

LORD'S PASSOVER - Part 3

Scripture Exodus. 12:14-20

Introduction: In this passage, God memorializes the mighty Act of Passover. He wanted the Israelites to remember this mighty act as a permanent ordinance. This Passover lamb slaughtering is nothing but the shadow of things to come. If the Israelites have to take so much effort to pay attention to detail for memorialization of this Passover act, how much more effort we must pay attention to the precious blood sacrifice of the heavenly Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, our Lord? Let us see how the Lord wants the Israelites to observe this Passover ritual.

Ex. 12:14,15. 14'Now this day will 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. 15'Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, but on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses; for whoever eats anything leavened from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

I am not trying to undermine this Passover ritual. It was a very big deal. Just imagine, over two million people were delivered from slavery, and were freed from slavery. So God said that this day is to become a Memorial Day!

But I want you to compare this Passover with our Lord's precious sacrifice. He did all for us to deliver us from sin, death, and hell. How much more we ought to memorialize His sacrificial death on the cross?

So should be the day of His resurrection.

So should be the day the church received the Holy Spirit.

So should be the day Jesus Christ was born.

If Passover ritual lasted for one week, our memorialization of Christ's birth, His teachings, His death and resurrection should be memorialized every day of our life, every moment of our life!

God in this passage wants the mighty deliverance of Israelites from the hands of Egyptians as a Memorial Day. If we compare this Passover with what our Lord did, how much more we must make the day precious when Jesus Christ saved us from sin, death, and eternal separation from God? How fervently the Jewish people observe their deliverance from actual slavery. Then how much more we ought to be celebrating our deliverance from the bondage of sin, death, and hell? How did we manage to reduce our Lord's death and resurrection for our justification as a mere Easter bunny, Easter egg hunt, and Macy's Easter sale?

The first law God gave to Abraham was about circumcision. Now God gives His first Law to Israelites: to observe the feast of the unleavened bread. They are to remove all the leavenness from their house. Then they ought to eat only the unleavened bread for seven days. All for what? For delivering them from the bondage of slavery? Why can't we do that for the mighty act of our Lord Jesus? How in the world we ended up with Easter bunny?

I am not promoting extreme 40 days of fasting nor vegan vegetarian diet. I am promoting a weekly breaking of bread in remembrance of Him. For the Jews, it was unleavenness for 7 days. Perhaps we should try eating food for 7 days with no salt, no oil, no sugar, no spice food for seven days. Or even better, Refrain from your tv, radio, not job related internet surfing, Facebook surfing, and other joys of our life from the world. Try it some week. You may see a spiritual renewal, and loss of 10 pounds!

David says this in *Psalm 131:1,2*

*10 LORD, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty;
Nor do I involve myself in great matters,
Or in things too difficult for me.
2 Surely I have composed and quieted my soul;
Like a weaned child rests against his mother,
My soul is like a weaned child within me.*

God mandated this unleavened bread for 7 days, if any one ate leavened bread, during this time, that person was to be cut off. Any time you hear that phrase, it means that the person who broke the law is to be put to death. It is not just evicting the person from the town, but cutting off that person from the world of living itself. In other words, it means give a death blow to that person. See how serious the punishment was for someone who did not follow the instruction.

Why do we mock the Lord's supper?

Why do we stroll in late and skip that as though it is a very boring ritual for you.

Why do we sit out when we have Lord's supper?

Why do we skip church as though observing the Lord's supper with saints is a trivial matter?
Examine yourself!

Ex. 12:16,17.

16'On the first day you shall have a holy assembly, and another holy assembly on the seventh day; no work at all shall be done on them, except what must be eaten by every person, that alone may be prepared by you.

17'You shall also 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 permanent ordinance.

I am just giving this as an example. If the Passover starts on Saturday evening, first day would be Sunday, and there will be a communal gathering and worship, then on the seventh day, Saturday there will be a special feast and communal gathering. Rest of the days in between, they just observe Passover of unleavened bread with their families. No work shall be done on the first day and on the seventh day. Other days they could work.

Ex. 12: 21,22.

21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and take for yourselves lambs according to your families, and slay the Passover lamb.

22 "You shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, and apply some of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and the two doorposts; and none of you shall go outside the door of his house until morning.

