

Exodus 12 - Thursday, October 9th, 2008.

12:1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. 3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. 4 And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.

- The Lord tells Moses that the calendar now starts over and that this is the beginning of the first month of the year all because of a lamb.
 - One commentator has suggested that this may be why the "Anti-Christ" will seek to change the calendar to remove Jesus. (Daniel 7:25)

- It's also interesting to notice how it started off as "a" lamb, then to, "the" lamb, and once it was taken as a household it was "your" lamb.
 - They were to take this lamb on the "tenth" day of the month, but not sacrifice it until four days later on the fourteenth day of the month.

- There is a progression in how lambs were sacrificed and for whom they were sacrificed:

1. Abel offered a lamb for a man (Genesis 4)
2. Israel offered a lamb for a family (Exodus 12)
3. Priests offered a lamb for a nation (Exodus 29)
4. Jesus offered himself as "the" lamb for the world (John 1)

7 And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. 8 Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire -- its head with its legs and its entrails. 10 You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. 11 And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover.

- At first this may seem a little bit graphic, but it's important to know that there is a reason for all this extreme attention to detail.
 - As we'll see next, this obviously points to Jesus Who will ultimately fulfill all the fascinating details as "the" Passover Lamb.

1 Corinthians 5:7b ...For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

EXODUS		JESUS
The calendar starts over with a lamb		The calendar started over as "the" lamb
The lamb is brought in the house on the 10 th day		Jesus made his triumphant entry on the 10 th day
The lamb was inspected for four days		Jesus was tried for four days
The lamb was to be found without any blemish		Jesus was found to be innocent, without any sin
The blood of the lamb was in the shape of a cross on their door		Jesus as the Lamb shed His blood on the cross
The lamb had to come into contact with the fire/judgment		Jesus had to endure the judgment of mankind's sin
10 TH Aviv	Procession of Lamb into Temple	Jesus' procession into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:17)
10 TH Aviv	Lamb examined, four days. (Exodus 12:1-11)	Jesus is questioned. His last four days. (Matthew 22:15-33)
14 TH Aviv	Passover begins at 6:00 PM.	Jesus begins his path to the cross.
3 RD Hour	Lambs are prepared for sacrifice at 9:00 AM.	Jesus is beaten, prepared for the cross. (Matthew 27:28)
9 TH Hour	Lambs are sacrificed at 3:00 PM.	Jesus is sacrificed on the cross. (Matthew 27:48-52)
The lamb was to be eaten with bitter herbs		Jesus endured the bitterness of the cross
The lamb had to be "finished" by the morning		Jesus said; "it is finished," now for resurrection morning
The lamb would save from the death to the "firstborn"		Jesus saves those who are "born again" in the "second birth"
The lamb was not to have any bones broken		None of Jesus bones were broken
The bread had to be without leaven		Jesus, the bread of life, is without sin

THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD	JESUS IS THE UNLEAVENED BREAD
At the Passover meal, they have three pieces of bread.	The 3 breads represent the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
The Matzah-bread in the center is then broken in two	The 2 nd Matzah represents Jesus' body that's broken.
The Matzah-bread now is two pieces of one bread	Jesus was both fully God and fully man and still is.
The larger of the two is called the "afikomen"	Afikomen is a Greek word that could mean "I came"
The Afikomen is wrapped in a cloth and hidden	Jesus' was wrapped in a burial cloth, hid in the tomb
Children race to find the afikomen and receive a prize	Come to Jesus as a child, run the race, receive the prize

12 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. 13 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.

- God tells Moses that He will pass through Egypt at night and strike the firstborn dead unless He sees the blood then He will "pass over."
- He also reminds Moses that this is how He will execute His judgment on Egypt and all the false gods of Egypt. He says; "I am the Lord!"

- There's an interesting detail here that could easily be missed. The blood had to be applied, as a cross, to the door to be saved.
- In other words, an Israelite could have, believed in God, even sacrificed the lamb, but if they didn't apply the blood, they would perish.
- An Egyptian could believe in God, sacrifice the lamb, and applied the blood, because there's power in the blood, and been saved.

14 'So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance. 15 seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. 16 On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat -- that only may be prepared by you. 17 So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance. 18 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. 19 For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land. 20 You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread."

- This is where God institutes the Feast of Passover, as well as the "Feast of Unleavened Bread" as a memorial to what He had done.
- Once again it's important for us to know that we are given these specific details regarding the unleavened bread for a reason.

- One has noted that there were some practical as well as symbolic reasons for the bread being without leaven:

1. They had to be ready to leave Egypt, and couldn't wait for the dough to rise
2. The leaven could have some bacteria in it because it was left over
3. The leaven makes the bread, "puff up"

1 Corinthians 5:6-7 6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: KJV

21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. 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.

- Now the time has come for Moses to get the Passover lambs ready. Notice that they are to dip a bunch of hyssop in the blood.
- They used a hyssop branch to offer Jesus a sponge soaked in sour wine while He hung on the cross in John 19:29.
- Hyssop was often used to apply blood for the cleansing of sin, like in Leviticus 14:6 with lepers and in Numbers 19 for purifying water.

23 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. 24 And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. 25 It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. 26 And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' 27 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. 28 Then the children of Israel went away and did so; just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

- Not only is God going to strike the Egyptians, He's going to deliver the Israelites, because they obeyed all that the Lord commanded.
- Also, notice how that the Israelites are to pass this on to the following generations; God isn't doing this just for them, then.

29 And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD struck 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 livestock. 30 So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

- Once again, this final plague is directed against yet another of Egypt's many gods, because they were thought to be "the giver of life."
- It's thought that this plague is against both Osiris and Pharaoh himself because his very own firstborn heir had his life taken in this.

