

Exodus 13-15

The Exodus Begins

I. Intro

After years of suffering in Egypt, Israel was at last delivered through the final plague. Only those covered by the blood of the Passover lamb were saved from judgment. This serves as a perfect illustration of Christ who is called our Passover lamb.

1 Corinthians 5:7

*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.*

In addition we read that:

- John the Baptist called Jesus “the Lamb of God” (John 1:29)
- Peter linked the lamb without defect from Exodus 12:5 to Jesus when he wrote “*lamb without blemish or defect*” (1 Peter 1:19).

Jesus is qualified to be called One “*without blemish*” because His life was completely free from sin (Hebrews 4:15).

- In Revelation, John sees Jesus as “*a Lamb that been slain*” (Revelation 5:6).
- Jesus was crucified during the time that the Passover was observed (Mark 14:12).

Just as Israel was saved when covered by the blood of the lamb, so we are saved when we are covered by the blood of Christ.

Moses records the actual event

Exodus 12:29-30

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. 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.

A few things to keep in mind:

This did not come without warning and could have been avoided.

No one will ever face the fires of judgment without having ample opportunity to be rescued.

God had gone to great lengths to prove that the gods of Egypt were false and to proclaim His way of deliverance through His Word.

He does the same today. Creation itself reveals there to be a God and even many of His attributes

Psalms 19:1-3

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament shows His handiwork.
Day unto day utters speech,
And night unto night reveals knowledge.
There is no speech nor language
Where their voice is not heard.*

Romans 1:19-20

*because what may be known of God is manifest in them,
for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the
world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being
understood by the things that are made, even His eternal
power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*

It might do us well to consider those who risked and even lost their lives for the preservation and proclamation of the Word.

Old and New testament characters have been joined by countless thousands who took up the mantle to proclaim the way of salvation in hostile environments risking their lives to bring the way of salvation to others. All this was done as an expression of the loving arms of God who desires for not to perish.

Clearly final judgment can be avoided. No man has to face the fires of hell.

Moses records that along with Israel many from Egypt chose to trust in the provision of God

Exodus 12:38

A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds—a great deal of livestock.

And instructions were given to make future passovers available to everyone

Exodus 12:48-49

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. One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you.”

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God makes no distinctions. If a person wants to be delivered from judgment, regardless of who they are they can apply the blood of the lamb and be forgiven.

Finally, Passover changed the calendar year for Israel.

Exodus 12:2

“This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.

It is almost as though the nation experienced a reboot with Passover. They now had a new starting point. They did not celebrate the day they were taken captive but the day they were set free. The same is true for those who trust in Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

II. The Exodus

The Firstborn:

Exodus 13:1-2

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine."

Once Israel began their journey God told Moses that the firstborn belonged to Him. This subject will be picked up again in 13:11-16.

- We find that the firstborn of men and beast belong to the Lord.
- Firstborn of the flocks and herds were offered as a sacrifice while firstborn of unclean domesticated animals and humans were redeemed with the shed blood of the lamb.

This, like Passover is a picture of salvation. The innocent is offered in place of the guilty. This all points to the cross where the sinless Son of God will redeem all mankind back to himself.

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

Moses explained that this was to be as a sign on their hands and a frontlet between their eyes

Exodus 13:16

16 It shall be as a sign on your hand and as frontlets between your eyes, for by strength of hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt."

Sign – a monument or distinguishing mark

Frontlet – a decorative band worn as a reminder. Like the proverbial string tied to the finger to remind us to do something

Clearly God does not want Israel to forget that salvation is always a matter of the innocent in place of the guilty

The Feast of Unleavened Bread:

Moses then reminds Israel of the feast of unleavened bread. This was a weeklong feast that followed the day of Passover. It gets its name from the fact that all leaven was to be removed from the house.

There seems to be two primary reasons for this;

First, leaven is used symbolically in scripture as a picture of sin.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 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.

