

THE KINGDOM, THE BIBLE, & US

Understand the Bible's story, Jesus' importance, and Our place in God's plan



Lesson 34- The Results & Remembrances of the Passover
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Introduction

We looked at the Reasons and the Requirements for the Passover in our last two lessons. In this lesson we begin looking at the Results and Remembrance of the Passover.

We will see what happened because of the Passover event for both Egypt and Israel. We will end by looking at how Jesus Christ fits in with the Passover event.

Results of the Passover

Firstborn of Egypt Struck Dead

Exodus 12:29-30

God warned the Egyptians what was coming, yet they did not listen. Verses 29-30 say at midnight the Lord struck all the firstborn of the land of Egypt. Pharaoh himself was not excluded. He lost his own firstborn son. Even the firstborn of the cattle were killed.

Some critics have argued this was too harsh on God's part. They argue God went too far in doing this. Some have even charged God with evil for doing this to the firstborn. We will come back to this and address it later on in the lesson.

Pharaoh Releases Israel

Exodus 12:31-32

This time, Pharaoh begs Israel to leave Egypt. Up to this point Pharaoh had refused to let them go. At times he lied and told Moses he would let them go if the plague stopped, only to go back on his word once he had relief. This time was different, to a point. Pharaoh told Moses that they all needed to leave Egypt immediately.

It's interesting to read verse thirty-one and thirty-two in detail. You can almost sense the emotions of Pharaoh in the words. He says to Moses they need to leave Egypt, "both you and your sons." Before Pharaoh tried to negotiate with Moses. He said only the men could go but leave the little ones behind. Now Pharaoh says even the sons can go.

Notice Pharaoh says, "as you have said." Pharaoh seems to acknowledge that Moses has been asking for this all along but he refused to honor Moses' request. Now Pharaoh admits to Moses, "go ahead and leave all of you just like you asked before."

In verse thirty-two Pharaoh says Moses can take, “both your flocks and your herds.” Before hand Pharaoh tried to negotiate again and did not want Moses to leave with their herds. Pharaoh tried to keep Israel on the hook in Egypt but now he admits it is time for Moses to leave with all Israel, men, women, children, and their animals.

Again we see the phrase from Pharaoh, “as you have said.” Pharaoh once again acknowledging to Moses he is now granting to him what he originally asked for. It is a tone of defeat in Pharaoh’s words. He knows he messed with the one true God and his spokesmen and it cost him everything.

The last words in the verse are fascinating. Pharaoh says to Moses, “go, and bless me also.” Pharaoh now tips his hat of sorts to Moses and His God. He asks Moses to bless him. The implication is Pharaoh wanted Moses to pray for him to Yahweh. Perhaps Yahweh would forgive Pharaoh. I don’t want to stretch this too far and claim Pharaoh was repenting from sins, but I think it’s interesting he at least in a small way acknowledges Moses’ God now. He isn’t following Yahweh, but he is at least acknowledging His superiority over Pharaoh.

In a sense Pharaoh was saying to Moses, “Go, all your people like you asked for originally. While you’re at it, would you give a good word on my behalf to your Yahweh?”

[Israel Plunders & Exits Egypt in a Hurry](#)

Exodus 12:33-41

The rest of the Egyptians were begging the Israelites to leave their land immediately. They said, “for we will all be dead.” They feared Israel’s presence now.

Israel left in such a hurry it says in verse thirty-four they took their dough for the bread before it was leavened. Remember God told them to eat the Passover Lamb meal with unleavened bread and their clothes on, sandals on, staff in hand, and ready to go. This is exactly how it happened. This is why God instituted the Feast of Unleavened Bread at the time of the Passover. It was to commemorate they were driven out of Egypt in such a hurry after the killing of the firstborn that the leaven did not have time to set in the bread.

On their way out of Egypt, Israel plundered the Egyptians. It says they asked of their Egyptian neighbors for jewelry, silver, gold, and clothing. Egypt gave Israel provisions for their journey.

What is ironic about verse 36 when it says the Israelites plundered the Egyptians?

God fought for Israel. They did not have to lift a finger to fight back at Egypt. God did it all for them. Israel was able to leave Egypt just like a stronger invading army had conquered Egypt. They were slaves, now conquerors over Egypt. The irony is Israel did not do any fighting. God did it all. This is how God takes care of His people.

Look in verses 37 and 38. It says about 600,000 men on foot, aside from children, traveled out of Egypt. We know that the Jews typically only took census of the men, and not just any male. They only counted what were called, "fighting men." Those too old and too young to fight among the males were not counted. The women were not included in these totals either.

