

The Beginning of Months **Exodus 12:2**

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

After hundreds of years in Egypt God was going to fulfil the promise made to Abraham and remembered by Joseph that God was going to take them out of Egypt and into the land of promise.

But they needed to be delivered not only from the slavery in Egypt but also from the religion they had adopted in Egypt.

The golden calf was not what Abraham, Isaac and Jacob worshiped but was one of the god's of Egypt.

Most of what the people had known about the true God of Israel had been lost during those years in bondage in Egypt.

No doubt it seemed that the gods of Egypt were the most powerful of all gods.

But God would destroy the honor of the Egyptian gods in His mighty working of the 10 plagues.

He would also show Himself most powerful in the wonder filled deliverance of Israel from the clutches of the Pharaoh.

While the Israelites were in Egypt they observed the same beginning of the year and course of months as the Egyptians, *Gill*

- I. After being enslaved in Egypt for hundreds of years God gave Israel a new beginning.
 - A. Do you ever feel like you just need a new beginning?
 - 1. Maybe you have messed up.
 - 2. Maybe others have messed you up.
 - 3. Or could it be that you, like Israel, have been in Egypt so long that you have lost all that sparkles in your life.
 - 4. Maybe life has taken things or people from you this past year.
 - B. Israel had had a glorious past.
 - 1. They were the children of promise.
 - 2. They were God's chosen people.
 - 3. They could claim Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as their fathers.
 - 4. Once they had a place of prominence in Egypt.

5. But now the king sought their extinction.
6. They were required to kill their own sons.
7. They worked with great servitude as common slaves.
8. Yes their glory days were gone.
9. But God shows up to change all of that.

II. The first thing we are confronted with in this new year is the sacrifice of the Lamb.

A. This was a part of the final plague over Egypt.

1. 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.
2. It would take place on the 14th day of this first month.
3. It would provide a way for them to be set free from their bondage.

B. The first born in all the land would die.

1. This was the final plague on Egypt.
2. From the slave to the Pharaoh the first born in every family would die.

C. But God had provided a way for Israel to escape this disaster.

1. A lamb would die and the blood would be applied.
2. The blood of the lamb would save the people from the curse of death.
3. So it is with us, that the lamb would die in our place to give us life, and a new beginning.
 - a. John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
 - b. Revelation 5:6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.
 - c. Revelation 5:12 saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

- d. Revelation 13:8 (NKJV) 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.
- 4. So for Israel this was a new beginning, provided by the blood of the Passover lamb.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 5:7 For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

III. God loves new beginnings

- A. Each year we get to kind of hit a restart in our lives.
 - 1. Just like we get to start a new day every morning.
 - 2. God gives us a seeming endless days to get it right.
 - 3. One of my favorite movies is Ground Hog Day with Bill Murray.
 - 4. I picture God giving us day after day to get it right and we often fail and repeat the same mistakes every day.
 - 5. Don't let your life be like that.
 - 6. This is 2020.
 - 7. I would never have dreamed I would have made it to 2020.
- B. So 2020 is going to be a great year.
 - 1. Not because of you and me but because of God who works behind the scenes to accomplish His will.
 - 2. And He has great plans for you.
- C. Look at the creation.
 - 1. It was a great beginning.
- D. Look at Noah after the flood.
 - 1. God struck everything down and made the earth anew sort of.
 - 2. Mankind had a new start.
 - 3. But man made the same mistakes as before.
- E. But there is coming another flood.
 - 1. Not of water but of fire.
 - a. 2 Peter 3:3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all

things continue as [they were] from the beginning of creation.” 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world [that] then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth [which] are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

2. And God will make all things new.
 - a. 31 “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah — 32 “not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day [that] I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 “But this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 “No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”
3. A new heaven and earth wherein is nothing but righteousness.
 - a. 2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

F. But if you are a child of God:

1. Everything has already been made new for you.
 - a. 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.
2. You have a new heart that the Lord and given you.
 - a. John 7:38 “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”
 - b. Acts 16:14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard [us]. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.
 - c. Romans 10:8-10 (NKJV) 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the

Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

3. You have a new love, not for the world but for the Lord and the things of the Lord.

a. 1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

G. So then we should renew ourselves today to follow our Lord more closely.

1. Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV) 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

God's wants to do a new thing in you.

He wants your life to be more than it has ever been.

Let us make this new year 2020 that type of year.

Note, It is good to begin the day, and begin the year, and especially to begin our lives, with God.

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