

A Shadow of Things to Come

July 19, 2020

Open: What are some days that hold special significance for you or your family?

Read & Discuss: Exodus 12:1-13

1. If someone asked you what the Passover was all about, what would you say? What might've gone through the minds of an Israelite family prior to the first Passover?
2. Where do you see parallels between the first Passover and Jesus' death on our behalf? In what ways is our salvation greater than the deliverance the Israelites gained through Passover?
3. How do you react to the amount of death at God's hand (v. 12)? What reasons have been given for these "judgments"? How would you explain why God's judgment here is just?

Read & Discuss: Exodus 12:14-20

4. From this passage, how would you describe the memorial Feast of Unleavened Bread? As an Israelite, what effect might it have had on you to celebrate this event every year?
5. Why might God have commanded the Israelites to do no work (other than cooking) during this seven-day festival (v. 16)? How do these reasons factor into days of rest for us today?

Read & Discuss: Exodus 13:1-2, 11-16

6. What are some ways firstborns tend to be different from other offspring? How might you have felt as a firstborn consecrated to the Lord?
7. If being consecrated to God involved belonging to God (v. 2), what are some ways in which we as Christians belong to God? How should this affect our lives?
8. For Israelites, the consecration of their firstborn was to be an ever-present reminder of their relationship with God (v. 16). What things help you regularly remember your relationship with God—including both the blessings and responsibilities that come with that relationship?

Apply: What are some similarities between the Passover and communion? How can understanding the Passover in Exodus help us approach communion in a more meaningful way?

Pray: Ask God to help us use our understanding of Exodus to grow in our appreciation of all Christ has done for us through His death on our behalf—and to then live in ways that honor him.

Exodus 12:1-13

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

⁷ "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts.

¹⁰ And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.

¹¹ In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ 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 no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

Exodus 12:14-21

¹⁴ "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. ¹⁵ Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you.

¹⁷ And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever. ¹⁸ In the first month, from 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 is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. ²⁰ You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread."

Exodus 13:1-2, 11-16

¹ The LORD said to Moses, ² "Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine."

¹¹ "When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹² you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD's. ¹³ Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴ And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵ For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.' ¹⁶ It shall be as a mark on your hand or frontlets between your eyes, for by a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt." (ESV)