



# EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

## BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 12:43-51

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**43** And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the statute of the Passover: no foreigner shall eat of it, **44** but every slave that is bought for money may eat of it after you have circumcised him. **45** No foreigner or hired worker may eat of it. **46** It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the flesh outside the house, and you shall not break any of its bones. **47** All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. **48** If a stranger shall sojourn with you and would keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised. Then he may come near and keep it; he shall be as a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it. **49** There shall be one law for the native and for the stranger who sojourns among you." **50** All the people of Israel did just as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron. **51** And on that very day the Lord brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their hosts.

## DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 12:43-51

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The last portion of Exodus 12 discusses the Israelite implementation of the Passover for generations to come. It has important implications for us as Christians as we are members of the New Covenant with Jesus. In the passage, we see Restrictions and Rituals in the Old Covenant that eventually became the Resurrection and Results of the New Covenant.

### Passover Restrictions

The Passover was restricted to Israelites, and even further Israelites who were circumcised. The circumcision meant you were serious about following God. The Passover Restrictions set the standard for generations to come. They couldn't eat the meal outside of their house. The Passover is a very intimate, exclusive holiday for the Israelites. Foreigners are not allowed. If you decided to participate, you would have to be physically circumcised. Very restrictive, very exclusive and possibly very painful - just ask Timothy (Acts 16:1-4)! The Old Covenant Passover



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restrictions were totally changed by the person of Jesus. We no longer have the physical restrictions of the Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7).

## Passover Rituals

In Exodus 12, the Israelites painted the doorposts of their house with the blood of a slaughtered lamb. The Israelites would commemorate this instance annually by performing the same rituals - painted blood, roasted lamb, bitter herbs and unleavened bread. The Israelites were to perform this ritual in order to remember (or renew) their right standing - or righteousness - with God.

First Corinthians 5:7 states that Christ is the Passover Lamb and resurrects us to the truth as we become a new creation. Just as the Spirit of God passed over the houses of the Israelites in the Old Covenant, it symbolized the new creation that we become when we trust Christ Jesus in the New Covenant. (Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

## Passover Resurrection

The most wonderful thing about the Passover Rituals and Restrictions is that Jesus has made them new! The painted blood on the doorposts saved the Israelites, the lamb they ate reminded them of new life. Through Christ's death, burial and resurrection, we can now enter into the family of God through painting the doorposts of our heart and eating from the words of the Lamb Himself! The blood of Christ is what resurrects us into new life! (Ephesians 2:13)

The Passover has been Resurrected with Jesus through a new form of circumcision; there is no flesh cut, but rather our hearts are made new. (Deuteronomy 30:6; Romans 2:29; 2 Corinthians 5:17) Praise God for that! We no longer need to "perform" rituals to be saved or passed over, and there is no longer any restriction, but rather we need to "believe" in the resurrected Christ and we are saved in the New Covenant. (Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 10:39)

## Passover Results

The Results of the Passover in the Old Testament is that the Israelites were saved! After Christ, the Passover Lamb, came and died and was resurrected, it totally changed the game! Not only are God's people, the Israelites, saved, but also, we gentiles in the eyes of the New Covenant are too! The Bible states that we have been 'grafted in' as a new branch and given into the family of God as His Children (Romans 11)! We too have been passed over, overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the Word of His Testimony (Revelation 12:11)! Hallelujah!

The final result of this new Passover is that we are called to go and graft in new branches, which include the Israelites who turned away from the Lord in the Old Covenant. After the Passover, God sent His people out of Egypt to find their new land. In a similar way, we are sent forth to make new disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching all that Christ had commanded! This is the Great Commission! (Matthew 28:19-20)



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## Questions:

1. What are some restrictions and rituals that you have that you believe make you a Christian? Do you believe this is what truly saves you?
2. What do you believe about the resurrection and final results of the Passover? Do you see Christ as the Passover Lamb?
3. How are you working to "graft in" new branches? Are you fulfilling the Great Commission? Do you have a Top 10 List going of people you wish to intentionally discuss their salvation with? Share this list with your Journey Group and pray for those 10 names!