Exodus 38:26 says they counted only the men who were 20 years old and older. With this in mind, it is quite probable that over 1 Million Israelites headed out of Egypt. If each of the 600,000 men counted, who are 20 years and older, has a wife, that is already 1.2 million, and we haven't even attempted to guess at how many children there were. If each couple had only one child, that puts the total number of Israelites over 1.8 million. I do not think it is outside of the realm of possibility to say there could have been as many as 2 million Israelites Moses lead out of Egypt. Again, these are guesses, but I believe they are reasonable assumptions based on historical clues.

Do you think it would be easy leading nearly 2 million people by foot to a promised land?

Verse 38 says a "mixed multitude" went up with Israel out of Egypt along with their animals and herds. This is talking about Egyptians and possible other foreigners living in Egypt during this time. God permitted anyone, regardless of being Jew or not, to join in His covenant community. They only needed to express their faith in God through their obedience to follow Israel and God's ways.

Why do you think it is significant God let a mixed multitude come up with Israel out of Egypt?

There seems to be in the Old Testament hints at what God would more fully do through Jesus in the New Testament. The Jews had God's covenant and His Law, yet that didn't mean other ethnicities could not join God's people. In the New Testament God opens up to both Jews and Gentiles equally the new covenant in Christ. In the Old Testament, anyone could approach God by faith. They could identify with the Jewish covenant and become part of the People of God, Israel. However, in the New

Testament, one does not need to keep the Jewish covenant first in order to be saved by Christ. Christ is open to anyone. This is what the letter of Galatians addresses.

We read in verses 40 and 41 that it had been 430 years that Israel lived in Egypt. It says at the end of 430 years, to the very day, all the “hosts of the Lord (Yahweh)” went out from the land of Egypt. God had prophesied this to Abraham in Genesis 15:13-14. It happened just how God told Abraham so long ago. God keeps His promises to His people.

God promised Abraham so long ago a nation that would come from his offspring. He promised this nation a land of their own. However, for 430 years they were in Egypt and much of that time as slaves. Imagine being a Jew during that time period and being taught as a kid the stories of your ancestors: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You’ve been taught the covenant and the promises God made to your people. Yet, for hundreds of years your people have been enslaved in a foreign land. That would begin to wear on your faith in God.

This teaches us an important lesson about God’s timing is not always our timing. God says He will do something, we must accept it by faith. He may do what He promised us next week, next year, or maybe not until the next 1,000 years! We do not know God’s timing of events, that is His business. Our business is to trust Him by faith and obey Him with a pure heart.

Remembrances of the Passover

God wanted Israel to always remember what He did for them to get them out of Egypt. He instituted ways for them as a nation to teach their future generations what happened in Egypt. Think of some of these as a type of holiday for the nation of Israel. They were to stop their normal work and dedicate a day, or sometimes several days, to remember and worship God’s redemption of Israel out of Egypt.

The Passover event became a defining moment for Israel as a nation of God. It set the tone for their relationship with Him from that point on. God often speaks of Israel in terms that He *redeemed* them. He *bought* them out of slavery. He often speaks through the prophets when Israel falls into sin and would remind them how they are not a people who belong to themselves, they belong to God their redeemer. The Passover started the Israelite calendar year. It showed a new beginning for the people of God delivered from slavery in Egypt and brought into covenant with their God to be His people and live in His Promised Land.

Jesus institutes the Lord’s Supper on the night He takes the Passover Feast with His disciples. The Passover event has huge spiritual implications through the Bible’s story. We talked about this last time but recall what the Passover meant. It meant judgment

by God was coming, but that same God provided a substitute Passover lamb. The blood of lamb lead to God *passing over* judgment on that house.

In the same way Jesus is the Passover Lamb of God sent to take away the sin of the world. Judgment by God is coming to each soul, but those who have the blood of Jesus (the Passover lamb) on their souls will be *passed over* on Judgment Day and avoid God's wrath on sin. The Passover's importance for the Bible's story cannot be understated. God teaches us the all-important truth that we will incur His judgment unless the blood of His sent lamb, Jesus, is on our souls. By faith we receive Jesus' substitute sacrifice and will live forever even after death since He also conquered death.

Feast of Unleavened Bread

We mentioned this last time, so this is just a reminder before we move on. God instructed Israel to eat only unleavened bread for seven days. Each day there was to be a holy assembly dedicated to remembering and worshipping God for His deliverance of Israel.