Galatians 5:9

A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

Second, the reason no leaven was allowed at this feast is because it commemorated the speed in which Israel departed from Egypt

Exodus 12:33

*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."*

Exodus 12:39

*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.*

Reflecting back upon his event to the next generation, Moses declared

Deuteronomy 16:3

*You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, that is, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in **haste**), that you may remember the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life.*

Seems that the primary point of application is the need to respond immediately to the Lord.

Hebrews 3:15

*“Today, if you will hear His voice,
Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”*

One of the great schemes of the devil is to get us to put off what the Lord is calling us to do. To guard against this an annual feast was established to remind the people of the need for haste when it comes to responding in obedience to God

Might do us well to examine what the lord has been asking us to do and if we have been putting it off or not

The feast, like the firstborn was to be commemorated with signs and frontlets

Exodus 13:9

9 It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the Lord’s law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the Lord has brought you out of Egypt.

Sign – a monument or distinguishing mark

Frontlet – a decorative band worn as a reminder. Like the proverbial string tied to the finger to remind us to do something

Clearly God does not want Israel to forget that we must respond with haste to the voice of God

The Journey begins

A few verses give us insight into the route Israel took from Egypt to Canaan.

Exodus 12:37

*37 Then the children of Israel journeyed from **Rameses** to **Succoth**, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children.*

Exodus 13:18

***18** So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.*

Exodus 13:20

***20** So they took their journey from **Succoth** and camped in **Etham** at the edge of the wilderness.*

Exodus 14:2

***2** "Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before **Pi Hahiroth**, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea.*

They journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, to Etham, to Pi Hahiroth by the Red Sea.

- **Rameses** was the area Jacob settled with his family when they arrived in Egypt.
- It later became the prison that held Israel enslaved for hundreds of years.
- Egypt used the slave labor of Israel to build the city to include a palace for Pharaoh.
- Rameses was the starting point of the **Horus road** or **the way of the philistines** which was the major trade route from Egypt to Asia

According to Fayza Haikal, a professor of archaeology and Egyptology at the American University in Cairo.

"This is the only way to enter Egypt by land coming from the east,"

It is interesting that God chose an entirely different route for Israel to take.

Moses explains the reason for the alternate route

Exodus 13:17-18

***17** Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God*

did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt." 18 So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.

It is clear that God took them on a path that was avoided by travelers because He had lessons He wanted them to learn

He selected one that would cause them to avoid certain pitfalls and come face to face with others.

Their journey would take them to the Red Sea, waters of Mara, 70 palms, hunger and even attack by Amalek

It is important that we see that God led Israel into difficulty and suffering because there were lessons they had to learn.

We need to realize that **Bible heroes were forged in the flames of difficulty.** If we want to become the person and has called us to we must learn to **embrace the hardship** that He leads us into in our walk with Him.

Before we tackle this subject let's be clear that there are many hardships that can be avoided. You might be enduring difficulty that is self inflicted and was caused by refusing to walk in His way. Some of that hardship can be avoided by surrendering to Christ. We are going to discuss the suffering that is by Devine design.

There are 4 things that I want you to see

First, we will see that this suffering was a mandatory course for all bible heroes

Second, suffering is mandatory for us today

Third, we will see some reasons why suffering is necessary

Finally, suffering was mandatory for Israel

First, we will see that this suffering was a mandatory course for all bible heroes

Along with the call of God comes certain difficulty that not only cannot be

avoided but also are part of the training. We must learn to embrace the difficulty in order to learn the lessons and become the person God intends for us to be

- **Abraham** embraced his call to leave Ur for Canaan. With it came the difficulty of leaving family, home, comfort and culture as well as the added difficulty of living as a stranger in a strange land. For the rest of his life he would be a sojourner. Had Abraham been unwilling to embrace the hardship he never could have become the father of faith or the father of nations
- **Moses** embraced his identity as a follower of God. With it came the choice to suffer affliction with the children of Israel rather than enjoy the passing pleasures of sin. Moses gave up the palace for a place in the hall of faith
- **David** embraced his low position in his family. (When Samuel came to his home, he was not even invited in and when he visited his brothers in the army they mocked him) David chose to use his low place as a means to get to know his God, write songs of worship and prepare for battle. It was while forgotten in the fields that he learned the truths he penned in Psalm 23 and where he learned to fight.
- Later **David** embraced being a fugitive and learned the lessons that would equip him to be Israel's greatest king
- **Daniel** embraced being taken captive from Jerusalem to Babylon and being forced into training as a servant of the king. It was there where he chose not to be defiled by the ways of Babylon and in the end seems to have led both the king of Babylon and later the king of Persia to faith

Second, remember that none of us are excused from these courses.

