

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Happy Mother's Day!

Pray for the moms

Let's pray...

[Exo 12:29-51 NKJV] 29 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. 30 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.

God had given Pharaoh almost nine months to let the Children of Israel go.

God performed nine wonders before Pharaoh as signs of His will and His power.

Yet, Pharaoh responded by repeatedly hardening his heart after each of the wonders.

However, one wondrous sign remained - the death of the firstborn.

Its severity would bring Pharaoh to his knees.

Just like God said it would happen.

31 Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said. 32 "Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and **bless me also."**

Back at the beginning of chapter 11, God had told Moses that Pharaoh, himself, was going to drive the Children of Israel out of Egypt after the 10th plague.

And here once again we see it occur just like God said it would.

Pharaoh is not simply allowing them to leave – he is commanding them to leave.

No longer is he offering a compromise to Moses.

“Moses, I want you out of here! All of you and all of your animals – out!”

I had you make a note that Pharaoh not only commands them to leave but he also asks for a blessing???

This indicates that he finally understood the power of the one true God.

This is Pharaoh declaring that the Egyptian gods that he worshipped were no match for the God of the Hebrews.

My favorite line in the movie the Ten Commandments is when Yul Brenner is sitting there listening to his wife ridicule him toward the end of the movie because he couldn't

defeat Moses and the Hebrews – and Yul Brenner eloquently utters the words – “His God is God.”

That is what Pharaoh is doing here.

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."

The Egyptian people had no way of knowing whether or not Pharaoh was going to finally let the Children of Israel leave –

They thought that if Pharaoh resisted once again, God was going to bring a harsher judgment upon them – so they did all that they could to help the Children of Israel pack their bags and leave.

34 So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders.

We're going to see a lot of references to their unleavened dough.

Moses was interested in establishing the symbolism of the feasts that the Children of Israel were going to observe.

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread commemorate the deliverance of Israel; and the Feast of First fruits will also occur during that period of time.

And we began to see last week and we will see later in the book of Exodus; these feasts were prophetic of God's plan of redemption, not just for the Children of Israel but for everyone.

35 Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. 36 And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them [what they requested]. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

Moses had told the people prior to the tenth plague to ask for donations from their Egyptian neighbors. (Ex. 11:2-3)

This was part of the prophecy that God had given to Abraham 600 years earlier...

(Gen 15:14 NKJV) "And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions."

These "donations" are in essence a small part of what the Israelites had coming to them after four hundred years of slavery.

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

In the book of Numbers it states that, this number – these 600,000, consisted of men between the age of twenty and above, men who would form the armies of Israel.

When you include women and children, the total number of Israelites leaving has to be something around two to three million people.

There are some people who have a problem with this number.

They say that it was too many people to be able to cross the Red Sea.

They say that the desert wilderness would have been unable to support this many people for forty years.

It is impossible.

Exactly.

The Bible doesn't dispute these concerns.

The Bible simply reminds us that there is a powerful, mighty God at work.

The same God that protected them from the plagues in Egypt – will do the impossible and provide for them in the wilderness.

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

Not only did the Children of Israel leave – a mix multitude tagged along.

It's possible that this mixed multitude was made up of non-Hebrew slaves or they possibly could have been some the Egyptians themselves.

This “mixed multitude” is going to one day cause a lot of trouble for the Children of Israel (Num. 11:4-6)

[Num 11:4-6 NKJV] 4 Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? 5 "We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6 "but now our whole being [is] dried up; [there is] nothing at all except this manna [before] our eyes!"

This mixed multitude complained about God’s provisions and caused the Children of Israel to start to question and complain about God’s provisions.

This mixed multitude are like the individuals who don’t mind hanging around Christians, they may even come to church, they may at times even pretend to be Christians, but they haven’t made that commitment to God yet.

And these individuals are going to have a hard time wanting to live life the way that God desires.

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. 40 Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt [was] four hundred and thirty

years. 41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years--on that very same day--it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. 42 It [is] a night of solemn observance to the LORD for bringing them **out of the land of Egypt**. This [is] that night of the LORD, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.

Once again Moses, inspired by the Holy Spirit, reminds us how quick the deliverance came to the Children of Israel.

Century after century, year after year and nothing happened. But once God's work of deliverance began, things began to move quickly.

And God intended that this event be a memorial of His redemptive work for the nation of Israel.

Much like we as believer partake of communion to remember His redemptive work for us,

I asked you to make a note at the end of verse 42, where it states out of the land of Egypt is repeated 56 times in scriptures.

You see, God will have to remind them over and over again that He is the One who brought deliverance out of Egypt.

43 And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This [is] the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it. 44 "But every man's servant who is bought

for money, when you have circumcised him, then he may eat it. 45 "A sojourner and a hired servant shall not eat it. 46 "In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones. 47 "All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. 48 "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.

Moses instructed the Children of Israel that the Passover was only to be eaten by Israelites and those Gentiles who converted to Judaism by becoming circumcised - which was the physical sign of the covenant God made with Abraham.

So Passover was at once both restricted to the Jews and open to anyone who believed God.

This is why in the book of Joshua, when the Children of Israel finally crossed into the Promised Land, Joshua circumcised all the men before they partook of the Passover.

Hearing this, the Jews should have understood that God had saved them for a greater purpose, and that was to reveal Him to the other nations and peoples of the world.

49 "One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you." 50 Thus all the children of Israel did; as the LORD commanded Moses and

Aaron, so they did. 51 And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the LORD brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt according to their armies.

