

Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 12:33 PM
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Session on Exodus 12:1-42

"Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from our forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ!" (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Last week, we learned about the third set of plagues God sent to Egypt after Pharaoh kept hardening his heart and refused to let the children of Israel be freed from bondage and allowed to go serve Him. Hail, locusts, and darkness! Romans 9:17 says that "it was this very purpose that God raised up Pharaoh...to demonstrate His power in him and that His (God's) name might be proclaimed through all the world"

In Exodus 1, the Lord told Moses that He would bring "one more plague" on Pharaoh and the land of Egypt, and that after this he (Pharaoh) would let the people go! And so, this brings us to last nite's lesson on Exodus 12--an event that would be forever remembered as the "Passover"--celebrating the "exodus" of the children of Israel from "bondage" in Egypt!

Exodus 12:1 says the LORD told Moses and Aaron that "this month" would be the "first month of the year" on the Jewish calendar--in effect, marking the start of Israel's life as a nation! And that on the 'tenth day of the month" each family was to take an "unblemished male lamb, a year old, and that "on the fourteenth day...the whole congregation of Israel" was to "kill them at twilight" and sprinkle "some of the blood on the two doorposts and lintel of the houses"--and, on that same night, eat the flesh of the lamb "in haste...with unleavened bread...and with their loins girded, their sandals on their feet, and their staff in their hands" (ready for their flight out of Egypt)!

It was "the Lord's Passover"! And, on that very night, Exodus 12:12-13 says, God would be going "through the land...striking down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast...The blood would be a sign for you (the children of Israel) and when I see the blood (God said) I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you...when I strike the land of Egypt"!

This day, the LORD continued, "would be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance"! They were also to "eat unleavened bread for seven days...and observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought you out of the land of Egypt"!

These were the instructions the LORD gave to Moses and Aaron, which Moses then related to the "all the elders of Israel"! And he added (in verse 25) that "when you enter the land which the LORD will give you, as He had promised, you shall observe this rite! And when your children ask about it (as children do!), you shall say, 'It is a Passover sacrifice to the LORD who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes'!"

Exodus 12:29 says, "Then the sons of Israel went and did...just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they!" (Yea!)

Then it all happened, verse 29 says! "At midnight, the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh" on down, including the "firstborn of cattle"! And, verse 30 says, "there was a great cry in Egypt...and Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron at night," and ordered them and all the sons of Israel to "rise up and get out from among my people...and go and worship the LORD"! And thus, the great "exodus" began that night--"in haste"!

And the children of Israel left "with articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing; and the Lord gave them favor in the sight of the Egyptians"! Just as God, more than 400 years before, had promised! In Genesis 15:13-14--amazingly--God had said to Abram: "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs (that would be Egypt!), where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. But I will judge the nation whom they serve (that would be Egypt!), and afterward they will come out with many possessions!" (Isn't God amazing!)

Well, Exodus 12:37-42 says, "Now the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, aside from children...(And) the time that the sons of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years...to the very day"!

And our lesson ends with the words (in verse 42): "It is a night to be observed for the LORD for having brought them out from the land of Egypt; this night is for the LORD!"

What's even more significant is how the Passover story pictures and foreshadows, and sets the tone for, the sacrificial death of Christ on the Cross! As John the Baptist would one day "see Jesus coming," and proclaim (in John 1:29): "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" And how significant was it that on that special day, 400 or so years later--on the night that He was betrayed--Jesus would gather His disciples in an "upper room" not only to celebrate the Passover but to give it new meaning, and to fulfill it by instituting "the Lord's Supper"!

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 says: "For I received from the Lord that which I delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread (unleavened bread!); and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' in the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes!'

Peter put it this way: "Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver and gold from your futile way of life inherited from our forefathers, but with the precious blood of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ!" (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Paul summed it up in 1 Corinthians 5:7 "For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed!"

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15)

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