This is the critical part of Passover. Select a lamb or goat, Keep that for 4 days and observe, and then slaughter at twilight, catch its blood in a basin, take a bunch of hyssop and dip it, apply the blood with it on the two sides of the door frame, and the top of the door frame.

God commanded that none of them should go out until morning.

Ex. 12:24-27.

24“And you shall observe this event as an ordinance for you and your children forever.

25“When you enter the land which the LORD will give you, as He has promised, you shall observe this rite. 26“And when your children say to you, ‘What does this rite mean to you?’

27you 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.’” And the people bowed low and worshiped.

God does not want His actions to be forgotten. He wanted Israel to memorialize this act. He wanted the parents to pass this awesome story to their children also!

Psalm 103:1,2.

Bless the Lord o my soul, and all that is within me.

Bless the Lord o my soul, forget not all His benefits!

Just imagine, if God does not want us to forget this redemption from slavery forever, then how much more we must be celebrating God’s saving act through His precious Son Jesus Christ? Perhaps we should not be remembering just one or two days, or during passion week, or during 40 days lent period. We must remember God’s precious sacrifice, every day of our life, and celebrating this wonderful salvation!! Why are we taking it easy?

Ex. 12:28.

28Then the sons of Israel went and did so; just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

This is a very important verse. When we read the Bible, we always look at Israelites as rebellious stiff necked rebellious people. But there are times, Israelites obeyed God’s Word diligently, and God blessed them for that! We ought to follow the instruction properly, and do exactly what God wants us to do.

Ex. 12:29-32.

29Now it came about at midnight that the LORD struck 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 cattle.

30Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead.

31Then he called for Moses and Aaron at night and said, “Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the sons of Israel; and go, worship the LORD, as you have said.

32“Take both your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and go, and bless me also.”

From chapter 4 to chapter 12, it was a clear warning for Pharaoh, but he would not listen. Now a real hard blow came. Pharaoh’s first born was the first one to go. This Pharaoh’s son was ready to take over Egypt. Scripture says he already started sitting on the throne to judge. How much training this Son must have gone through before he started sitting on the throne. What a great loss! Even the first born of the cattle were gone! It is a terrible thing to fall in the hands of God! There was so much weeping as was prophesied.

Let us dread the day of the Lord! This time He is coming not only to redeem the righteous, but to punish heavily the rebellious ones. The ones who have the blood of Jesus Christ on their door posts of their hearts by faith will be saved, but the ones who rejected that salvation will perish for sure!

Ex. 12. 33-36.

33The Egyptians urged the people, to send them out of the land in haste, for they said, "We will all be dead."

34So the people took their dough before it was leavened, with their kneading bowls bound up in the clothes on their shoulders.

Now the Israelites did not have to beg to leave Egypt. The natives themselves were ready to chase them out. They urged them! They wanted to send them out of the land in haste! Now the fear of death gripped them, and they did not want to lose their lives!

The Israelites took their dough before it was leavened. The tasteless unleavened bread became a Memorial food for the Israelites! It not only symbolizes life without sin, also it stands for haste. We must haste to come out of the worldly passions and run to the Lord to offer ourselves as a sacrifice for His glory. Just like this Passover food is being memorialized every year, God wants us to memorialize the sacrifice of the Lamb of God as our eternal heavenly food. The bread we partake is to be remembered forever as the body of Christ broken for our sins. The wine we consume is to be remembered as the blood that was shed by our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross is to be remembered as the cleansing blood that washes away all our sins! See how serious our God was in memorializing this Passover incident in Egypt. How much more He would want us to memorialize His precious Son's sacrifice on the cross? It is sad to see churches looking at Lord's supper as a ritual of inconvenience. We do not want to remember it every week as it was the custom of early church as in Acts 2:42. church. Instead, we want to whip it through once a month or once a year even. God wants us to remember His deeds, especially this wonderful salvation through His Son Jesus Christ. Should we not come running to church just for that? But we feel it is a boring ritual, and so skip it and come later? You think God is going to be very happy with us?

Exodus 12:35-36

35Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for they had requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing;

36and the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

Israelites did not miss the opportunity. They asked for the jewelry and clothings. The Lord showed His favor in the sight of Egyptians, and they were glad to give it so that they could get rid of Israelites in a hurry!

