

The Passover Deliverance by the Blood of the Lamb

Introduction

In Exodus we find the children of Israel in captivity in Egypt. The Egyptians leaders had put them into slavery. God's plan was to deliver them.

As you know He sent Moses to confront Pharaoh.

Through Moses God would bring a series of plagues upon the Egyptians to encourage Pharaoh to let them go.

It was the last plague that finally caused Pharaoh to finally yield to the pressure. It involved the death of the firstborn among the Egyptians including both man and beast.

What was the nature of the tenth and final plague?

- A. At midnight on the prescribed day God would demand the life of every firstborn in Egypt (Ex. 11:4-5).

Then Moses said, "Thus says the LORD: "About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals.

By including the livestock in this plague it ensured that every Egyptian family would feel the effects of this plague whether they had children or not.

- B. The children of Israel would be spared from this plague but only under certain conditions (Ex. 11:7).

But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the LORD does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.

In this plague God gave the Children of Israel the opportunity to be spared, but He gave them certain conditions that they had to fulfill if they were to be insured against it.

What preparations did Israel have to make before the final plague?

- A. God instructed the Israelites to ask for possessions from the Egyptians (Ex. 11:2-3).

"Speak now in the hearing of the people, and let every man ask from his neighbor and every woman from her neighbor, articles of silver and articles of gold." And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

1. God gave the Israelites and Moses great favor among the people (Ex. 11:3; 13:35-36).

Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians. Exodus 12:35-36

2. The Egyptians gave largely to the Israelites (Ex. 12:35; 32:2-3; 35:22-24).

B. God instructed the children of Israel to prepare a symbolic and prophetic meal that they would eat together on the evening of the tenth plague.

1. This meal would eventually be called “The Passover” (Ex. 12:11).

The word used here for the term “Passover” is not the same as the words used in the rest of this account describing how God would “pass over” the door of the houses where the blood was sprinkled.

This word comes from a root word which means “a sparing or immunity from penalty” (Gesenius).

2. This meal would consist of a male lamb without blemish (Ex. 12:5).

3. This lamb was to be taken on the 10th day and killed on the 14th day (Ex. 12:3, 6).

4. This lamb was to be killed at twilight (Ex. 12:6).

5. The blood from this lamb was to be applied to the doorposts of their houses (Ex. 12:7; 12:22).

6. This lamb was to be roasted in the fire and served with bitter herbs and unleavened bread (Ex. 12:8).

7. This lamb was to be eaten in its entirety (Ex. 12:9-10).

8. This lamb was to be eaten in an atmosphere of readiness (Ex. 12:11).

C. God instructed the children of Israel concerning the terms of their deliverance from the effects of the tenth plague.

If an Israelite’s family was to be spared from this plague it had to meet the following conditions:

1. They would have to sprinkle blood on the doorposts of their dwelling (Ex. 12:13).

2. The members of the family would have to stay within their house where the blood was applied (Ex. 12:22).

And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.

You were protected not merely because you were an Israelite but because you were dwelling where God had instructed you to dwell. Note the similarities here with the salvation of Rahab's household (Josh. 2:16-19).

D. God instructed the children of Israel that this was to be a perpetual feast for them throughout their generations (Ex. 12:14, 17, 24).

1. The celebration of this feast would be a commemoration of their freedom from Pharaoh's bondage (Ex. 12:14, 42).

It is a night of solemn observance to the LORD for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations. Exodus 12:42

2. The celebration of this feast would become the first month for them (Ex. 12:2).

In other words, this became the beginning of a new calendar for them.

3. The celebration of this feast would be an opportunity to testify to their children of the wondrous works of God (Ex. 12:25-27).

And it shall be, when your children say to you, "What do you mean by this service?" that you shall say, "It is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households." So the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

Reflect on how this parallels the celebration of communion in under the New Covenant (I Cor. 11:23ff).

What actually occurred in the out working of the final plague?

- A. At the appointed time God sent protecting angels to cover the entry to houses on which the blood had been sprinkled (Ex. 12:13, 23).

Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. Exodus 12:13

The idea of God passing over is that he passed over the door opening or covered the opening so that the destroyer could not enter those homes.

For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. Exodus 12:23

- B. At the God same time sent destroying angels to execute judgment upon the Egyptians (Ex. 12:23; Ps. 78:49-51).

He unleashed against them his hot anger, his wrath, indignation and hostility—a band of destroying angels. He prepared a path for his anger; he did not spare them from death but gave them over to the plague. He struck down all the firstborn of Egypt...

Psalm 78:49-51, NIV

- C. Pharaoh conceded or surrendered to God and allowed the children of Israel to go out (Ex. 12:51).

And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the LORD brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt according to their armies.

What is the spiritual significance of Passover for the New Covenant believer?

- A. The Passover lamb is symbolic and prophetic of Christ our Passover Lamb (I Cor. 5:7; Rev. 5:12; 13:8).

Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I Corinthians 5:7-8

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8

1. Jesus was the Lamb chosen by God (John 1:29, 36; Luke 23:35-36; I Pet. 2:4).

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

2. Jesus was examined and proven to be without blemish (Ex. 12:5; Luke 23:14, 47; I Pet. 1:18-20).

So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!" Luke 23:47

3. Jesus was set aside on the 10th day of the month (Ex. 12:3).

In the New Testament this would have been right after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Mt. 21:15; John 12:9-19). This is when the religious leaders made serious plots to kill Jesus.

4. Jesus was taken from among men (the flock) (Phil. 2:7-8; Heb. 4:15).

...but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:7-8

5. Jesus was sacrificed on the 14th day of the month (Ex. 12:6; Mt. 26:2). He was crucified in conjunction with the Hebrew Passover celebration.

Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples, "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him. Mathew 26:1-4

6. Jesus was slain at twilight (Ex. 12:6; Lev. 23:15; Mark 15:33).
7. Jesus was roasted in the fire of suffering and tasted the bitter herbs on the cross (Ex. 12:8-9; Ps. 69:21; Mark 10:38-39; I Pet. 3:18).
8. Jesus' death provided the shedding of His blood that delivered us from sin and the power of Satan (Rom. 5:6-10; Eph. 2:13; Heb. 9:14; I Pet. 1:18-19; I John 1:7).

...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. I Peter 3:18-19

9. Jesus marked a new beginning and a new calendar for humanity (Ex. 12:2).

B. The Passover experience is symbolic of the new birth experience and the believer's relationship to Christ.

1. We find our new beginning when we take the Lamb, Jesus, into our lives (John 3:5; II Cor. 5:17).
2. We must eat the whole lamb (Ex. 12:10; John 6:55).
3. We must have the blood sprinkled on the door posts of our hearts (Heb. 10:22).
4. We must stay in the place of God's provision if we expect protection (Ex. 12:22; Ps. 91).
5. We must purge out the leaven in our lives as we eat the lamb (Ex. 12:15; I Cor. 5:7-8).
6. When we commemorate our Passover in Communion as a celebration of our being spared from and immune to the penalty for sin (Rom. 6:23; I Cor. 11:23-26).