

Amazing Deliverance  
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Exodus Chapter 12

What we have here is a case of MISTAKEN IDENTITY

- You see, Pharaoh thinks HE'S GOD
- And the Egyptian people think they have a WHOLE COLLECTION of gods
- With names like: ISIS...RA...HATHOR...SEKHMET...and my personal favorite: NUT – the goddess of the sky...she was married to RA but attracted to GEB...but that's another story.
- Worst of all...some of the Israelites had begun to believe in these FALSE gods
- Now once Jehovah had a man high the Egyptian government who KNEW him...Joseph
- But that was 400 years ago...and now JEHOVAH is about to clear up the question of WHO IS GOD?

“I am the Lord.”

That phrase is spoken by Jehovah God 17 times in the book of Exodus.

Exodus 6:2 When He reminded Moses of the covenants He'd made with Abraham, Issac, and Jacob: “God also said to Moses, "I am the LORD.”

Exodus 6:6

"Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.

Exodus 6:7

I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.

Exodus 6:8

And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.' "

Exodus 6:29

he said to him, "I am the LORD. Tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I tell you."

Exodus 7:5

And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it."

Exodus 7:17

This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD : With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood.

Exodus 10:2

that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how I performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the LORD."

And on and on it goes through this book including the OPENING PHRASE of the TEN COMMANDMENTS in Exodus 20:2

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

If you summed up this whole book in one sentence it might be:

"I AM THE LORD" and I will deliver you!

This is a story of AMAZING DELIVERANCE!

In the Jewish culture in many ways the PIVOTAL event that all their teaching comes back to is how God brought his people out of bondage:

Exodus 13:14-16 (New International Version)

14 "In days to come, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 15 When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed every firstborn in Egypt, both man and animal. This is why I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.' 16 And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the LORD brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand."

The Jewish people for centuries use the PASSOVER to REMEMBER and CELEBRATE THEIR AMAZING DELIVERANCE!

As Christians, we have our OWN PASSOVER to celebrate. Our own remembrance of DELIVERANCE.

But I'm getting ahead of myself...let's recap what brought us up to Exodus Chapter 12. In Chapters 7-10 God unleashed NINE PLAUGES on the people of Egypt. Anyone remember what the NINE were?:

1. First there was BLOOD in all the water
2. Then FROGS everywhere
3. Then the dust became GNATS
4. Then FLIES everywhere...but NOT IN GOSHEN
5. Then the LIVESTOCK died...but ONLY THE EGYPTIANS

6. Then they all broke out in painful BOILS
  7. Then came the HAIL
  8. Then came the LOCUSTS
  9. Then came the DARKNESS
- Pharaoh's magicians went from COPYING THE MIRACLES to saying "THIS IS THE FINGER OF GOD" to urging Pharaoh: GET THESE PEOPLE OUT OF HERE
  - And Pharaoh went from a BLOWING THEM OFF to ADMITTING SIN to ASKING FOR PRAYER to TRYING TO NEGOTIATE WITH GOD (Worship here in Egypt – NO - Just the MEN – NO – JUST THE PEOPLE but NO ANIMALS - NO.) But in every case HARDENED HIS HEART.
  - By the way, does that sequence sound familiar?
    - First people blow off the things and people of God
    - Then they say: "Okay, maybe I'm a sinner and could use some help."
    - Then, "Pray for me to get me out of this bind!"
    - Then, trying to negotiate with God
    - Yet, HARDENING THEIR HEARTS
  - Finally, Pharaoh says to Moses: Get out of here...and if you COME BACK I'LL KILL YOU.
  - Nine plagues. A hardened heart. That brings us to chapter 11.

## In Chapter 11

### Exodus 11

#### The Plague on the Firstborn

1 Now the LORD had said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely.

- But here's something more I want you to do:

2 Tell the people that men and women alike are to ask their neighbors for articles of silver and gold." 3 (The LORD made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh's officials and by the people.)

