

# Easter Series 2 - The Passover

## Last Week

We talked last week about the sacrificial system in Leviticus. This system taught the Israelites that God can be approached only with the blood of a worthy substitute. However, none of the animals offered in these sacrifices could, in themselves, take away a person's sin or truly pay the debt for sin. But by offering these sacrifices in faith, the people of the Old Testament demonstrated their faith in God and their future hope Christ, the superior, once-for-all sacrifice, the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. The reason it matters to look at the the sacrifices of the Old Testament is to show how us the real cost Sin has and the way that God offers redemption and reconciliation throughout the blood of a substitute.

## The Passover

Passover is the most important event in Old Testament history. It was a turning point, a defining moment for the Jewish people. Everything changed for them with Passover. God rescued, preserved, and called them out to be His people in their own land. Immediately upon their departure from Egypt, He instituted the Feast of Passover as an everlasting memorial to their deliverance. God set up a tradition for Israel to intentionally remember what He had done for them in the Passover and Exodus.

## The Context

- Israel is enslaved in Egypt
- Moses is called by God - The burning bush
- God goes to war against Egypt:
  - 1 Water turned to blood - 7:14-25
  - 2 Frogs - 8:1-15
  - 3 Gnats - 8:16-19
  - 4 Flies - 8:20-32
  - 5 Egyptian Livestock die - 9:1-7
  - 6 Boils - 9:8-12
  - 7 Hail - 9:13-35
  - 8 Locusts - 10:1-20
  - 9 Darkness - 10:21-29
  - 10 Death of the first born - 12:1-51

## A New Beginning

Exodus 12:1-2

*1 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2 "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.*

- This event would be how Israel would begin to date their history, similar to what B.C./A.D. today.
- This new thing is going to be the start of their new calendar year.
- God is about to do something BIG

## **A sacrificial substitute is required**

### Exodus 12:3-11

*3 Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. 4 And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, 6 and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.*

- 1 Lamb per household.
- Lamb must be a one year old male without blemish.
- Must keep it in your house as a pet for four days.
- Lamb us killed at midnight.

*7 "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8 They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. 10 And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 11 In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.*

- Paint blood on the doorposts.
- Eat the whole Lamb, roasted whole over a fire and seasoned with bitter herbs.
- Eat the meal dressed and ready to leave Egypt quickly.

## **Death is coming**

### Exodus 12:12-13

*12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. 13 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 no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.*

- Death is coming for the first born in all of Egypt, for both Egyptians and Israelites.
- The blood is the sign God looks for to "pass over" that house and to not pass judgement on them.

## **Remember this day forever**

### Exodus 12:14-17

*14 "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. 15 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. 16 On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. 17 And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever.*

- This will be a holy memorial day forever.
- They would repeat the meal each year.
- They would remember what God did that day each year.

## **The Tenth Plague: Death of the Firstborn**

Exodus 12:29-32

*29 At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. 30 And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. 31 Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as you have said. 32 Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!"*

- Every firstborn male was killed, from the dungeon to the palace, including the livestock.
- Every house in Egypt lost someone. None of the Egyptians obeyed God's warning.
- There was a great cry or mourning throughout the land.
- After this the Egyptians have had enough, they wanted the Israelites and their God to leave Egypt.

## **Why this matters: Jesus is the new Passover lamb!**

1 Corinthians 5:6-9

*6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

Though God elected to save the Israelites, their sin did not make them any less worthy of death than the Egyptians. But the Lord provided a way for them to escape His wrath in those days. Ultimately, this looked forward to the time when the Lord would eternally save His people from judgment. We are saved from God's wrath by the sacrifice of Jesus, just as the Israelites were saved by the sacrifice of the lamb. Let us never forget the righteous character of God, who, despite our sin, chooses to redeem His people.

## Discussion Questions

- Before the tenth plague, what do you think the Egyptians might have been thinking about the plagues? How do you think they were reacting?
- In your words why is the Passover (The Feast of Unleavened Bread) so important to the Israelites?
- If an Egyptian had made a sacrifice and painted their doors with blood, do you think their house would have passed over like the Israelites houses were? Why or why not?
- In your own words, what did the Passover meal look like? A normal family meal or something different?
- Why do you think God required the entire lamb to be eaten or burned up?
- What do you think the significance of seasoning the lamb with bitter herbs? Why not something savory or sweet?
- Why did the Egyptians want the Israelites to leave?
- What do the ten plagues teach you about God?
- Why was it significant for the Israelites to remember The Passover (Feast of Unleavened Bread)?
- How are Jesus and the Passover lamb similar?
- Why is it significant for Christians to remember what Jesus did on the cross?