Ex. 12: 37-41.

37Now the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, aside from children.

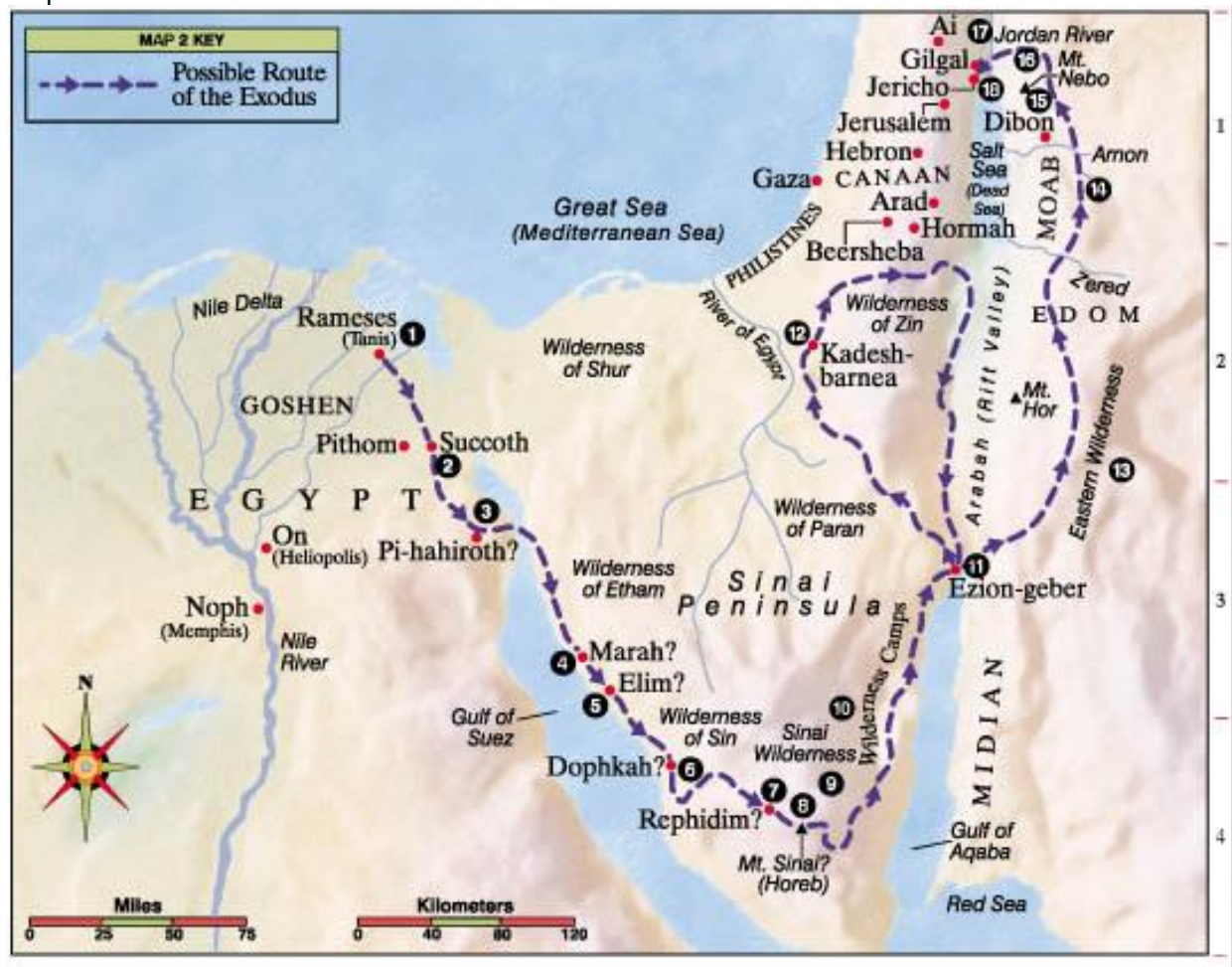
38A mixed multitude also went up with them, along with flocks and herds, a very large number of livestock.