- Why would they ask for SILVER and GOLD?
  - It was fair pay for 400 years of hard labor
  - God was looking toward the TABERNACLE
- Moses goes back to Pharaoh (THOUGH HE HAD THREATENED TO KILL HIM) and said...

4 ... "This is what the LORD says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. 5 Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the slave girl, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. 6 There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. 7 But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any man or animal.' Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. 8 All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, 'Go, you and all the people who follow you!' After that I will leave." Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh.

And that is when we get to Chapter 12. The story of THE PASSOVER.

Exodus 12

The Passover

1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2 "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. 3 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. 4 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. 5 The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats.

- Verse 1 says that God RESET the Jewish calendar with this event
- Why would God do that? Why would he make this PASSOVER event the celebration of NEW YEARS?
  - Celebration of each NEW YEAR would focus them on GOD'S AMAZING DELIVERANCE
  - Many people celebrate not only their PHYSICAL BIRTHDAY but their SPIRITUAL BIRTHDAY. What does that mean?

Warren Wiersbe says:

*"When the Lord liberates you from bondage, it's the dawning of a new day and the beginning of a new life."*

- Just as the Jews celebrate the DELIVERANCE from EGYPT on their calendar...we need to celebrate our DELIVERANCE FROM SIN.
- Verse 3: Each man is to take a lamb for his family.
  - The head of a household doesn't have the POWER to save their family...but he/she has the RESPONSIBILITY to bring THE LAMB into their household.
- Verse 4: If any household is too small for a whole lamb they must share one with their nearest neighbor.

- How do we “share the lamb” with our neighbors?

C.H. Spurgeon said...

*Brother, if you and all your household are saved, call your neighbor to the great gospel feast... your neighbor may be the person sitting next you in the pew, or the man who works at the next bench to yours in the shop, or someone with whom you meet in trade or in the order of God's providence.*

Spurgeon goes on to say that God didn't say we had to reach everyone in town...just the people around us. He wrote:

*There is a very good regulation concerning the clearance of snow, — that each householder shall clear the pavement in front of his own house, Let us all try to act like that with regard to the moral and spiritual snow that lies on the pavement opposite to us. All who live in London will soon be evangelized if each Christian man seeks to win for Christ “his neighbor [NEXT DOOR];” and then if that neighbor seeks to win his next-door neighbor, and that one his neighbor, and so on.*

- The LAMB OF GOD (Jesus) is MORE THAN ENOUGH for our family...we must share with others.
- Verse 5 tells us the PASSOVER LAMB was to be WITHOUT DEFECT
  - The PASSOVER REQUIRED A SPOTLESS PERFECT LAMB
  - How does that term apply to what Jesus did for us?

John 1:29

29The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Scripture confirms that Jesus was PERFECT:

Matthew 3:17

17And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

2 Corinthians 5:21

21God made him who had no sin to be sin[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- Jesus was OUR SPOTLESS PERFECT LAMB

Verses 6 - 11

6 Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 7 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. 8 That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter

herbs, and bread made without yeast. 9 Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire—head, legs and inner parts. 10 Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. 11 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.

Quoting Warren Wiersbe again...

*“It was not the LIFE of the lamb that saved the people from judgment but the DEATH of the lamb.”*

Hebrews 9:22

22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Leviticus 17:11

11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

Wiersbe goes on to say:

*“Some people claim to admire the life and teachings of Jesus who don't want the CROSS of Jesus, yet it's His DEATH on the cross that paid the price of our redemption.”*

