

EXODUS 11 and 12

THE LAMB

Have you ever dealt with someone that just wouldn't listen? Moses has and God does it all the time. Pharaoh still won't let Israel go, even though his empire is in shambles.

We all have a stubborn streak. It is just that Pharaoh has a different office than we do. His stubbornness affects millions of people. But Pharaoh isn't thinking of anyone but himself. That's what sin does. It turns all our thoughts inward regardless of how our actions and decisions affect others.

But we need to see that God is always dealing with sin. God is always dealing with people. Why doesn't He move faster? He moves more slowly because of His grace! (There are none good, no not one.)

(The book of Eli.)

Chapter 11 is a segue into chapter 12.

1 And the Lord said to Moses, "I will bring one more

plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether. 2 Speak now in the hearing of the people, and let every man ask from his neighbor and every woman from her neighbor, articles of silver and articles of gold.” 3 And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people. 4 Then Moses said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; 5 and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals. 6 Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again. 7 But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the Lord does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.’ 8 And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Get out, and all the people who follow you!’ After that I will go out.” Then he went out from Pharaoh in great anger. 9 But the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not heed you, so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.” 10 So Moses and Aaron did all these

wonders before Pharaoh; and the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go out of his land.

As we open up chapter 12, we see the Lord giving Moses directions regarding something new. It is called the Passover. Turn to chapter 12 and let's get down to business.

The Passover Instituted

1 Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. 3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: "On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. 4 And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb.

Passover marked a new beginning for Israel.

New calendar – they now had two: the civil and the religious

The civil calendar began in our months of September/October. The civil New Year now begins with Rosh

Hashana.

The religious calendar begins with the Lamb –the Passover. That calendar starts in our months of March/ April.

At Passover the focus is on the Lamb. This has been a recurring theme ever since Isaac asked the question back in Genesis, “Where is the Lamb?”

But we know the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8)

The Lamb can be said to go back to Gen. 3.

Isaac asked the question but it wasn’t fully answered until John the Baptist made his declaration:

The Lamb of God

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

John 1:29

By the time of the NT there were over 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire. The Jews felt the yoke of Roman oppression and related to the fate of their ancestors. The Passover meant something to them. It held the hope of freedom. Even though the Jews were in their

homeland, they still believed themselves to be in exile due to the fact that they still didn't have the right of self-rule.

So when the Lord liberates us from the bondage of sin it is a new day. We get a new calendar. Our story starts from scratch, spiritually speaking. We should remember what it is like to be in bondage. Those memories should be enough to keep us from wanting to go back.

However, when times got hard in the desert, the Israelites experienced "Selective Memory Syndrome." They remembered the leeks and the garlics but not the whip of the taskmaster.

We often do the same thing. We think of times we thought we were happy and forget about the drama, hangovers and all around misery that comes with sin.

We ought to mark our calendars and celebrate a new day, a new life and new sacred events.

6 Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. 7 And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

On the 10th day of the month the lamb was carefully looked over and then watched for another 3 days. The lamb could have no spot or blemish.

Jesus met the criteria.

Mt. 3:17

17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Jesus was questioned and interrogated for days before His crucifixion.

On the 14th day the Jews were to take the blood of the lamb and sprinkle it on the doorposts. When the Death Angel came through that night he would “pass over” the houses of with the blood.

- “Passover” comes from the Latin. (Cognate) But the word actually means to protect. This takes the “Passover” from being a passive act to an active one. And that is important.

Notice that it wasn’t the life of the lamb but the blood of he lamb that saved them.

Heb. 9:22 and Lev. 17:11 tell us that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.

There are many people that claim to admire Jesus' life and teaching but they want no part of the cross. It is His death, burial and resurrection that save us. Many people lived and died but there was only one that died for the sins of the world and then rose from the grave.

Going forward a little to grab a verse:

Exodus 12:13

13 Now 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 the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

However, to be effective the blood had to be applied to the doorpost. It isn't enough to know of Jesus' sacrifice, we have to appropriate it. It has to be applied to each of our lives. In regard to ourselves we have to say with Paul what he says in Galatians 2:20.

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

That is life changing if it is believed. If not there is no change.

8 Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs

they shall eat it. 9 Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. 10 You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. 11 And thus you shall eat it with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.

In order that the Lamb is kept whole it was roasted.

John 19: 33 – 37

33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. 35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. 36 For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, “Not one of His bones shall be broken.” 37 And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.”

It was eaten with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.

Herbs – these were to remind them of their enslavement every time they celebrated Passover. Once again, they had SMS, (Selective Memory Syndrome.)