In verse 50, we have it mentioned once again that the Children of Israel were obedient to the Word of God – they started well, but we will see in the next few weeks that they didn't end well.

[Exo 13:1-22 NKJV] 1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, [both] of man and beast; it is Mine."

The Children of Israel are now free – they are no longer making bricks without straws. They are no longer fulfilling quotas from their taskmasters.

They are no longer under bondage.

However, now they will have to learn to trust God. And that is what we see here in the first two verses.

As soon as God gave them freedom, as soon as He delivered them, He started instructing them on what to do.

You see, God didn't deliver the Children of Israel so they could do whatever they wanted or live however they wanted, He delivered them so that they would follow Him.

And because God spared the lives of all the firstborn of Israel, God wants all the first born consecrated or dedicated to Him.

Why?

This is done to help the Children of Israel remember that they had been saved through the destruction of Egypt's first born. Now, they are required to dedicate their first-born as a constant memorial of their deliverance.

3 And Moses said to the people: "Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out of this [place]. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

Tied to this deliverance from slavery in Egypt is this Feast of Unleavened Bread.

It speaks of haste – the people didn't have time to allow all the bread dough to rise so the bread was "unleavened".

It speaks of dealing with sin.

Leaven is a picture of sin in the Bible.

With the celebration of Passover, there was to be a stepping away from sin.

As Christians, Jesus set us free from the judgment of God when He died on the cross in our place.

But He doesn't just want to forgive us, He wants us to move away from sin.

When Jesus talked to the woman caught in adultery, He forgave her, but He also told her to “go and sin no more” (John 8:11)

4 "On this day you are going out, in the month Abib. 5 "And it shall be, when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, that you shall keep this service in this month. 6 "Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day [there shall be] a feast to the LORD. 7 "Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days. And no leavened bread shall be seen among you, nor shall leaven be seen among you in all your quarters. 8 "And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, '[This is done] because of what the LORD did for me when I came up from Egypt.' 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. 10 "You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year.

The Israelites were supposed to remember who they were – they were God's firstborn, they were also to remember the day that God delivered them.

They were supposed to celebrate the Passover annually so that they would be able to provide a tangible way that their children would be able to understand what God did for His people in bringing them out of Egypt.

They were giving their testimony of their deliverance to their children by partaking in these ordinances.

Since we have the whole story, we know that the Passover Lamb illustrates Jesus as the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.

He died in our place - as our substitute - to deliver us from death and give us eternal life.

We know He fulfilled the Passover by dying on the Cross exactly as the Passover lambs were being sacrificed in the Temple.

And because He lived a sinless life, and in death saw no corruption, He fulfills the Feast of Unleavened Bread as well.

11 "And it shall be, when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and your fathers, and gives it to you, 12 "that you shall set apart to the LORD all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males [shall be] the LORD's.

In verse 11, we see the word "when"

Getting to the Promised Land was a matter of "when," not "if."

You see, It would have been a tremendous encouragement to the Israelites to know God's plan, especially after having seen in the ten wonders He performed that He had the power to accomplish it.

So when they get to the Promised Land they are to be set apart their first born.

They were to sacrifice to God because it belonged to Him.

13 "But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem [it], then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.

Because donkeys were considered an unclean animal, they could not be sacrificed to the Lord; therefore, it had to be redeemed by the death of a lamb; that is, **a lamb had to die in its place.**

The concept here is that of buying something back from God.

If God now "owns" all the firstborn, and you don't want to give a firstborn to God, then you must buy it back by offering a lamb to take it's place.

If the donkey was not redeemed by a substitute, then its neck had to be broken.

It was a choice between redemption and destruction.

By the way, we already established that Jesus is the lamb – do you know who the donkey is? Me and you!

Any unredeemed life had to die.

The basic transaction is this:

Either you die, or a Substitute dies in your place.

Moses doesn't specify the manner of redemption here for the firstborn man, however, in Number 18:16, we are told that it was five shekels of silver.

14 "So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What [is] this?' that you shall say to him, 'By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 15 'And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.' 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."

This practice of dedicating the firstborn to God would be a reminder through ritual of God's great work and strong power for Israel.

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."

There was a more direct route through the desert, but it would take them past Egyptian fortresses along the way.

The people would look at those and “see war” by thinking the Egyptians might attack them.

God therefore led them by another route.

Make a mental note: God led them with their best interests in mind.

I'll give you a spoiler: It won't always seem as though God has their best interests in mind.

Nevertheless, God was definitely thinking about His people, for their good. It's His nature to always do so.

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. 19 And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you." 20 So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness. 21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. 22 He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night [from] before the people.

This pillar of cloud was going to be one of the main ways that the Israelites were going to be guided through the wilderness.

All the people had to do in order to know where to go, was to follow the pillar of cloud.

If the cloud moved, they moved.

If the cloud stayed, they stayed.

All they had to do to know where God was leading them was to follow His presence.

That is what we are called to do.

We, too, are led by Him.

We read in Romans 8:14, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God Who lives in you, leads you.

He positions us where He wants us to be in order to continue the work He began in us at our conversion.

In the coming weeks, we will see that despite having this amazing assurance from this visible evidence of God's presence, they will still rebel, they will still doubt and they will believe that God has abandoned them – eventhough He was standing there before them.

They forgot how God had delivered them.

They forgot they were His firstborn.

And when we lose sight of His presence, we do the same.

Let's pray...