- It wasn't enough for the BLOOD TO BE SHED the BLOOD HAD TO BE APPLIED
- Verse 7 said take the blood of the lamb and put it on the sides and top of the door
- Putting the blood on the door was OBEDIENCE to God and would cause Him to PASS OVER that house.
- Using the HYSSOP to PLACE THE BLOOD on the door represents OUR FAITH
- We can't save ourselves...God provided the sacrifice...the BLOOD
- However, we have to IN FAITH, APPLY THE BLOOD to our lives
  - What kind of statement did that blood smeared on the door make to the neighborhood?
  - It was a visual sign of a household OBEDIENT to God.
- How does that apply to US TODAY?
  - A thought: Our Christian lives should be as OBVIOUS as if we had the BLOOD of the lamb smeared over the door posts of our homes!
- Scripture tells us that there were about 600,000 MEN plus the women and children would make it about 2 MILLION being delivered from Egypt.
- Surely someone REFUSED to put the blood over the door...don't you think?
- How many does scripture say DIDN'T obey?
- Verse 11:7 said that while every first born of Egypt would be killed “not even a dog would bark” among the Israelites.
- Apparently they ALL OBEYED.

Chuck Swindoll said...

*“Pharaoh did not – would not- obey. The Hebrews, however, heard the Lord’s Word through Moses and DID obey, right down to the smallest detail. As a result they experienced a great deliverance. They MADE HISTORY, while Pharaoh BECAME HISTORY.”*

- In Verses 8 – 11 God gave the specific RECIPE for the PASSOVER FEAST
- Why a meal?
  - Nourishment for the journey
  - Christ our PASSOVER LAMB is not just to be LOOKED at but CONSUMED

Spurgeon again...

*The paschal lamb was not killed in order to be looked at only, but to be eaten; and our Lord Jesus Christ has not been slain merely that we may hear about him and talk about him, and think about him, but that we may feed upon him..*

Wiersbe put it this way...

*...we must also feed on Christ in order to have strength for our daily pilgrim journey. As we worship, meditate on the Word, pray, and believe, we appropriate the spiritual nourishment of Jesus Christ and grow in grace and knowledge.”*

- Meat roasted over fire --- not boiled or raw...why roasted over fire?
  - To keep the lamb whole...not one bone was broken...fulfillment of scripture
- Bitter herbs – What does that represent?
  - The suffering of the Israelites in bondage
  - The bitterness of OUR SIN
- Unleavened bread – Why no YEAST?
  - In a hurry to leave
  - YEAST is symbolic of sin – Hidden, works silently and secretly; it spreads and pollutes. Mark 8:15 15"Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod."
- God even told them HOW TO EAT THE PASSOVER MEAL
  - Verse 11: THE FIRST “FAST FOOD” Meal!
  - God wants us to be ALERT and READY to follow Him WITHOUT DELAY

Verses 12 and 13 –

12 "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD.  
13 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.

- The death of EVERY FIRSTBORN MAN and ANIMAL
- IMAGINE the scene! IMAGINE the HORROR!

- All my life when I heard this story of the FIRST BORN of each house being killed I thought of CHILDREN...the FIRST BORN also mean adults...in a house it could have been the FATHER and the CHILD
- God had determined that A PRICE HAD TO BE PAID
- Verse 12 also tells us this was divine judgment against Egypt's gods (little g)...the plagues demonstrate the inability of Egyptian gods to protect and prosper their people.
- The Israelites had a problem they could not solve...but God made a way of DELIVERANCE
- WE have a problem WE can't solve...The wages of sin: DEATH
- But God has made a way for US to be DELIVERED through His Son Jesus Christ

Finally, verse 14...

14 "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.

- Just as the PASSOVER was to be celebrated by the Israelites...we have THE LORD'S SUPPER to commemorate to US GOD'S AMAZING DELIVERANCE and REDEMPTION.

So, What's the TAKEAWAY?

- We can experience a NEW BEGINNING when we trust in the Lord for our DELIVERANCE and obey His instructions
- We need to APPRECIATE the URGENCY of doing what the Lord commands
- We can GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE the Lord's DELIVERANCE and DIVINE MERCY
- We can show appreciate for our DELIVERANCE by continually remembering and celebrating the Lord's action on our behalf.