

Exodus Chapter Twelve

“The Passover - Just as the Lord Said it Would Happen”

Read 12:1-13

v. 1 – 2 - The coming deliverance from Egypt is such a significant act that God tells the children of Israel to remake their calendar - their redemption from Egypt will make all things new. Christians also started their calendar anew with the birth of Christ. Our years are A.D., “In the year of our Lord.” B.C. means Before Christ. Look up: Revelation 21:5

v. 3-6 – The lamb was to be without blemish; this sacrificial offering had to be as perfect as humanly possible. On the tenth of this first month, each family/household - is to take a lamb, care for it, and have it live with the family for the four days until Passover. In so doing, the lamb became part of the family. By the time it was sacrificed on the fourteenth day it was cherished and mourned; God wanted the sacrifice of something precious.

v. 7-11 – In this foreshadowing of Christ’s saving blood, the lamb’s blood had to be applied to the doorway of the home. Then, the lamb could be eaten - but only if it had been roasted in fire, and with bitter herbs accompanying the meal. As *our Passover sacrifice*, Jesus had to come into direct contact with the "fire" of the Father's judgment on our behalf, and the bitterness of the cross is reflected in the bitter herbs.

v. 11 - The Passover lamb had to be eaten while trusting that the deliverance promised was imminent. Their preparation was an act of faith. Even the unleavened bread could be prepared quickly as it did not need time to rise.

Read 12:14-20

Leaven is symbolic of sin and corruption. Look up: Matthew 16:6; 11-12

Notice that the Passover was not only a festival in its own right, it functioned as a day of preparation for the Sabbath of the First Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Each of the Sabbaths (weekly and yearly) is preceded by a day of preparation, when twice as much work is done to prepare for complete rest on the Sabbath. For the *first* Passover, the unleavened bread was a practical necessity - they were to leave Egypt in such a hurry that there was no time to allow for the dough to rise. In the generations which followed, the Feast of Unleavened Bread is a testimony and memorial.

Read 12:21-28

The deliverance of Passover was not only for them, but for their children, and all generations to follow. Passover was the greatest work of redemption performed on the *Old Testament side* of the cross. (Psalm 78:1-7, Psalm 102:18)

As great as God's deliverance was, the people would never have receive that gift of grace if they failed to obey. Likewise, salvation from sin is available to all who will simply receive the gift. Look up: John 1:12

Read 12:29-36

v.29-31 - Pharaoh isn't *letting* Israel leave; now he commands them. This is just as the Lord said it would happen. Look up 3:19-20, 4:21-23, 11:1

v. 33-36 - The Egyptian people also agreed that the Israelites must go, to the extent that they paid the Israelites to leave. Now the children of Israel left quickly. This is just as the Lord said it would happen (3:21-22).

Read 12:37-42

The number of six hundred thousand men, plus a reasonable estimate of six hundred thousand women, plus a conservative estimate of almost eight hundred thousand children makes a population of two million that left Egypt. The phrase “*out of Egypt*” is mentioned 143 times in the Bible. God wants His people to remember His deliverance of the children of Israel out of Egypt occurred *just as the Lord said it would happen*.

Read 12:43-51

All of Israel had to commemorate the Passover and prepare for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Look up: 1 Cor. 5:6-11

Read Matthew 26:17, John 19:14 and 31-36.

Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples, instituted The Lord’s Supper, and was arrested that night. He was crucified the next day, a Preparation Day. The day after the crucifixion was a Sabbath -- the First Day of Unleavened Bread, a high holy day. The Jews therefore urged the Roman soldiers to break the legs of those being crucified so that they would not die on the Sabbath or during the Feast. Jesus was already dead, so He had not one bone broken as required for the final Passover Lamb. He lay in the tomb during the Sabbath, and rose again the next day, which we celebrate as Easter Sunday.