39They baked the dough which they had brought out of Egypt into cakes of unleavened bread. For it had not become leavened, since they were driven out of Egypt and could not delay, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

40Now the time that the sons of Israel lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years.

41And at the end of four hundred and thirty years, to the very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

Israelites travelled from Rameses which was the capital of Egypt, to Succoth
Map?



Six hundred thousand men! That means at least 600, 000 women plus children, May be around 2 million people! Verse 38 is very important! Some of the mixed multitude also went with them which were not accounted for. Perhaps they were half Egyptians, half Israelites. They could have been the cause of dragging idolatrous practices with them. All the cattle were taken too. How are they going to feed everybody? All they had was some cakes of unleavened bread. They could have brought some lamb meat, but God told them not to! How are they going to manage in the wilderness after the cattle are gone? We will see those miracles later!

Note also, they were basically driven out in a hurry. No time to make any food. So they baked unleavened food for their way.

Another important note. They stayed in Egypt for four hundred and thirty years. They were basically integrated in Egyptian culture. There were only three facts that separated them out. They worshipped the only Lord God! Second, They belonged to their proud lineage of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob. Third, All the males of their tribes were circumcised. Another common factor is that they were all slaves, but now they were redeemed.

Ex. 12:43-49.

43The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the ordinance of the Passover: no foreigner is to eat of it;

44but every man's slave purchased with money, after you have circumcised him, then he may eat of it.

45"A sojourner or a hired servant shall not eat of it.

46"It is to be eaten in a single house; you are not to bring forth any of the flesh outside of the house, nor are you to break any bone of it.

47"All the congregation of Israel are to celebrate this.

48"But if a stranger sojourns with you, and celebrates the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near to celebrate it; and he shall be like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person may eat of it.

49"The same law shall apply to the native as to the stranger who sojourns among you."

There was some clear instruction for the foreigner, sojourner and the slaves concerning the observance of Passover:

Slave that was purchased with money after circumcision! Note! Money exchanged only after the slave's circumcision. Once he is circumcised, he may partake in the passover feast. A sojourner or a hired servant, who is going to be living with them temporarily cannot eat. This is a shady area. We will come across more about these sojourner a lot, and the meaning can change too. For example, Abraham was a sojourner. Israelites were sojourners in Egypt for 430 years!

Verse 48 suggests long term sojourner, if they are circumcised, they can eat the Passover meal, and he should now be treated as a native!

Verse 49 insists that there has to be same Law for the native as well as the sojourner. No discrimination in God's country. No racism in God's country.

Verse 46 also warns that it must be eaten in a single house, and no bone shall be broken. As you know, these are nothing but the shadow of things to come. The real Passover lamb, Jesus Christ, our Lord, none of His bones were broken! You don't pack your left over flesh and take it to someone else's house. You must eat in the same house!

You may notice now. So many laws came into Israelites' life now. So many do's and don't already! We have not even come to the Ten Commandments yet! Remember what Paul said about the Law! Law brings the knowledge of sin. When Law abounds sin abounds too. But when sin abounds, the grace abounds also for His people. Israelites did not have sin in these areas, but now if they do not heed, their sins will multiply.

Ex. 12:50,51.

50Then all the sons of Israel did so; they did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.

51And on that same day the LORD brought the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their hosts.

Israelites were not always rebellious. There are times they obeyed 100 percent, and when they did, the Lord was with them, and He brought them out of Egypt, as He promised Abraham in Genesis 15, after 430 years! Don't be frustrated if God's promise does not come through in your life time. It may be carried out beyond your life span, to your children's children time! Our God never breaks His promise, and He will come through in His time, every rime!!

Conclusion:

How can we take this story in our context?

God can do mighty miracles to deliver us from our situation.

God will come through every time to fulfill His promise. He never forgets. But He will fulfill it in His own time.

God wants the Jewish PEOPLE to remember His mighty act of Passover through the shed blood of lamb, the unleavened bread, and the bitter herb.

God provided us the Lamb of God from heaven. Let us remember that eternally through Lord 's Supper!

It is the blood of the Lamb on the doorposts of our hearts that saves us! Remember that always.

We are saved by God's grace alone. Let us remember that always!

Pastor Daniel Israel
January 28 2018