

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- Tonight we look at the Passover
- Passover is the moment of salvation when God is bringing Israel out of years of bondage to Egypt into FREEDOM
- But before we get into Chapter 12... I want to emphasize that the purpose of salvation is the FREEDOM to worship and obey God
- Now, people have the FREEDOM to do whatever they want... even after
- That is our identity, that is our purpose in life, to worship and obey God

### Exodus 12:1–2 (NKJV)

**12** Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, <sup>2</sup>“This month *shall be* your beginning of months; it *shall be* the first month of the year to you.

- In vs. 1 there is something the Jewish Rabbi’s refer to as a “chadash” which means something new, something that we haven’t seen before...
- It says the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron (nothing new here), but it says He spoke to them IN THE LAND OF EGYPT

### ***What is significant about mentioning where God is speaking?***

- As we’ve said often, everything in the Bible has meaning and purpose
- The Word Egypt in Hebrew is “misrayim” and it means “double siege or double distress” and it carries with it the idea of something being put into bondage or being taken over
- What God is saying is... I know your situation, I know what’s going on and I am speaking to you while you are in the midst of your distress, in the midst of your bondage and I am on the move
- Vs. 2 God says this month (the month of Aviv) will be the beginning of the year for you
- **NOTICE:** God establishes a new calendar, He resets time based on the deliverance of Israel out of Egyptian bondage
- This results in 2 calendars... a historical or civil calendar that begins with the first day of Tishri, the day man was created or born (5771)
- And a religious calendar that begins with the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Passover, the day man was born again
- Now the month of Aviv is a specific time of year... the Spring
- Aviv literally means “when the ears of barley open”
- It also known by the Babylonian word Nissan (March / April)

- But in the Torah, the name of the month is Aviv and God says this month is set apart for YOU and it's to be your "rosh hodashim" or your beginning of months
- We do the same... we celebrate our birthday... the day we were born and our spiritual birthday... the day we were born again
- In Judaism, one of the ways they set this month apart or make it special is they do not pray a prayer called Tachanun which is a prayer of repentance
- Normally it is prayed in the morning and the evening
- But during the month of Aviv it is not prayed because Aviv is a month celebrating Redemption, FREEDOM from bondage
- The emphasis is placed on being acceptable to God through the blood of the LAMB
- Thus the Jews do not pray this prayer of repentance
- Because the Jews believe redemption removes the need for repentance
- NOW... remember the idea that redemption, salvation is for the purpose of FREEDOM to worship and obey God... not FREEDOM to continue living in bondage... that's not FREEDOM

Exodus 12:3–4 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of *his* father, a lamb for a household. <sup>4</sup> 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.

- Vs. 3 God refers to the congregation of Israel
- This is one of the first times Israel is referred to as "Adat Yisrael", the congregation of Israel
- Prior to this they are known as the children of Israel

**Now why is this significant?**

- The root of "Adat" is "Eda" which is translated "witness"
- Once you experience salvation, you become a witness of God's saving power... you can no longer say you're ignorant of God
- A believer cannot say they do not know God because God has revealed Himself to them by delivering them from bondage to the world

- It is this knowledge of God that transforms us into witnesses
- **NOTE:** God instructs Moses to say to all the congregation of Israel on the 10th of Nissan, every man will take for himself a lamb for each household
- This introduces a very important principle... there is no Passover, no redemption without a lamb
- Vs. 4 - If the household is too small, then you can go in with your closest neighbor (remember there was a financial cost to this sacrifice)
- You can purchase one lamb and share it

***Notice the kind of Lamb that was needed***

Exodus 12:5–7 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish (no marks), a male of the first year. You may take *it* from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.

- The Lamb had to be without blemish... with no marks on the skin or in the color of the wool...
- The Lamb had to be male of the first year from either a sheep or a goat

***Hebrew words have several layers of meaning***

- The word for first year is “ben shana” and this word is sometimes used to refer to a change in character or way of life
- Thus signifying that God is bringing a change into the life of Israel through the death of the Lamb... a picture of redemption
- The word male is the word “zakar” which is also translated “to remember” or “to pay attention to” and thus we are to remember the change the death of the Lamb brings... a picture of communion
- This points out an important truth about studying the scriptures
- In order to understand the scriptures correctly you need to take into consideration the layers of meaning in the language, the context of the scriptures, the viewpoint of the author, the culture and the times
- That is the approach we are taking in our study of the scriptures

***Notice the timing of things***

- They were to acquire the lamb the 10<sup>th</sup> day and keep the lamb until the 14<sup>th</sup> day... during the 4 days they are to protect the lamb, keep the lamb from being blemished
- On the 14<sup>th</sup> day the congregation of Israel (“Adat Yisrael” which speaks to them being witnesses)... they are to slaughter the Lamb at twilight
- In Hebrew culture this happens after noon and before sundown
- Josephus testifies this happened between 3 and 5 pm
- Then they were to take some of the blood and put it on the two doorpost and on the lintel of the house where the Passover was to be eaten
- On Sunday... I will bring out an incredible revelation about the application of the blood on the two doorposts and the lintel and the meaning of Passover as an example of Salvation for the believer

**Exodus 12:8–11 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread (matzot) *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup> Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. <sup>10</sup> You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. <sup>11</sup> 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 (Pesah).