The unleavened bread reminded them how they left in such a hurry out of Egypt they didn't have time for the leaven to set in their bread and rise.

Feast of the Passover

God also instituted a special time dedicated to remembering the Passover event.

Exodus 12:42-49

Verse 42 says the Passover event night is a night to be remembered and observed by Israel throughout all their generations. God did not want them to forget! They were to have a night dedicated to eating a lamb in the same way they did on the Passover night. It was to honor, remember, and worship God for His deliverance of Israel out of Egypt through that powerful plague.

Notice God opens up the Passover feast to non-Jews. In verses 43 through 49 God lays out the rules. He says a sojourner, or a stranger cannot eat the Passover feast unless they are first circumcised like the Jewish men. Stranger means foreigner and sojourner means a foreigner traveling through Israel.

Foreigners could voluntarily choose to honor Yahweh and worship Him too. They may go so far as to want to take part in the feasts of Israel, like the Passover. However, God

said uncircumcised men could now. Only those who had joined in Israel's covenant and taken the sign of circumcision could participate in the Feast of the Passover.

Why do you think God cared that the foreigner men first be circumcised before joining the Feast of the Passover?

To truly honor and worship God on His terms required that one enter the covenant He made with Abraham and the nation of Israel. The sign of this covenant is circumcision of the males. It is similar, but not quite the same, as baptism in the New Testament era.

For a person to be saved, they must express faith in Christ's death and resurrection. However, we believe that for a person to freely enjoy the full fellowship and worship within the body of Christ, the Church, they must also show their faith through water baptism. Baptism is a type of outward sign of the New Covenant.

It is fascinating that even in the Old Testament, God made provisions for foreigners, non-Jews, to enter the covenant of Abraham and be part of God's people.

Consecration (Setting Apart) of the Firstborn

This next section is very important, and we cannot overlook it.

Exodus 13:1-16

God calls for Israel to remember what He did for them in Egypt by consecrating the firstborn of both person and animals. Consecrate means to *set apart*, to *dedicate*. The first born of people and of animals were to be set apart and dedicated to God. Notice in verse 2 God says because, "it belongs to Me." God showed Israel, and Egypt, that by killing dead the firstborn of people and animals, God had the rights over human life. People owe their existence to God, God does not owe His existence to people.

Starting in verse 11, God established a rule in Israel that when they are in the Promised Land they are to devote to the Lord the firstborn of every womb and of animals. Notice in verse 12, "the males belong to the Lord."

By devoting to the Lord, He means offer up as a sacrifice. It is considered an act of worship to God to sacrifice the firstborn to God. This reminds them that God created human life and it is ultimately God who has the power over all life. It is His and belongs to Him. God's sign for Israel to remember this and teach their children is to sacrifice to God all firstborn of people and animals.

But there is a problem. God does not approve of human sacrifices. How can this be? We keep reading and see He makes a provision.

Verse 13 God says if the firstborn animal is a donkey, they were not to kill it and sacrifice it. Instead, they were to redeem it with a lamb.

Why do you think God did not want the donkeys to be killed?

Also notice in verse 13 God says, “every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.” God also did not want the firstborn males killed and sacrificed. They were to be redeemed with a lamb.

What do you think is significant about God calling for a lamb to be sacrificed as a redemption offering?

Some critics might claim it was harsh of God to carry out the Passover event. He struck the firstborn of people and animals dead. That sounds harsh to some. When someone believes this, they show that they have a lower view of God than ought to have and they have a higher view of people than they ought to have. They have in a sense elevated people over God. They may not realize this is what they have done, but it is in fact the issue.

We must remember that all people, even children, are sinners. We believe children before an age of accountability for their own sins, if they die, will go to Heaven. God forgives them by grace. However, the fact that a baby can die in the womb is proof they carry sin in their bodies.

God does not take innocent life at His own will. He can render judgment on sinners as He sees fit. The Passover was an event whereby God showed Egypt, and the rest of the world who would watch, that He is the all-powerful giver of life, and all life belongs to Him.

Conclusion

The point of our study is to see how the Bible is one big story about the Kingdom of God. The Passover event shows us how God purchased His promised people of the Kingdom out of the kingdom of slavery and into the Kingdom of Light where God reigns.

In the New Testament we are told that through Jesus Christ, sinners are purchased out of the slavery of the Kingdom of sin and darkness and placed into the Kingdom of light and forgiveness.

The Passover shows us the lengths God goes to in order to save a sinner from slavery and bring them into fellowship with Him.