

The First Passover

Exodus 12:1-20

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 day 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. 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. 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. 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 one of the most important events in Jewish history. Whereas they had been slaves for hundreds of years they were about to be free. Whereas they were in a hostile place, both to their freedom and to their faith, they are soon to be guided by the hand of God.

They had been paupers but they were now children of the King on their way to inherit a kingdom.

- I. This was a new beginning for them.
 - A. They were leaving Egypt and their old lives.
 - 1. God is the God of new beginnings.
 - 2. If anyone is in Christ, Paul said, he is a new creation, old things have passed away and all things have become new.
- II. It took a perfect spotless lamb examined from the tenth day till the fourteenth to be qualified for the sacrifice.
 - A. Only a spotless animal could provide the protection from the wrath of God.
 - B. The blood of the lamb was more than a symbol, it was the testimony of the death of the lamb, the lamb for the first-born.
- III. They were to kill it together. Each family killed their own lamb.
- IV. It was a family affair.
 - A. For each family had to have their own lamb unless their family was too small then more than one family might go together.
 - B. The family is not the focus of the feast, the lamb is and God is.
 - 1. But the family is to be centered on the feast.
 - 2. If we do not treat Christianity as a family and focus our family on it the family will lose its center, its purpose.
 - a. The family is God's invention. And He knows what makes it work.
 - b. When Jesus is the center of the family He will hold the family together.
 - c. But when we put something else as the center of the family it will crumble and fail.
 - 3. How many parents spend later years wondering where they went wrong.
 - a. Many focused the family on the children and their happiness. That won't work.
 - b. Other parents focus on themselves thinking that if I am not happy no one else can be happy.
 - c. But unless the family is focused on Jesus then it will fail.
 - d. Jesus said seek ye first the kingdom of God and all the rest of these things will be added to you.
 - 4. The family was the unit.

- a. They killed the lamb for the family.
 - b. They ate the Passover as a family.
 - c. They applied the blood on the door as a family.
 - d. And they would go up out of slavery out of Egypt as a family.
- V. The blood must be applied
- A. The lamb's blood had to be applied to the entrance to the house.
 - 1. The sacrifice was sufficient for all that were inside.
- VI. It was a sacrifice by fire, symbol of the judgment of God.
- A. The lamb was to be roasted with fire not boiled or eaten raw.
 - B. Any left over was to be burned to ashes before morning.
- VII. It was to be eaten with bitter herbs and unleavened bread.
- VIII. It was to be roasted whole.
- A. It was not to be cut up or even were its entrails to be removed.
- IX. Jesus died during this very feast in Jerusalem.
- A. He was our Passover, (1 Co 5:7 . . . For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.)