

INTRODUCTION: Exodus 12

- All of us are on a Journey of Grace
- It doesn't matter if you believe in God or not
- It doesn't matter if you believe in the Bible or not
- It doesn't matter if you believe Jesus is the Son of God or not
- Everyone is somewhere on this journey

[SLIDE 1] SEPARATION

- It begins with separation... man is born separated from God
- Egypt represents this separation
- However, when man recognizes his separation and calls out to God... man is saved out of separation

THIS IS THE MOMENT OF SALVATION

- This is represented by Passover
- Those who believe the revelation of God, those who are covered by the blood of the Lamb are saved, passed over from death to life
- God delivers man from bondage to the world and leads man out of captivity through a power encounter...

WE ARE BAPTIZED

- This is represented by passing through the Red Sea

THEN WE ARE DISCIPLINED

- This is represented by the Wilderness Experience
- We learn 3 primary things....
- How to be led by the Spirit... the cloud by day and the fire by night
- How to trust God... the Manna
- How to worship the Lord... the tabernacle

UNBELIEF EXPOSED

- It is also during the wilderness experience that unbelief is exposed
- This is a battle that takes place in the mind
- It's not a battle over sin, it's a battle over belief
- Unbelief will keep us from entering into the promises of God
- It brings an interesting principle... you can be saved and never enter the fulness of the abundant Spirit filled life because of unbelief
- The Bible says they could not enter into the land because of unbelief

- But those who believe enter into the Spirit filled life

TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND THEY CROSS THE JORDAN

- Crossing the Jordan represents the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- This is a 2nd Baptism, a second experience separate from salvation
- The first is Baptism with water... which is the baptism of repentance that John the Baptist talked about
- The second is the Baptism of fire that Jesus referred to which is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit gives us power to be witnesses
- After this 2nd Baptism... God says take the land

UNDER JOSHUA'S LEADERSHIP THEY TAKE THE LAND

- As the land is being taken, the Kingdom of God is established
- The Bible calls this process sanctification
- This is where real spiritual battle takes place
- It's during this time that God destroys strongholds, drives out the influence of the enemy and establishes health and wholeness
- Everywhere Jesus preached He said... the Kingdom of God has come upon you
- With every miracle, every healing, Jesus was demonstrating the power of the Kingdom of God defeating the enemies of sickness, demonic oppression, death, blindness...
- Then He sent the disciples went out to do the same...
- If you don't understand the concept of the Kingdom of God, then you will have a hard time understanding the battles of the Old Testament
- You'll have a hard time understanding God's judgment against the surrounding nations because the battle was primarily spiritual in order to deliver mankind from the tyranny of demonic control and perversion

Today we are going to look at the beginning point of salvation

- The moment that we are delivered out of the land of darkness and brought into the glorious light of Jesus Christ
- This moment of salvation is represented by the Passover
- God does 2 things during the Passover
- He takes back what belongs to Him... the first born
- He destroys the power of His enemies... all the gods of Egypt

If you've never experienced the Passover

- We will be celebrating a Passover Seder on April 16
- The cost is \$ 20.00 per person and kids 10 and under are FREE
- Most Passover Seder's are around \$ 50.00 per person
- Each person who comes will receive a Haggadah (gives the order of Passover) and the Haggadah will explain the symbolism between the Passover elements and the gospel
- It is the one Jewish Feast that the whole earth will be celebrating in the Millennium, so I suggest you start now

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PASSOVER

- God announces the final plague against Pharaoh and Egypt

Exodus 12:12 (NKJV)

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.

- This final plague is a plague of death and this plague of death touches every home in Egypt
- The Bible says there was not a house where there was not one dead
- It doesn't matter if you're the richest man in the world, the kindest person, the most charitable, giving person or the vilest criminal in prison... death touches everyone
- But God instructs the children of Israel on how to be saved from death
- They were to take a male Lamb and slaughter the Lamb on the 14th day of the month of Aviv and apply the blood of the Lamb on the two door posts and the lintel (the post that is over the door)
- When the angel of death passed through Egypt, every household that had the blood on the doorway of the house was saved from death
- They were passed over... hence the name Passover
- THUS, Passover represents the moment of salvation, the moment you are born again, the moment that you are delivered out from under the curse of death and delivered from bondage to sin
- THIS IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PASSOVER
- Passover highlights for us God's requirement for man to be saved
- It requires the blood of an innocent Lamb

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PASSOVER LAMB

Exodus 12:3–5 (NKJV)

³ 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. 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.

Now I want you to see a progression here...