The unleavened bread – They had to eat with their belts, shoes and clothes on because they had to be ready to move at a moment’s notice as soon as Pharaoh relented. Leaven or what we would call yeast takes time to rise and this was time the Israelites didn’t have.

Leaven also represents sin. It silently causes fermentation, which causes the dough to be “puffed up.”

Both Paul and Jesus compared false teaching, hypocrisy and sinful living with leaven.

Paul charged the local churches with purging themselves of the leaven in their midst so that they may be presented as unleavened bread before the Lord.

If there was any meat left over it had to be burned. It wasn’t like any other dish. Jesus is not left overs. It will be the same case when we get to the manna in the desert.

(Moses gets these orders from the Lord in verses 1-20.)

14 ‘So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance. 15 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened

bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. 16 On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat—that only may be prepared by you.

A memorial and a convocation.

Convocation – something called out. Like the Ecclesia in the NT. Something which separates us, as we are called out.

They are now being separated from the Egyptians (the world) just as we – the Church, are to be.

17 So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance. 18 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. 19 For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land. 20 You shall eat nothing leavened;

in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.’ ”

Verses 21- 28 – Moses relays the info to the people.

21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. 22 And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. 23 For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. 24 And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. 25 It will come to pass when you come to the land which the Lord will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. 26 And it shall be, when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ 27 that you shall say, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who

passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.' " So the people bowed their heads and worshiped. 28 Then the children of Israel went away and did so; just as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

To the elders first...

24 "And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' that you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.'"

a. **An ordinance for you and your sons forever:** The deliverance of Passover was not only for them, but also for their children, and all generations to follow. Passover was the greatest work of redemption performed on the Old Testament side of the cross.

i. In the same way Jesus gave the new Passover, saying that His work on the cross was not only for that generation, but should be remembered and applied to

all generations (Luke 22:14-20).

b. When He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households: In Passover, there was a two-fold work. First, an enemy was defeated (**He struck the Egyptians**). Second, God's people were set free and given a new identity, with new promises, a new walk, a new life altogether (**delivered our households**).

And the people bowed their heads in worship (obeisance).

The Tenth Plague: Death of the Firstborn

29 And it came to pass 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 livestock. 30 So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead

All the firstborn in the land of Egypt: This plague was directed against two significant Egyptian gods. First,

Osiris was the Egyptian god thought to be the giver of life. Second, this was against the supposed deity of Pharaoh himself, because his own household was touched (*the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne*).

The Exodus

31 Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the Lord as you have said. 32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also."

33 And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead." 34 So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders. 35 Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. 36 And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

37 Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. 38 A mixed multitude went

up with them also, and flocks and herds—a great deal of livestock. 39 And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves.

40 Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. 41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years—on that very same day—it came to pass that all the armies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. 42 It is a night of solemn observance to the Lord for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of the Lord, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.

Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron to leave.

We also see that the Egyptians were ready for the Israelites to leave.

It took 430 years for this part of God's plan to play out in history.

Half of that was with Israel in bondage. Why did it take so long? There were many factors.

- All the pieces had to be in place.
- Pharaoh had to learn his lesson.

- The Egyptians had to learn their lesson.
- The Israelites had to learn a lesson.

More importantly, we need to see that God moves slowly for great periods of time and then He accelerates things toward the end of an age or a phase.

God ends things many times with a crescendo! Just look at the book of revelation!

And finally, why couldn't God just leave Israel there in Egypt where that entire infrastructure for a nation was already in place? Egypt was right for the picking. In fact, the Hyksos came into the power vacuum created by the drowning of Pharaoh's army and did take over. Why not Israel?

Their Promised Land lay on the other side of the Sinai Peninsula. They already had a promise.

And so do we.

Sometimes God moves us around. But when God moves us it is to further His plan overall and to help us grow in our personal lives.

1. We need to apply the blood of Jesus to the doorposts and lintels of our hearts. This is where everything comes into our minds.

2. We need to realize that we have a new calendar. Old things are passed away.

3. The leaven needs to be cleansed from our lives and homes. Our leaven will affect those around us just as Pharaoh's leaven affected an entire nation.

4. All of this is possible through the blood of Jesus and His provision only. We can't liberate ourselves. If we try, we are just like Pharaoh, who attempted to negotiate his own terms. There is no negotiation when it comes to being free from sin.

You might not affect an entire nation but you do affect a household, someone's childhood, a marriage, and the workplace. The more people there are to whom you are responsible, the greater number of people you are around, the more influence you have.

(Momma's cooking)

Now I urge you to eat this meal with haste and minister to those that don't know what you know. Feast on the Passover Lamb so that you have what it takes to complete your journey.