.
12:9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.
12:10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.
12:11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's passover.
12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.
12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.
12:14 And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

HISTORY:

Chapter 11:1-10 — This chapter introduces plague number 10 for Egypt that would overwhelm Pharaoh and cause him to surrender to Moses, the man sent by God to free the Israelites. The Lord speaks and tells Moses that He will bring one last plague upon Egypt and Pharaoh will force them out. They are to ask their neighbors for silver and gold objects. At this point the Egyptians showed great favor toward the Israelites. Pharaoh's servants and his people respected Moses and thought him to be very great in the land of Egypt! (vv.1-3).

Moses speaks to Pharaoh once more and proceeds to tell him *"Thus saith the Lord, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: And all the first-born in the land of Egypt will die, from the first-born of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the first-born of the maidservant that is behind the mill: and all the first-born of beasts"* (11:4-5). This was Moses' last plea to Pharaoh to hear the Word of the Lord. Pharaoh's heart was so hard, but in the end he would hear the cries of his people throughout the land of Egypt at midnight when their first-born would die. However, God says that it would be quiet for the children of Israel; not even the tongue of a dog would bark at that time (vv.4-7).

God wants Pharaoh to know that He makes a difference, a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites! Moses explains that Pharaoh's servants will be running and bowing, and begging for all the Israelites to get out! Moses left from the sight of Pharaoh very angry, but God had caused Pharaoh's heart to be hard. God didn't force Pharaoh to reject

Him rather He gave Him every opportunity to change his mind but his pride got in the way. Moses and Aaron had done all these wonderful signs but Pharaoh refused to listen or give in (vv.8-10).

LESSON:

Exodus 12:1-11 Preparing For Passover

12:1 And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying,— This might had been a devastating blow to both Moses and Aaron after seeing the hardness of Pharaoh's heart, but the Lord begins to speak to them in the land of Egypt to allow them to know what is about to happen and what is to be instituted.

12:2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. The events of the plagues and the exodus (mass departure), in this month are going to be so significant in the lives of the Israelites. It will set as a precedence identifying them as an emerging nation commemorating the beginning of the Jewish year. The month they come out of Egypt will become for them the first month of the year or the new beginning in the lives of the Jews.

12:3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:— God told Moses to speak this to all the congregation of Israel: on the 10th day of this month every man was to take a lamb for his family; one lamb for a house. For the Israelites this would begin on the tenth day of the month to take the lamb, but it would be kept till the fourteenth day to observe it (v.6). This is preparation for the Passover and the beginning of a new life!

12:4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Each leader of a family was to count how many people lived in his home. He had to decide how much each person would eat. ¹If there were just 3 or 4 people in a household, they would not be able to consume a whole lamb by themselves. Then 2 families would need to go together and pick a lamb that these 2 families could eat at one meal. Ordinarily, 10 people could eat a small lamb.

12:5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:— Three things stand out as Moses is to instruct Israel: (1) This lamb was to have no defects; no blemishes; (2) It had to be a male of the first year; (3) It's taken out of the sheep or goat. Everything was significant in the instructions given!

12:6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. The lamb or goat was to be kept penned until the 14th day of the same month. Therefore, if it was not perfect, they had time to go and exchange it. After the 14th day, it would be killed in the evening. The entire congregation of Israel would do this at dusk. Why did they have to sacrifice a lamb? The significance of the sacrifice was that innocent blood was shed for the Israelites to be spared from the plague of death. The plague will result in death for the first-born in the land in Egypt. However, the lamb will be the only sacrifice for the Israelites which will save them.

(1) In Genesis the lamb was slain for the individual (Gen.4:4).

(2) In Exodus the lamb was slain for the family (house) (Exo.12:3-4).

(3) In Leviticus the lamb was slain for the nation (Lev.16).

(4) In the New Testament the Lamb of God was slain for the sin of the world (Jh.1:29).

12:7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. As they would kill the lamb, they were to take its blood and apply it to the doorpost— *"...strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses."* The animal's blood represents that it has given its life (Leviticus 17:11). Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins (Heb.9:22).

¹ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/Exodus/21.html>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

Likewise, the Israelites could not be saved from the death angel simply by them killing the lamb; the blood had to be shed and properly applied! This is being covered with the blood of the Lamb. Sin cannot penetrate through the blood. This is God's entrance; and sin is not allowed! Praise God! This also meant that they had followed the Lord's instructions and were consecrated unto Him. As the shed blood gave them protection from the death angel, within the house they were to eat of the lamb which gave them strength.

12:8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. The meat of the lamb was prepared to eat: roasted over a fire, served with unleavened bread (made without yeast; being thin and flat), and bitter herbs.

