

Journey to Easter - Monday, March 29 (Day 41)

Exodus 12:1–14 NIV biblegateway.com

The Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb^[a] for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs, and internal organs. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD’s Passover.

“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.

Discussion

The word that struck me in this week’s readings was “remember” (see Exodus 12:14). This led me to a study of the word in Hebrew and Greek— and to a cascade of memories. We are a people of memory, and this Holy Week calls on us to remember. Every year—every Holy Week—is filled with memories and the encouragement to remember and reflect. These stories—these memories—remind us yet again of who we are—of whose we are.

In today’s reading, Israel is called on to participate in what will become an annual ritual meal (the Passover Seder) which informs their day of remembrance. Their sense of time revolves around this remembrance meal. Their sense of self and tribe does as well.

So let us, too, enter together into this holiest of weeks with memory as our theme and with the ancient rituals that help us remember yet again who we are and whose we are.

Today’s Prayer

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, lead us into the mysteries of this week. Help us remember and learn yet again your ancient truth. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Source: Luther Seminary – St. Paul, MN 2021 Lenten Devotional “Awesome Mystery”

Awesome Mystery

Image: Submitted by Kerry Griffin, "Cross in main sanctuary shown with the Gethsemane window."

