

EXODUS 12: 43 – 13: 16

One of the things in which we now find ourselves doing as a nation, at least as far as foreign policy is concerned, is “nation building.” This is where America attempts to establish some form of democracy in a land after we have waged some sort of military campaign. While the idea seems noble to us, it rarely works. And there are reasons for this. In my opinion the two main reasons we fail in this endeavor are that we fail to take into account the cultures into which we are attempting to establish democracy and number two, the worldview into which we attempt to establish democracy. And culture is dictated largely by the worldview of the people in that culture.

America was established on a Judeo-Christian foundation. That doesn't mean that America is perfect, but we can see in various parts of the world, how the spread of Christianity and a biblical foundation have, over time, tamed the barbarian cultures of Europe and how that spread to the new world.

Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

John Adams

I'm not here this morning to pontificate on America's history, but I do want you to see what it is God is doing now as Israel is leaving Egypt. He is building a nation. He is structuring a society, creating and codifying a new worldview in which He, YHWH is to be known as the Most High and the only true God. He has proven this throughout the plagues He has sent on Egypt. Indeed, the greatest empire of its day now lies in ruins.

If we could travel back in time we would see people burying their dead alongside piles of dead frogs and in barren fields where there had recently been bountiful crops. The 'maat' has been overturned. There is no order in the land. There is nothing but death and chaos. All Pharaoh has left is the remnant of an army. His dynasty has ended with the death of his first-born son.

Out of this chaos, (Genesis 1) comes the soon to be "Nation of Israel."

So God is now moving a large population of farmers and shepherds to a plat of land that He claimed as His own when He scattered the nations at the tower of Babel. But He can't just send them

on their way. They aren't ready to be a nation. They don't think of themselves as a nation. They are simply a large tribe. God has to instill in them that they are a new creation. And in order to be seen as a new creation, they have to have a new worldview and a new culture.

In the first part of chapter 12, we read of God giving them a new calendar. Then we read of the Death Angel passing over all the homes of Egypt, killing the first-born in EVERY house that didn't have the blood of the lamb painted on the doorpost. After that, Pharaoh finally relented and told Moses to take everyone who wanted to go, (even the mixed multitude) and leave Egypt. As they did this, the Egyptians gave them their gold and silver. Now this tribe that will eventually be a nation, has some overhead capital with which to work. That day, the day they left Egypt was to be a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.

Ex. 12: 43

43 And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it. 44 But every man's servant who is

bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then he may eat it. 45 A sojourner and a hired servant shall not eat it. 46 In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones. 47 All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. 48 And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. 49 One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you.”

50 Thus all the children of Israel did; as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. 51 And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the Lord brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt according to their armies.

Here we have the rules of the Passover Meal.

- It is to be eaten in the house.
- No flesh is to be carried out of the house.
- No bones of the lamb were to be broken.
(Christ)

- All of the congregation shall partake.

When a stranger/ foreigner wants to partake of the meal...

- Let all the males of his household be circumcised.
- At that point he and his family shall be considered a native of the land. (Israelite/ child of God, welcomed into the covenant community)
- No uncircumcised person shall partake of the meal.
- One law for everyone, stranger and citizen.

So you couldn't partake of the Passover meal unless the patriarch of the home and all the males were circumcised. (individualistic culture vs. corporate ones, the jailer in the NT who watched over the imprisoned apostle)

Circumcision was an outward sign of your being a citizen of Israel. And being a citizen meant that you worshipped and pledged loyalty to YHWH.

***1 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2
"Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever***

opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine.”

3 And Moses said to the people: “Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the Lord brought you out of this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten. 4 On this day you are going out, in the month Abib. 5 And it shall be, when the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, that you shall keep this service in this month. 6 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the Lord. 7 Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days. And no leavened bread shall be seen among you, nor shall leaven be seen among you in all your quarters. 8 And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, ‘This is done because of what the Lord did for me when I came up from Egypt.’ 9 It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the Lord's law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the Lord

has brought you out of Egypt. 10 You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year.

- Passover meal, then 7 days of eating unleavened bread, then another feast.
- Leaven – puffs up like sin. God’s new people are to be without sin – a holy people.
- Why this feast? To commemorate God bringing them out of Egypt. This is mentioned 5 times so far in this chapter. So that they and their children will remember what God had done.

11 “And it shall be, when the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and your fathers, and gives it to you, 12 that you shall set apart to the Lord all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males shall be the Lord's. 13 But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. 14 So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is this?’ that you shall say to him, ‘By strength of hand

the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 15 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.' 16 It shall be as a sign on your hand and as frontlets between your eyes, for by strength of hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt."

- The first-born shall be redeemed or set apart as Gods. Why? Because I (God) delivered you from Egypt. A commemoration of what God had done. A nation must have a history, and this is how Israel began.
- A new worldview: “as a sign between your eyes, (eyes are a window to the soul; mind worldview, hands = actions, mouth = words and speech which manifest the heart.
- Israel was to think differently about the world than everyone else. They were to act differently than anyone else and therefore their speech was to be different than anyone

else's.

Summation:

- A new nation. A new people who are to be the imagers of God.
- The Passover first. The blood has to be applied. You can't be set apart until the blood of the lamb has been applied. After that comes the consecration.
- Why? Because God has delivered us from bondage.
- Israel was ground zero as God staked His claim to the nations of the earth. They were to be different. This is why He built them from scratch to be different. They were God's "toe-hold" so to speak in order to reclaim the earth as His.
- We, as Christians don't just have a toe-hold, but we have infiltrated the nations of the earth, (not undercover) to be imagers of God, showing at least a glimpse of the kingdom to come.
- When we are saved, we must know that all we have is to be consecrated to God, from our eyes, (mind, worldview) to our

hands, (actions) to our words and speech, even the “first-fruits of all we own.

- We are given a new worldview and are to share that worldview with as many as will listen.
- God has created a new creation in each of us.
- **17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Cor. 5:17**
- **15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. Gal. 6:15**

So, if the blood has been applied, if Jesus is our Lord and Savior, then we are to be a consecrated people, set apart for a specific purpose. We are to show the world what it is like to be a child of the King.

If the blood hasn't been applied, then that can be done today. And then you can

launch as a new creation, set apart to the
one true God.