- ²Roasted with fire was symbolic of the suffering of the Lord and the wrath of God as fire. This was a type of victory over their battles.
- Unleavened bread was to be eaten because leaven is symbolic of sin. It was to remind them to not allow sin to enter their lives. They also didn't have time for the yeast to rise in the bread.
- The bitter herbs were to remind them of the bitterness of their hard stay in Egypt as slaves; that everything wasn't pleasant and nice. The meat tasted better because of the bitter herbs.

12:9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. It had to be cooked quickly; not eaten raw, and not to be boiled in water, but the entirety (whole) of it was to be roasted over the fire including the head, its legs, and inner parts. ³So much of this symbolizes the necessity of the body of Christ being kept intact with no broken bones.

12:10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. The Israelites were not to save any portion of the meal for the morning. Any portion that was left and not eaten was to be consumed by fire. None of the sacrificial body of the lamb or any portion of the meal was to be left. This was abolishing any of the sacred meal the Israelites had made holy unto God and the Egyptians could not take any and use it for themselves. Nothing was to be left as a remembrance of their lives there. Those who partook in this sacrifice would share in the New Covenant; however, the Egyptians could not. The Passover meal commemorated God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt. This was the beginning of their preparation for their dependence upon God.

12:11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's passover. God was saying, "Get Ready to Come Out! He will give strength to march with their loins girded (with their belt around their waist) dressed for the journey. Because they were to eat of the lamb, which symbolized the Lamb of God, they were to Get Ready to Cut Away from their past! The lamb would give them strength. Get Ready; Fill up, eat all night long; Put some shoes on your feet; Put that staff in your hand, *"I'm going to lead you out of the land of Egypt through the power of the lamb that is within you!"* How awesome is this? This is the Lord's Passover! Everything will be done quickly and with haste. But they're coming out!

Exodus 12:12-14 Experiencing Passover

12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. They would be eating the meal at the time when the LORD 'passes through' Egypt. In the night time He is about to go through the whole land of Egypt as a destroyer, executing judgment upon the firstborn in the land of both human and beast; and against all the (false) gods of Egypt. He is the Lord meaning He is the only God to be revered!

² <http://amazinggrace44.tripod.com/sermonlibrary/id46.html>

³ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/Exodus/21.html>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. The blood placed upon the doorposts of the houses will be a sign unto the Lord's people— not to destroy the Israelites when He passes over. The blood would be their protection; the blood would be their Savior; the blood would be the way out and way through. When God sees the blood, He sees their obedience; He sees their need; and He sees their past, present, and future! However, those (the Egyptians) not covered with the blood, of their firstborn, He will destroy. He sees their disobedience, their destruction, and their demise!

12:14 And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. What has happened to make this day a memorial? What was the reason for it to be celebrated in haste and what the shed blood signified? Well, it was the detailed instructions the Lord had given to Moses and Aaron concerning the Passover for the people: what animal to select, when to slay it, what to do with its blood, how to cook it, what to do with the leftovers, how to dress for the meal. Then it showed the separation of the Jews and the Egyptians! The Israelites coming out of the land of Egypt was to be kept as a feast unto the Lord throughout their generations because He passed over them, saving them at a time when death swept the land killing all of the Egyptian's firstborn (man and beast). This Passover Feast was not initiated for just this one occasion, but was to be remembered forever and celebrated as long as there were Israelites keeping it as an ordinance (law) forever. The lamb should be eaten in haste with their loins girded, their shoes on their feet and staff in their hand, ready!

SUMMARY:

⁴God commanded Moses to instruct every man in the Israelite community to take a lamb for his family on the tenth day of the first month. If it is a small household, they can share the lamb with the nearest neighbor. The Passover lamb must be 1 year old and without defect. The Passover lamb can be a sheep or goat. The lamb must be taken care until the 14th day of the first month. They are to dip the hyssop branch into the blood of the Passover lamb and paint the blood on the tops and sides of the doorframes. The meat of the Passover lamb is to be roasted and not boiled or eaten raw. The roast meat of the Passover lamb should be eaten with unleavened bread made without yeast and bitter herbs. None of the meat of the Passover lamb should be left until morning. Anything that remained from the Passover lamb would be burned with fire (Vv.1-11).

The Lord says, when he sees the blood, He will pass over their houses of the Israelites. He will smite the firstborn throughout the land of Egypt. All the gods, He will execute judgment. The blood for the Israelites would be a sign or token that God will protect and save them this night as the death angel passes over. This would be a memorial, a feast to be continued to be celebrated and observed for generations to come; keeping it as a law (Vv.12-14).

APPLICATION:

At last the Israelites were coming out of the land of Egypt. Longer than expected! Have you ever been in a situation longer than expected? First, it will take much prayer and patience to wait on God; then it will take following His sound instructions. He will lead you out like He led the Israelites.

⁴ <http://biblestudyoutlines.org/bible-study-lessons/old-testament-bible-study/exodus-12-bible-study/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>