"An inscription was found in a shrine connected with the great Sphinx which recorded a solemn promise from the Egyptian gods that Thutmose IV would succeed his father, who was Amenhotep II - the pharaoh of the Exodus. Why would there need to be a special promise from the gods that something so natural would happen - the eldest son take his father's place as Pharaoh? Undoubtedly, because Thutmose IV was not his father's firstborn son - that one had been struck dead at the first Passover. Therefore, they believed that the second born son needed special protection from the gods, and the inscription seeks to provide that."

31 Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said. 32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also."

- Pharaoh is finally now doing what God said he would do by not only letting them go, but demanding that they go, all of them.
- It's most interesting that Pharaoh would say to Moses; "bless me also." It seems that he finally realizes Who Moses' God really is.

"Here was the overthrow of pride. The haughty tyrant surrenders, and becomes himself a suppliant. God's sword can reach the heart of leviathan himself, though he thinks himself invulnerable and invincible."

Charles Spurgeon

33 And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead." 34 So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders.

- Perhaps the Israelites are glad that they didn't have any leaven in their bread because if they did, they wouldn't have left in haste.
- Had they disobeyed the Lord and put leaven in the bread, they would have either stayed in Egypt, or starved in the wilderness.
- It almost makes you wonder if some of the Israelites wanted to put the leaven in anyway. Well now, there was no time. They couldn't.

35 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. 36 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.

- Notice that they didn't tell the Egyptians, they asked the Egyptians for articles of gold, and clothing because God had given them favor.
- Again, when it says that they plundered the Egyptians, the reality is that God is making sure they get paid for 430 years of back wages.

"Their long and unpaid services were thus, in a measure, requited by the gifts of the Egyptians. ... These were not borrowed as we understand the word, but asked for, and freely given, because the people honored the Israelites, and were afraid to incur their anger."

Charles Spurgeon

37 Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. 38 A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds -- a great deal of livestock. 39 And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves.

- Notice that it's only the men that number about six hundred thousand. It's believed they were 2-3 million counting women and children.
- It's interesting that the "mixed multitude," probably mostly Egyptian's, went up with them also, along with a great deal of livestock.
- Also, they begin to live off of the unleavened bread that they had hastily brought with them because they couldn't wait. Good thing!

40 Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. 41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years -- on that very same day -- it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. 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.

- Clearly, God wants the Israelites to always remember this night as a "solemn observance," commemorating their Exodus "out of Egypt."
- It's interesting that the phrase "out of Egypt," is subsequently repeated some 56 times in the Bible. God wants them to remember this.

43 And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it. 44 But every man's servant who is bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then he may eat it. 45 A sojourner and a hired servant shall not eat it. 46 In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones. 47 All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. 48 And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. 49 one law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you."

- God is telling Moses and Aaron that there are certain regulations and requirements for the observing of the ordinance of the Passover.
- The common denominator between these ordinances is that anyone who partook had to enter into God's covenant with them.

50 Thus all the children of Israel did; as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.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.

- It's sort of like God is saying; "on that very same day," He, "brought the children out of the land of Egypt," was their birthday.

- Egypt has been likened to the womb, the 430 years to the gestation, and the 10 plagues to the birth pains dilated to a 10 and their born.

Lessons I can learn from Exodus chapter 12:

1. Like with the lamb beginning a new calendar, so too does Jesus as the Lamb start my own calendar over with a new beginning.
2. Like with Israel having "a" lamb, then, "your" lamb, so too do we accept Jesus, "the" Lamb of God as "our" Lord and Savior.
3. Like with God telling Moses that He will execute Judgment, so too is God telling us that judgment day is coming. He has to judge.
4. Like with Israel taking the Passover lamb by faith, so too do we accept Christ as our Passover Lamb, by faith.

Hebrews 11:28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. NIV

5. Like with the actual applying of the blood shaped as a cross, so too is it true for us. It's not enough to believe, I need His shed blood.
6. Like with the unleavened bread, so too must we always be ready to leave this world as His pure and spotless bride.
7. Like with the Egyptians being struck and the Israelites being delivered, so too are we delivered when we obey all that He commands.
8. Like with the Israelites passing this on to the following generations, so too, this may be why God does certain things in certain ways.
9. Like with Pharaoh finally admitting and even confessing who Moses' God is, so too, all will bow down and confess Jesus as Lord.
10. Like with the Israelites leaving in haste, so too, when we partake of the Passover meal, we should also be ready to leave in haste.

"Just as the children of Israel were to partake of the Passover in a posture of being ready to go, in 1 Corinthians 11, Paul says in observing Communion . we show the Lord's death until He comes. In other words, the Communion Table, like the Passover meal, is not to be simply about absorbing the Lamb and appropriating the blood – but to realize the time is at hand when He will come back, when we'll move on, when we'll at last partake of the marriage feast of the Lamb with Him in eternity." "Jon Coursen's Application Commentary", v1 p265

11. Like with the Israelites having to obey with the unleavened bread, so too God may arrange our circumstances so we have to obey.

"One commentator said it this way: "In the same way, sometimes God arranges circumstances to where obedience is simply made necessary - even if we didn't choose it. For example, God may want a man to give up friends that bring a bad influence; and the friends leave him first!

12. Like with God giving the Israelites favor in the eyes of the Egyptians, so too can the Lord give us favor in the eyes of the world.
13. Like with the Lord making the Passover a "solemn observance," so too is partaking of the communion table to repeated often.
14. Like with those observing the Passover being required to enter into the covenant, so too must we be in Christ in order to partake.