

WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015-2016

THEME: SACRED GIFTS AND HOLY GATHERINGS

UNIT TWO – “Sharing Our Joys and Sorrows”

“THE MEMORIAL OF FREEDOM...THE PASSOVER”



Sunday School Lesson No. X – February 7, 2016
Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Exodus 12:1-14

Required Reading: Exodus 11:1 – 12:51

Motto Text: Exodus 12:14, “*And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.*”

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Bible Knowledge Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Life Application Study Bible (Tyndale); Libronix Electronic Library; The Jeremiah Study Bible and Resources; Children’s Ministry Resource Bible

Introduction

Our lesson this week marks a very significant time in the lives of the people of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It marked a great part of the fulfillment of the covenant promise to make them a great nation. For over 400 years this people had been in the land of Egypt as an enslaved people. Under the hand of persecution and pain, God had called for their liberation. Freedom, freedom, freedom at last! God had raised Moses to lead this great multitude to freedom against the will of a superior military force, and God would do it without raising a sword.

Chapter 11 of Exodus describes the final decree of Jehovah against Egypt and its military monarch. After presenting 9 divine plagues to challenge the authority of Egypt, God directs Moses to pronounce a tenth plague (Ex. 11:1). Beloved, it was through this plague that Israel would leave Egypt a free nation and demonstrate the awesome power of Jehovah.

In preparing to depart, God wanted the Israelites to make this moment in their history a “Memorial of Freedom” by instituting what would be called The Passover. The center of this event is explained in the Bible Knowledge Commentary: “The word Passover (*pesah*) comes from the verb *pāsah* meaning ‘to pass over.’ The feast commemorated the night the Lord ‘passed over’ the blood sprinkled houses of the Israelites, sparing the lives of their first born people, and putting to death the first born Egyptians and their livestock. The lives of the Israelite first born people and livestock were protected by the sacrificial blood. As a commemorative right, the Israelites were to use the Passover to teach their children about God’s miraculous deliverance from Egypt (Ex. 12:26-27).” Now with this overview, let us discuss the lesson by answering a series of questions.

Anticipated Power Points. “The Memorial of Freedom...The Passover”:

- “When” of the Passover? Exodus 12:1-2
- “What” of the Passover? Exodus 12:3-6
- “How” of the Passover? Exodus 12:7-11
- “Why” of the Passover? Exodus 12:12-14

What is a memorial? “Something designed to preserve the memory of a person, event, etc.” (Dictionary.com)

LESSON OUTLINE EXPOSITION

I. “When” of the Passover? Exodus 12:1-2

God was about to start a new time of remembrance in the lives of the Israelites. Deliverance from over 400 years of bondage should never be forgotten, so God added a new place on Israel’s calendar. Their civil calendar celebrated New Year in the month of Tishri (September). But the Passover would mark the freedom of this people through the miraculous hand of God. This was never to be forgotten, but told to the succeeding generations. Why? That the great covenant hand of Jehovah would never be forgotten. It was to be celebrated in the month Abib (our March/April); after the Babylonian captivity the month’s name was changed to Nisan. (Read Exodus 12:2; 13:4; 23:15).

II. “What” of the Passover? Exodus 12:3-6

The Passover is all about the lamb sacrificed. That lamb had to have certain characteristics:

- A. The lamb was to be selected by all families; not one was to be exempt unless they die! vs. 3
- B. The lamb was affordable. If a family was too small, they were to join with their neighbor. It was a community affair to be sure none was left out. vs. 4
- C. The lamb had to be acceptable to the specifics described by God:
 1. *“without blemish”*
 2. *“male”*
 3. *“of the first year”*
 4. *“from the sheep or from the goats.”* vs. 5
- D. The timing of the sacrifice was done at one time. Even though there were many households, the sacrifice of the lambs was made simultaneously. vs. 6

Let us remember the lambs of the Passover all represented the Person of Jesus Christ who was called by John the Baptist: “The Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)

III. “How” of the Passover? Exodus 12:7-11

- A. How does the Passover lamb of the past make a difference? It was the blood that was placed on the side post and upper door post. It was the meal that was eaten inside the place where the blood was smeared. Following the exact instructions of the Lord, the house was marked as a dwelling place of Jehovah, and was under His Sovereign protection. vs. 23
“The unleavened bread represented the release as they made their escape from their life of bondage. The bitter herbs were in memory of the pain and oppression of slavery. The lamb itself was a symbol of God’s redemption through the blood, which represented Jesus Christ. In verse 34, unleavened bread showed freedom from the world’s influence.
- B. Verse 9 declares the roasted lamb was not to be prepared as a delicacy but a dedicational sacrifice, a memorial, a sacred act of God. It represented Jesus Christ, who was not to have a bone broken in His body as the sacrificial Lamb. Verse 10 further instructs that whatever was left over of the lamb was to be burned with fire the next morning. Jesus’ work of redemption as our Passover is done once for all, not a little here and there (Heb. 9:28)

IV. “Why” of the Passover? Exodus 12:12-14

As mentioned in Chapter 11, God was about to strike Egypt with the 10th plague, killing their first born. There was only one way to be saved, and that was to be under the banner of the blood. As the destroying angel of God would visit every house, the only thing that could save the house was God’s presence at their door, under the blood! **“When I see the blood I will pass over you.”** Remember every plague was retaliation against Egypt’s gods, and this was the ultimate illustration of Jehovah’s answer to a stubborn conceited Pharaoh and his people. Israel, by faithful obedience, would know that Jehovah is God!

“The Passover celebration is a memorial of God’s great deliverance of His people. The Passover feast is celebrated in conjunction with the Feast of Unleavened Bread to commemorate their new beginnings as a nation, the new calendar year, the harvest, and their special spiritual connection to Yahweh.” Precepts for Living (UMI)

CLOSING

“The Memorial of Freedom...The Passover”, is centered around the Person of the Lamb. Isaac in Genesis 22 asked, **“Where is the Lamb?”** Moses this week in Exodus 12 describes the Lamb. John the Baptist in John 1:29 declares, **“Behold the Lamb.”** Heaven’s angels decree in Revelation 5:12, **“Worthy is the Lamb!”** Beloved, what is your memory concerning the Lamb?

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Looking Ahead:

February 14, 2016

Leviticus 23:15-22



Please join us each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway where you can ask questions and make comments as Pastor Davis teaches the weekly Sunday School Lesson. All are welcome!