Moses
Part 10

Exodus 12

29 At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. **30** Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

31 During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested. **32** Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me."

- At midnight on the night of the Passover every person in Egypt was on one side of the blood of the lamb or the other. For those with the blood of the lamb on the doorpost of their home, there was peace, protection and God's mighty hand working towards their liberty.

- For those without the blood of the lamb there was the horror of death and "loud wailing… for there was not a house without someone dead." (Vs. 30)

- This is a strong reminder that there is no in-between. We either have the blood on the door post or we don't.

- The visitation of God didn't happen during normal business hours, in the morning or in the afternoon. It was at midnight hour when everyone was least expecting.

Matthew 24

44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

- Now after Pharaoh has hardened his heart towards God he says to Moses **Vs. 32** Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me."

- Pharaoh worshiped many other gods and even considered himself to be deity; now he knows who the LORD is.

- Pharaoh never willed to listen but now he's paying attention. Pharaoh has only resisted the Lord and now he asks Moses to bless him.

Question: Do you think Moses blessed Pharaoh, or asked God to bless him?

Note: Pharaoh wanted a blessing like Naaman (2 Kings 5) wanted Elisha to wave his hand over him. Naaman found out, the blessing didn't come from Elisha waving his hand over him, the blessing came when he softened his heart and obeyed the word of the Lord.

Vs. 33-36

33 The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!" **34** So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. **35** The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. **36** The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.

Vs. 33 The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!"

- The Egyptians, including Pharaoh have had a great revelation. They know now, the Lord is God, and they must stop working against God, “For otherwise,” they said, “we will all die!”

- It seems often times people fear the devil more than God. For the Egyptians now they know, the one to fear is the Lord. For this reason James say *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”* (James 4:7)

Vs. 37-41

37 The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. **38** Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds. **39** With the dough the Israelites had brought from Egypt, they baked loaves of unleavened bread. The dough was without yeast because they had been driven out of Egypt and did not have time to prepare food for themselves.

40 Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. **41** At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord’s divisions left Egypt. **42** Because the Lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the Lord for the generations to come.

- I love that the Bible says **Vs.37 “**The Israelites journeyed…”

- Israel cried out to God (2:23), now their day of deliverance has finally come and they begin on their new journey with God.

- God is making everything new in the camp of the Israelites beginning with Passover. God said, The Passover marks the 14th day of the new first month of the year. This is for them the first month of the new year and new beginning.

- Now they are journeying in the direction God is telling them to go. The old routine is over, the old job is done, their old homes are left behind. Everything is new.

- This sounds exciting, and it is for a minute. But the Israelites are going to be stretched in new ways. They are leaving the comforts of familiar for something new, unfamiliar, and uncomfortable at times. They can no longer trust in the slave masters of Egypt for provision. Now they must trust God, the one who sets them free, for everything.

Note: Does any of that sound familiar. When we really give our lives to Christ as scripture says:

2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV
Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- The journey that the Israelites experienced is not far from what a new believer experiences today. It is a journey that is exciting, but it is also one that will stretch you and cause you to trust God every step of the way.

Story: I studied the Eagle in depth a few years ago for a sermon series called “As the Eagle".

The Bald Eagle is a powerful icon of freedom both in Scripture and for America. I found the Eagle really doesn’t have a predator. The greatest danger the Eagle faces is their freedom. Freedom takes more eagles every year than any other cause. Because of freedom they have to work hard, they have to deal with the elements, they have to catch their food or they starve to death, they have to defend their own youth and habitat. As the saying goes “freedom isn’t free.”

When an eagle is wounded, they are brought into captivity where they have a feeding routine. They are housed in a warm comfortable cage.

They are out of the harsh elements. Their wounds are taken care of, but they are in a cage of captivity without the freedom to fly or choose freely. Sounds like socialism to me. But regardless of the luxuries of captivity the Eagle prefers freedom….

The lesson learned from the eagle is this:
1. Freedom isn't easy
2. Freedom isn't free
3. With Freedom there is great responsibility

- For Israel their freedom will cause them to be uncomfortable and grumble and question God at times.
- For the Christian the Apostle Paul warns:

Galatians 5:13
You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Vs. 40,41
40 Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. **41** At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord's divisions left Egypt.

- **"At the end of the 430 years, to the very day"** - Apparently the Exodus from Egypt began on the same calendar day as they arrived in Egypt. It's remarkable evidence that God often fulfills promises on anniversaries of prior or prophesied events.

- **"all the Lord's divisions left Egypt. -** This phrase "Left Egypt" or "out of Egypt" is now a new phrase that is repeated 56 times in the Bible after this point. God wanted His people to remember He was the one who brought them out never to return back, both literally and spiritually.

(**Exodus 12:43-51)** - God give Israel Restrictions on the Passover

a. **No foreigner may eat it:** To share in the Passover, one had to make themselves part of the people of Israel. Receiving the covenant of circumcision.

b. **It must be eaten inside the house:** Each household celebrated it.

c. **They must not break any bones of the lamb:** This is a fore shadowing to Jesus, the ultimate Passover Lamb, who had not one bone broken even in His crucifixion (Psalm 22:17 and John 19:31-36).

d. **All the congregation of Israel shall keep it**: All who were part of Israel had to commemorate the Passover redemption. You couldn't be part of God's people and not share in Passover.

(**Exodus 13:1-16)** - God calls for Israel to Consecrate the firstborn to the Lord as a reminder that the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

Exodus 13

17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." **18** So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.

- Theologians agree there was a much easier established road from Egypt to Canaan. Can you believe that God would call his people to avoid the easy road and go a different path?

- This probably made no sense to many Israelites and caused some irritation. But God has a purpose in everything he does.

Application for us: I think the application is pretty obvious. If you truly follow Jesus, you can no longer go the way of the world. If God says (walk this way, talk this way) that's what you do.

John 7:13,14 NIV
"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. **14** But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Vs. 17b "For God said, If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt."

"The coastal route (the Via Maris, known as "the way of the sea") was the shortest and most common way to go from Egypt to Canaan. Yet it was also the road where Egypt's military outposts were. God knew the people of Israel were not ready to face this yet (lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt), so He led them a different way." **(Guzik)**

- Even though God's way wasn't easy, God was leading Israel away from hinderances.

- The same is true for us, the Holy Spirit knows the way we should go and the way we should avoid. When God tells you to go a different way, it may not be the easiest way, but there is a reason…

Vs. 18b "The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle."

- The verse is also translated; "the sons of Israel went up in battle formation." (NASB) "Israel went up in orderly ranks" (NKJV)

Vs. 19

Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath. He had said, “God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place.”

- Even though Joseph’s legacy was in Egypt, He knew Egypt was not his or Israel final resting place and that God had a Promised Land for them. Joseph prophesied this day would come in Genesis 50:25 and now it is fulfilled.

Vs. 20-22

20 After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. **21** By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. **22** Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

- God showed His presence to Israel in a real and powerful way by giving them constant reassurance with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

“This was the Shechinah or Divine dwelling place, and was the continual proof of the presence and protection of GOD.” **(Clarke)**

- With God’s presence so real before them, was there anything they should fear?

Psalm 105:39

He spread a cloud for a covering,
and fire to give light by night.

Psalm 78:14
He guided them with the cloud by day
and with light from the fire all night.

Now consider what Christ has promised us:
Matthew 28
18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Closing:
Communion