- There are 3 instructions given about the way they are to eat the Passover
- First they are to eat it at night... why night?
- To demonstrate the power of God over darkness
- Remember... Egypt is a type of the world and the world is filled with darkness...

***Isaiah prophesied concerning the coming of Messiah, the Savior***

**Isaiah 9:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.

- In vs. 6 of chapter 9 Isaiah goes on to prophesy for unto us a Child is born
- So understand the analogy...the congregation of Israel is walking in darkness and it’s in the midst of the darkness the light comes

- It's when they are living the land of the shadow of death the light shines upon them
- For Israel Egypt is not the land of death for Israel, but the shadow of death because death does not come to Israel... instead salvation comes to Israel through the blood of the Lamb

***Second, the offering is to be roasted in fires and are to eat the entire Lamb... none of it is to remain***

- In Leviticus, this would become known as a “whole burnt offering”
- The whole burnt offering was the daily offering made for atonement
- The sacrifice was totally consumed, the skin was given to the priest and the blood was sprinkled around the Altar
- In Exodus it was placed on the two doorposts and the lintel
- It symbolized judgment for sin... the death of an innocent life (fire is always a symbol of judgment...)
- Forgiveness... the blood of the Lamb
- And consecration or holiness... the whole animal was offered to God

***NOW... the word for atonement is the Hebrew word Kaphar and it means “to cover over”***

- When you look at the individual meanings of the letters of the word you come up with this definition... “that which covers the mouth of God”
- Whenever God spoke to Moses about Pharaoh, it brought judgment
- So what closes the mouth of God? What makes God silent so He doesn't pronounce judgement? The Lamb of God... the sin offering for the nation of Israel

***But notice... the people are to consume the Lamb completely***

- In Leviticus, when the whole burnt offering is made it is consumed by judgment and received by God as a sweet smelling aroma (BBQ!)
- But here, the people are to eat the Lamb symbolizing the people are to be the recipients of the whole burnt offering
- The people are to receive the salvation that comes through the death of the sin offering, the sacrificial Lamb

***Third, they are to eat full clothed and ready to leave signifying their belief in God's power to save***

- They are to eat with a belt on their waist (fully clothed), with their sandals on their feet and their staff in their hand

- They are to eat it in haste... quickly, because God is about to arrive and take them out of Egypt
- They know it's going to happen around midnight but they don't know the exact moment so they are to live in anticipation, in a state of readiness
- It's a picture of the Redemption, but also a picture of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming when Messiah will deliver Israel from another world dictator called the antichrist in Revelation 19
- For the Church, it is a picture of the Rapture
- The message is the same to Jew and Gentile... we are to be in a state of readiness, living in anticipation for the coming of the LORD

**Exodus 12:12–13 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> '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. <sup>13</sup> 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.

- Vs. 12... God strikes, literally “slays” all the firstborn in the land of Egypt... which speaks of God taking back what belongs to Him
- But notice... God also brings judgment against all the gods of Egypt
- This is why we say salvation is a power encounter... because it's not only about forgiveness of sins and redemption
- It's about God waging war against the gods of this world and coming out victorious... but it also means you are delivered from the influence of the demonic forces of this world!

**Exodus 12:14–20 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> '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 (“huqqat olam”). <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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 (THE MESSAGE OF REDEMPTION IS ONE OF RESTING IN WHAT HAS BEEN DONE FOR YOU); but *that* which everyone must eat—that only may

be prepared by you. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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 (this applies to Jew or Gentile... all people are to recognize the Passover). <sup>20</sup> You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.’ ”

**Vs. 14 God says this feast is an everlasting ordinance**

- Whenever you see this term “huqqat olam” it is used in reference to the Kingdom of God
- When we get into the Millennium, when God’s Kingdom will reign for 1000 years on the earth, the only feast that the whole earth will celebrate is Passover
- Every year we will go to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover
- So it’s a good thing to start celebrating Passover now
- On April 16 we will be celebrating the Passover at Calvary Chapel and if you’ve never participated it’s a must so when you get to Jerusalem, you’ll know what to do
- Some of the other churches will get there and be clueless, but Calvary Chapel will be in the know!
- It’s also a picture of what Jesus did on the cross, which we will cover this Sunday
- Vs. 15 - 7 days you will eat unleavened bread or Matzot, from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> day (notice the numbers are groups of 7)
- 7 is the number of completion representing a complete removal of sin
- Leaven is always a symbol of sin and so you are to begin Passover by removing leaven from the house
- If you eat leavened bread, you are cut off... representing separation
- Remember man’s problem is separation because of Adam’s sin

**Exodus 12:21–28 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover *lamb*. <sup>22</sup> And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip *it* in the blood

that *is* in the basin, and strike (cause the blood to arrive on) the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that *is* in the basin (the blood must be dealt with properly). And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. <sup>23</sup> For the LORD will pass through (move over) to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over (“paysah” which is the meaning of the Passover or Pesach) the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike *you*. <sup>24</sup> And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. <sup>25</sup> It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. <sup>26</sup> And it shall be, when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ <sup>27</sup> that you shall say, ‘It *is* the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He **struck** the Egyptians and **delivered** our households.’” So the people bowed their heads and worshipped. <sup>28</sup> Then the children of Israel went away and did so; just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

