**Exodus III The Passover Lamb**

Review:

We have already seen that Exodus is a part of the narrative/story of God saving his people.

In Exodus 1-17 the story is of God saving his people from slavery in Egypt through the messianic prefigure Moses. It is a foreshadow of how God will save us from slavery to sin. Jesus is the second Moses.

In Exodus 18-40 (and in Leviticus) God gives his people a law and a covenant, which are foreshadows of the Law of Christ and the New Covenant we have in Jesus.

We saw the parallels between baby Moses and baby Jesus.

We saw the theme “Out of Egypt, I called my son” (Hosea 11:1) fulfilled in

Joseph

Moses

Israel

Jesus

Us.

We saw God preparing Moses through 40 years in the desert, and, two weeks ago, God commissioning Moses to go to Pharaoh/Satan and command him to “Set my people free.”  
We also saw Moses resisting that call, and how God assured him that he could do it.

This week, we will see how God carried out that promise to Moses and to Israel through the ten plagues, and especially through the 10th plague, in which God “passed over” Israel, protecting their firstborn from death through the sacrifice of the Passover lamb, as a marvelous prefigure of God passing over our sins.

So, let’s get to it!

Exodus 5

Exodus 5:1-9 Moses obeys God and tells Pharaoh to let God’s people go to worship him for 3 days in the wilderness.

v. 2 Pharaoh: YHWH. Who is he? God: Eventually you will know that YHWH is Lord.

Pharaoh’s heart, as predicted by God, hardens! As revenge for making this request, Pharaoh undermines Moses as a potential leader by making their burden even harder that before. No longer provide straw for the bricks.

The slave-drivers beat the Israelites.

When we try to get out of Egypt, Satan ups the antie. He punishes our attempts to leave our life of sin. He does not sit back and say “sure, you can leave your life of sin.”

Exodus 5:19-23

Exodus 5:21 The Jewish overseers say to Moses: This is on you!

Exodus 5:23 Moses to God: I told you so! This is on you. You have not rescued your people at all. You have made it all worse.

When things go really badly (even when God tells us this will happen), we are tempted to blame God.

When we try to help people to come out of Egypt, Satan will use all his wiles to keep them in slavery.

Exodus 6:1-12 God to Moses: I told you so! Now I will show my “mighty hand” so that all will know that it is YHWH, not Moses, who freed them from slavery.

6:3-4 I came previously as El Shaddai, but not I come as YHWH

v. 5 I have heard my people’s groaning and I remember the covenant I have made with them.

v. 6 God promises to them and to you that “I will free you from being slaves to them (sin), and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm, and with mighty acts of judgment.

v. 7 I will be your God and you will be my people. (reminds of Eph 2:12-13 Remember that at that time (when you were in Egypt), you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenant of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now, in Christ Jesus you who once were far away, have been brought near by the blood of Christ. v. 19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow-citizens with God’s people, and also members of his household.

v. 7 Then you will know that I am the Lord

Even as we share our faith, let us remember that it is only God mighty outstretched arm who sets people free, not our amazing evangelistic abilities.

v. 8 Not only will I save you and send you into the wilderness, freed from Egypt, but I will take you into the Promised Land—heaven!

We are saved already but not yet.

Exodus 6:13-25 To us it is odd that the writer of Exodus puts a genealogy in the middle of the narrative here, but he is establishing, once for all, that Moses and Aaron are Levites.

Also, we are meeting Korah, of “Korah’s rebellion” and Nadab and Abihu, unfaithful priests who offered unsanctioned sacrifices in the wilderness.

Exodus 7, 8 So Moses does as commanded.

Exodus 7:1-6 He goes as “God” to the Egyptians, and Aaron as his prophet to do the talking. Aaron is Moses’ John the Baptist.

Exodus 7:3 I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, not to hurt you, but so that it may be VERY plain who freed you from Egypt, when I bring the plagues/judgments on Egypt. This is no works salvation!

God’s predestination is always to save, never to condemn.

v. 6 So Moses and Aaron faithfully did this.

Exodus 7:8-13 Rod turns to a snake. Through some sort of trickery, Pharaoh’s magicians do the same. Aaron’s snake ate theirs.

Plague #1 Blood Exodus 7:14-24 (do not read it) Aaron touches the Nile and all the water turns to blood. Again, through some sort of trickery, Pharaoh’s magicians turn some water to blood as well.

Exodus 7:20 An important point: Moses and Aaron did just as YHWH commanded.

Plague #2 Frogs Ex 8:1-15 Exodus 8:8 Help me out of this situation and I will repent. God saves him and he changes his mind. Typical! We turn to God in prayer when we are in a desperate situation, but then abandon him almost immediately after. I really hope this is none of you!

Plague #3 Gnats (black flies, like in Fond du Lac) Ex 8:16-19 This one Pharaoh’s magicians could not match. (they could add red food coloring, and they could induce frogs to come out of the water, but there was no trick by which to make gnats!

Plague #4 Flies Ex 8:20-32 The first plague that fell on Egypt, but not the Jews in Goshen. God/Moses is upping the game to convince a recalcitrant Pharaoh.

Exodus 8:28 Pharaoh: OK, take one day off to sacrifice to YHWH, but only here in Egypt.

The world wants us to compromise—to keep one foot in the world, and one foot in the kingdom. Never take this advice! I am glad Moses did not! If he had, we would all be still in sin!

Plague #5 Livestock Ex 9:1-7 Not a single animal of the Israelites died. Pharaoh: are you starting to be open yet?

Plague #6 Boils Ex 9:8-12

Plague #7 Hail Ex 9:13-35 Exodus 9:15-16 I have raised you (Pharaoh) up for this very purpose… God glorifies himself through Pharaoh.