- Notice verse 3 God says... on the 10th of this month every man shall take for himself “a lamb”
- Then in verse 4 “a lamb” becomes “the lamb”
- Then in verse 5 “the lamb” becomes “your lamb”
- When Pharaoh was first introduced to God... he didn’t know God
- God to Him was just a god, one of the many gods in the world
- There are many people who believe that...
- There is the god of the Muslims, the god of the Buddhists, the god of the Christians, the gods of the Hindus...
- Everyone has “a god,” they’re own god and what right do I have to say your religion is wrong
- But then you have an encounter with God and like Pharaoh you begin to understand that this God is not just “a God,” He is “the only God.”
- But salvation doesn’t come until He becomes “your God.”
- When you bring the Lamb into your home, when the Lamb becomes part of your life... that’s when the Lamb becomes “your Lamb.”
- Not just “a lamb” or “the lamb” but “your lamb.”

But notice also...

- The Lamb must be without blemish... no marks, no defects... perfect
- It had to be a male of the first year
- Paul referred to Jesus as our Passover Lamb
- We see in Jesus the requirements to become the Passover Lamb
- First, He was male...
- Second, He was without blemish... John said in Jesus was no sin...

Paul said Jesus knew no sin

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- He was of the first year... what does this mean? I thought He was 33.
- The Bible says Jesus is the firstborn of all Creation and the Greek word used for first born is protokos... “Proto” meaning “first”
- “Tikos” literally means “interest on money loaned”
- The Hebrew word used for first year is “ben sana” and this word is used in reference to the year of Jubilee when all debts are released
- So closely follow the meaning here... in this concept of being of the first year is the payment for man’s FREEDOM by God Himself
- First... Jesus is the payment that releases all debts (Hebrew concept)
- Second... Jesus is the payment that pays the interest that is due because of your debts (Greek concept)
- Jesus pays it all! And this is the meaning behind being of the first year
- This payment is paid in blood

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BLOOD

Exodus 12:6–7 (NKJV)

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. (Josephus says between 3 and 5 pm... which is the hour Jesus was crucified)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.

Now I want you to visualize what is happening here...

- They are putting the blood on the two doorposts and on the lintel, the wooden beam that goes across the top of the door
- Now... they are Hebrew... so I want you to think for a moment like a Hebrew... what Hebrew letter are they making?
- **[SLIDE 2]** It is the Hebrew letter “TAV” which is the last letter of the Hebrew Covenant
- The first letter of the Hebrew alphabet is Aleph and the last letter is Tav
- Whenever you see the Aleph Tav in scripture in reference to God’s name or something God does... it’s a veiled reference to Messiah
- **[SLIDE 3]** The Aleph represents strength

- The Tav represents the symbol or sign of the Covenant
- Together it means the Strength of the Covenant
- When you translate the Aleph Tav into Greek what do you get?
- You get the Alpha and Omega...
- Who is the only person known as the Alpha and Omega? Jesus (Revelation 1:1)
- THUS... Who is the strength of the Covenant? Jesus
- Incidentally... the Aleph Tav appears in Genesis 1:1... it says... bereshit bara Elohim et (Aleph Tav) showing the Presence of Jesus at creation!
- But wait... there's more...
- In the days of Moses, the letters Aleph Tav looked different
- **[SLIDE 4]** The Aleph was in the shape of an Ox head which represented the Red Heifer
- The Red Heifer was unique in that it was to be slaughtered outside the camp and burned and its ashes were used for the purification from sin
- The Tav was two sticks in the shape of a... CROSS!
- What is the strength of the Covenant? The removal of sin by the blood
- Where did Jesus die? Outside the camp... outside the city
- What is the sign of the Covenant? The cross
- So when you put it together... this is what you have... the Aleph Tav
- **[SLIDE 5]** The death of the Red Heifer... who purifies me of all sin...and this happens on the sign of the Covenant... which is the cross
- As John said... Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

I just want to bring your attention to one more verse...

Exodus 12:13 (NKJV)

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.

- Vs. 13... The blood will be a sign for who? For YOU and for ME!
- There is no redemption, no forgiveness, no salvation without the blood
- This is the message of the Passover
- There is only one thing that saves mankind from destruction and that is the blood of the Lamb... because that is the Sign of the Covenant
- When God sees the sign of the Covenant, the BLOOD of the LAMB on your life... He says I will pass over YOU and you will not be destroyed

- Not only does He pass over you and you live... but He delivers you out of bondage to this world and brings you into FREEDOM
- Now... I hope you understand how profound this is...
- Every person must experience their own Passover, it's individual and once you've experience your own Passover you are born again
- THE SEPARATION IS ENDED
- Your sins are forgiven, your sin nature is replaced with a new nature
- The power of sin and death is destroyed, your flesh is destroyed, your carnal mind is removed and you are given the mind of Christ
- This forgiveness of sins is total and the destruction of the power of sin and death is complete... it's over, finished
- This is why Paul says there is therefore now NO CONDEMNATION to those who are in Christ Jesus
- That nothing is able to SEPARATE US from the Love of God...
- SEPARATION WAS ENDED AT THE CROSS!
- Because you have been brought near to God by the blood of Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away your sin
- That is the truth of your existence as a follower of Jesus... you no longer live in Egypt, under judgment... you're in the land of abundant life
- Communion is our Passover (mention why unbelievers shouldn't take)