You might be facing:

- Physical pain

Paul had a physical infirmity that was a constant source of difficulty for him, but through it he learned the grace of God

- Loneliness

John was banished to Patmos where he met with Jesus and penned revelation

- Rejection

Joseph sold into slavery became Israel's redeemer

- Difficulty at home

Eunice struggle in marriage to an unbeliever resulted in investing extra care into Timothy who became a pillar of the early church

Third, why are these courses necessary?

To answer that we must keep in mind the value of suffering.

First difficulty is designed to keep us from falling away

Romans 5:3 New King James Version (NKJV)

3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

Many walk away from the Lord because they have been disillusioned by difficulty. Instead of embracing the suffering clinging to the Lord and allowing Him to work in and through them they blame God and it becomes the driving force that leads them away. For some decades go by and they are still angry at God for a loss, or a struggle or a disappointment. It is time to embrace the difficulty and allow God to work in us

Second difficulty is designed to help us grow

James 1:2-4

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Maturity stems for going through difficulty, clinging to Christ and allowing Him to produce what is lacking in our lives.

Third difficulty is designed to help us overcome sin

1 Peter 4:1

4 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us[a] in the flesh, arm

yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

Finally difficulty is designed to help us win others to Christ

2 Corinthians 4:11-12

11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

12 So then death is working in us, but life in you.

Fourth, suffering was mandatory for Israel in their journey to Canaan

Lets look at where their journey took them

First stop the Red Sea

The Red Sea includes two fingers of Indian Ocean that extend northward and help separate Africa and Asia. The Red Sea's eastern branch is known as the Gulf of Aqaba (Arabic) or Gulf of Elat (Hebrew), and the western branch is known as the Gulf of Suez (Arabic, and the origin of the name of the Suez Canal which connects this western branch to the Mediterranean Sea).

Biblical Archeology Review

Much effort has been made to suggest that this event happened in the neaby marshlands. The proponents of this site the fact that the Hebrew "Yam Suph" means Sea of Reeds. The problems with this view include:

The writer of 1Kings gives us the coordinates for the Red Sea

1 Kings 9:26-28

26 King Solomon also built a fleet of ships at Ezion Geber, which is near Elath[a] on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom. 27 Then Hiram sent his servants with the fleet, seamen who knew the sea, to work with the servants of Solomon. 28 And they went to Ophir, and acquired four hundred and twenty talents of gold from there, and brought it to King Solomon.

At the northern tip of the gulf of Aqaba Solomon established a port where his ships set out for trade

The events described in Exodus and repeated often throughout Scripture could not have happened in a marshland. Moses describes the crossing as

- The people being boxed in
- The waters becoming a wall on either side. Same word used to describe walls around Jerusalem and Babylon
- The armies of Egypt are said to have sunk to the depths and their bodies having washed up on the shores

Why did God take Israel to the Red Sea?

The narrative explains that they became boxed in by their surroundings and had no way of escape. It was at this point that Egypt sent out their vast army to overtake and punish Israel

When Israel saw them coming they were filled with fear and cried out to Moses. Moses in turn counseled them

Exodus 14:13

13 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever."

They had to learn that God will put us in places where we need to leave room for Him to act

We are programmed to find a natural way out of everything. Sometimes God wants us to look to Him

Tell the story

Second stop the Mara

A tree cured bitter waters

The same is true of the cross

Galatians 3:13

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a

curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree")

1 **Peter 2:24**

24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.