- Vs. 21 the word “kill” is actually the word “slaughter”
- The word “slaughter” is used in reference to a death that has a spiritual purpose and worship is implied...
- Thus we have the connection between worship and the sacrifice and we will hear this in the Psalms when David speaks of the sacrifice of praise
- Vs. 25... God says you will keep the Passover when you arrive in the Promised land... (NOTE: The Land is eternally tied to Israel)
- The nation of Israel kept the Passover the first year in the wilderness, but for 39 years it did not keep the Passover until they crossed the Jordan and arrived at Gilgal... why? If it’s an eternal ordinance?
- Because the word “ad olam” which is translated “forever” can also refer to the Kingdom... meaning this is a Kingdom ordinance and the Kingdom was established when Israel entered into the land of promise
- Vs. 27... notice it says the people bowed their heads and worshipped
- They worshipped the LORD before the LORD delivered them which means this is an act of faith... they believed God’s Word to them
- That is the sign of a true believer... we hear revelation from God and respond to it in worship regardless of our experience
- Notice how they worshipped... they bowed their face and then they bowed down... the first is a sign of respect, the second surrender

Exodus 12:29–30 (NKJV)

<sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> 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.

***Pharaoh received the complete revelation from God***

- Yet, Pharaoh did not respond and thus death came to his firstborn
- But what about the captive in the dungeon?
- He is not able to properly keep the Passover, why is he punished?
- Because he is in the land of Egypt
- The message is this... it doesn't matter if you believe in God or not
- Everyone who is born into this world is born under judgment
- You can have all the excuses in the world, but the issue isn't how you live or what you've done... the issue is where you live
- You are born into a land that is judged AND you are judged
- The only way to get out from under judgment is by the blood of the Lamb

Exodus 12:31–36 (NKJV)

<sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also." <sup>33</sup> 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." <sup>34</sup> So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders. <sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> 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.

- Pharaoh sends the people to serve or worship the LORD
- Now... it was not God's will to judge Egypt, this did not have to happen
- Eventually, Pharaoh did what God told him to do YET without blessing

- Pharaoh's rejection of God resulted in God's judgment on Egypt and this judgment brought financial ruin, famine, poverty, sickness and death
- Vs. 36 - God gives the people favor in the eyes of the Egyptians... in other words, when the people saw God's power, they changed their mind about Israel
- Remember in Chapter 1 they were told to kill Israel, but now they've had a change of mind and the nation that was out to destroy Israel has now become a blessing to Israel (through plundering)... not by first choice
- That is the choice the world has... to bless or to curse
- Those who bless Israel are blessed, those who curse will be cursed

#### Exodus 12:37–39 (NKJV)

<sup>37</sup> Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. <sup>38</sup> A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds—a great deal of livestock. <sup>39</sup> 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.

- 6 is the number of man representing God delivering mankind out of Egypt, which represents the world
- Notice vs. 38... a mixed multitude went up with them also
- Who are the mixed multitude? They are Egyptians who came to faith in the God of Israel through the blood of the Lamb
- So we have God's chosen people – Israel and those who were not chosen, but believed – Egypt... this is to say God does not choose some for hell and some for heaven... God isn't willing that any perish
- Here we see proof of Gentiles responding to the message of Passover

#### Exodus 12:40–42 (NKJV)

<sup>40</sup> Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. <sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> 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.

- Genesis 15:13 God told Abraham that his descendants would be afflicted for 400 years and when they left the land they would leave with great possessions and thus we have here the fulfillment of this prophecy
- There is a discrepancy on the number of years which the Rabbi's explain as either being a figurative 400 years or literal in that the 430 years includes the 30 years that Jacob lived during the time of Joseph

Exodus 12:43–51 (NKJV)

<sup>43</sup> And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This *is* the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it. <sup>44</sup> But every man's servant who is bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then he may eat it. <sup>45</sup> A sojourner and a hired servant shall not eat it. <sup>46</sup> 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. <sup>47</sup> All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. <sup>48</sup> 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. <sup>49</sup> One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you." <sup>50</sup> Thus all the children of Israel did; as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. <sup>51</sup> 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.

- The LORD instructs Moses on who Passover is for
- God is specific on who cannot eat Passover...
- No foreigner can eat Passover... a foreigner is someone who visits the land temporarily for business, a non-Israeli traveler or a hired laborer could not eat and someone who was not circumcised could not eat
- But a stranger could eat if he was circumcised and living with a Jewish family (he would be considered a native of the land)
- Now why would God make this distinction?
- Because the person who eats Passover is recognizing the God of salvation and if you recognize the God of salvation and do nothing... like Pharaoh, you are bringing judgment on yourself
- It's better to not eat, to not know God than it is to recognize God and do nothing about it
- Thus the children of Israel did all the LORD commanded them to do