Exodus 9:27 OK, I have sinned. But… v. 35 Pharoh’s heart was hardened. Typical.

Plague #8 Locusts Ex 10:1-20

Exodus 10:10 OK, but just the men. Satan wants us to have one foot in Egypt, and one foot in the desert.

Plague #9 Darkness Ex 10:21-29 Dark over all Egypt except Goshen.

Exodus 10:24 OK, the men, women and children, but not your livestock.

Exodus 10:29 As you say, this is your last chance. You will never see me again. God has given up on Pharaoh.

Exodus 11:1-3 God to Moses: Not only will Pharaoh let you go, but you will “plunder the Egyptians.”

Exodus 11:4-14 Plague #10 Plague of the firstborn sons.

Exodus 11:9 God: I told you (Moses) this will happen. The purpose of the hardening was so that God could reveal his glory to his people.

Exodus 12:1-13 Instructions for the Passover Meal/Seder

10 Nisan put aside a lamb or goat

v. 6 14 Nisan kill that lamb and put its blood on the beam above your door.

Can you think of another perfect, unblemished Lamb whose blood was put on a horizontal wooden beam?

Exodus 12:8 Note the bitter herbs. Will explain later.

Exodus 12:13 When I see the blood of the Passover lamb on the wooden beams above your doors, I will “pass over” you.

Exodus 12:14-20 The Feast of Unleavened Bread as well. (will skip for now)

Exodus 12:21-30 God’s people obey.

Exodus 12:26 When your children ask you… Part of the traditional Jewish Seder ceremony.

Exodus 12:31-42 Further instructions.

12:34 They took dough in haste—without yeast.

The point: When it is time to get out of Egypt, do it quickly. Do not hesitate!!!

v. 35-36, as God had prophesied through Moses, the Egyptians gave valuable gifts to the Israelites. V. 36 they plundered the Egyptians.

Application? We should use the things of the world to convert the world, such as their music, their food. Hmmm… Maybe.

12:46 Do not break any of the bones (a prophecy about our Passover Lamb, Jesus, whose bones were not broken, as prophesied by David in Ps 22)

**Lord’s Supper Talk: Luke 22:7-16**

The Last Supper, on Thursday evening (Nisan 14). There was no lamb at this seder because the Passover lambs had not yet been killed. Why? Jesus is our Passover lamb, and he must be killed on the day of Nisan 14 (Friday) Th 6:00 PM - Fri 6:00 PM

Actual Passover (Nisan 15) started 6:00 PM Friday.

That’s why they wanted the bodies taken down the next day.

Not just coincidence that Jesus was killed as a Passover sacrifice.

Note 14-16. God didn’t bring Passover to an end, he changed it into the Lord’s Supper.

What can the Passover tell us about the sacrifice of Jesus?

Passover: the people were under a death sentence.

Us: under a death sentence.

Passover: God’s solution: innocent sheep is killed.

Us: Jesus is Killed. Note 1 Cor 5:7,8 Christ, *OUR* Passover lamb is sacrificed.

Them: Because of the blood of the lamb, the destroying angel “passed over” their house.

Us. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus, God will pass over our personal sinful “house.”

Passover: A lamb without blemish… without imperfections was required.

Us: Jesus was without blemish (sin)

Sacrifice of a sheep: The picture of innocence and of lack of resistance. Sheep just stand there and let you kill them.

Us: Jesus was totally clued in to what was happening, yet he still acted just like a sheep.

We needed a perfect sacrifice, otherwise we were dead. We were toast. Burned toast. We were destined for hell and eternal suffering, but Christ, our Passover lamb has been sacrificed.

Another thing. When they killed the lamb, they sprinkled the blood on the wooden crossbar above their doors.

Us: a prefigure of the crucifixion. Jesus blood was sprinkled on a wooden crossbar for us, so that we would no longer be under death sentence.

Therefore, let us keep the (Passover) feast. Let us celebrate the Passover as our Jewish brothers and sisters did.

How?

First: by remembering. Essentially, the Passover was an annual remembering of what God did for them.

Remember the ten plagues. The punishment for sin…. Exodus 12:12-13, “On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both with men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt; I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plabe will touch you when I strike Egypt.

Imagine the sense of dread on that night, even though their doors were marked with blood of the lamb.

We need to have a healthy fear of God’s judgment, but great thankfulness that he will pass over us!!!

Us: Remember what God did for us.

First, by removing all the leaven. Jews do a ceremonial search of the house to get rid of all the leaven. Why? God told them to…

Us? Search the “house” (your life. Jesus often referred to your life as your house) to get rid of the sin. Why? To teach us about sin. Sin is like leaven. We need to root it out. Why? So we can be forgiven? No, so that we do not become defiled and turn back to Egypt.

Notice 1 Cor 5:7 Get rid of all the “yeast”! As you really are. We really are without sin, but let us sweep the sin out of the house anyway!!!

What else was in the Passover meal?

Bitter herbs. They ate bitter herbs as a reminder of the bitterness of slavery in Egypt.

Was it hard for them to remember it was bad to be a slave?

Absolutely!!!!!!!

We need to be reminded every week how terrible life in sin was. When you take the Lord’s Supper today, remember the bitter herbs..

Let us keep the festival with our Jewish brothers, but let us take it with its fulfilled meaning in the New Covenant.

Quote from Phil Lester’s article.

The essence of Passover is that of the Lord’s Supper: it is about remembering where we come from: the bitterness of enslavement and the price of our deliverance from enslavement: the blood of a lamb, slain from the creation of the world.

Brothers and Sisters, let us keep the Passover feast with Jesus today.