



Why are the Israelites called "the armies of Yahweh" here? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. Exodus 12:37–51 prepares us for the evening sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these fifteen verses, the Holy Spirit teaches us that God has kept His covenant promises to multiply Abraham's seed, to bless all nations through him, and especially to be his covenant God and to take him as His covenant people.

Friday, January 21, 2022 ▫ Read Exodus 12:37–51

Questions from the Scripture text: Where did the children of Israel journey (v37a)? How many of them (v37b)? Who else went up with them (v38a)? And what else (v38b)? What had they baked and why (v39)? How long had been the sojourning of the children of Israel who had lived in Egypt (v40)? On what day did they leave (v41a)? What are they called in v41b? What two things is that night called in v42? Who was to observe it for how long? Who speaks to whom in v43? What does he tell them? Who may not eat the Passover? What person would not be a foreigner (v44)? Who would be disqualified as a foreigner (v45)? What other requirements does v46 make? Who shall keep it (v47)? How else can a foreigner come to eat it (v48)? And what differences are made for how he keeps it (v49)? Who did what (v50)? What does v51 emphasize again (cf. v41)?

From start (v37) to finish (v51), this is a passage about the children of Israel coming out of Egypt. The Lord has kept His promise, 430 years to the day after he made it to Abraham in Genesis 15:13 (v40–41, 51). And as He underscores to us His faithfulness to His people, He highlights unto us several fruits of His faithfulness to them.

Their number, v37. When the 70 went down to Egypt to reunite with Joseph, it was a bit of a covenantal explosion. It took three generations to get the number of "the children of promise" above one or two. Now there are 600,000 "men on foot"—a military term that corresponds to their being called "armies" ("hosts") in v41, 51. If that's the number of military-eligible men, then we're looking at a minimum of 2 million, and probably closer to 5 million based upon the baby boom of the previous 40 years.

Their variety, v38, 43–49. One of the lesser-realized features about "Old Testament Israel" is that it was never a merely ethnic body; it was always a covenantal body. First, "a mixed multitude went up with them" when they left Egypt. "Israel" included a multitude of non-Israelites. The Exodus may have been the greatest evangelistic event until Pentecost. Second, a significant portion of the instructions about Passover was actually focused upon how a foreigner can be made a true Israelite, with right and duty to participate in the Passover.

Some accuse the apostolic message of Romans 9–11 of being "replacement theology" that replaces ethnic Israel with a "new" spiritual Israel that is the church. But Isaac's family, not Ishmael's, was the family of promise. And then Jacob's family, not Esau's, was the family of promise. And now at the "beginning" of Israel's life as a "nation," a mixed multitude is an essential, covenantal component at their core. The Lord is glorifying Himself as a Redeemer unto elect from all the nations—with fruit in Exodus 12 (not just beginning in Acts 2).

Not all who have descended from Israel are Israel (cf. Rom 9:6). And certainly, much of Israel is not descended from Israel. The variety of ethnicity among God's people has always showed that they are a spiritual people.

Their identity, v39–42, 50–51. They are a redeemed people; they had an annual feast marked by having to hurry up and back the bread flat because they were being saved so quickly that there was no time to wait for it to rise (v39, v42). They are the LORD's people. v41 calls them Yahweh's armies. v42 calls Passover not only "a night of solemn observance to Yahweh" but "that night of Yahweh." They are a people who operate by the command of Yahweh (v43, 50). They are a people who belong to Yahweh.

Still today, the Lord multiplies His people, and adds to them from outside, and the hallmark of their lives is that they are His. This is the fruit of His faithfulness to His promises.

What promises of God feel like the hardest to come true? How can you be sure that they will? What will be the fruit/outcome of their coming true?

Sample prayer: Lord, You are perfectly faithful to all of Your promises! You have been redeeming sinners from all nations for thousands of years. And now, you have saved us for Yourself to add to Your great people who are called by Your Name. Forgive us for when our faith is small and worry is great, and give us the confidence and joy of those who have great and precious promises from a perfectly faithful God and Savior, which we ask in Christ's Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP182 "Revive Us" or TPH234 "The God of Abraham Praise"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Exodus chapter 12, verses 37 through 51. Let us listen on in a way that we offer our minds and our hearts and ourselves to the Lord. As in worship in the hearing of his word,

Then the children of Israel journeyed from Ramses to Succoth about 600,000 men on foot, besides children, a mixed multitude. One top with them also and flocks, and herds of great deal of livestock. 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.

Now, the soldier of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was 430 years and it came to pass at the end of 430 years on that very same day, It came to pass that all the armies of Yahweh went out from the land of Egypt. It is a night of solemn observance.

He always for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of Yahweh, a solemn observance, for all the children of Israel throughout their generations. And you always said to Moses and Aaron. This is the ordinance of the Passover. No foreigners will eat it but every man's servant to his boat for money, and you have circumcised in, then he may eat it Sojourner and a hired servant shall not eat it and one house.

So be eaten is not carry any of the flesh outside the house. Nor shall you break one of its bones all the congregation of Israel. So keep it. I want a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to Yahweh. 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 for essential.

Eat it. One law shall be for the native born, and for the stranger who dwells among you, thus, all the children of Israel did as you always commanded Moses and Aaron. So they did and it came to pass on that very, same day that you all have. Brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt, according to their armies.

So far the reading of Gods inspired and there and tort Well the Lord emphasizes by saying that very same day. And the 430 years, which is more precise, Then the rounded number. He had given Abram in Genesis 15:31. Believe it was Genesis 15:31. Let me just sorry, like swap the numbers.

Just 1513 He had given him the rounded number of 400 but by repeating the 430 years and the very same day and the very same day, he's drawing attention to the fact that the Lord has kept his promises to Abram and he's kept several different parts of the promises that he had repeated to Abram in.

The neighborham several times his life. He has kept the multiplication promise the stars as the sky and sand as the seashore promise of his descendants. There are 600,000 men off here in that are leaving Exodus 12:37 to 51 Men of foot. Does not just say, oh well, they were walking, instead of writing camels.

That's a military term. The hosts of Yahweh, which is actually translated in our translation, verse 41, armies of Yahweh, and by their hosts which again are translation in verse 51 translates, according to their armies, those are all military terms. So this 600,000 means 600,000 military eligible men, which means that at minimum, This was a people of two million and probably as high as five or six million.

Considering that this was a population. Boom, that had been taking place for a generation now which had instigated the, the oppression that began around the time of Moses's birth. And now he's 80. So an 80-year population. Boom 600,000 men on foot probably five or six million people. But even if it was quote unquote, just two million people think about it.

The people have promised went from Abraham and Sarah to Isaac and Rebecca and Ishmael may have been a believer but he wasn't among the covenant people. He separated from Isaac. And then it went to Jacob and land. Rachel and Esau was not a believer at all. Scripture tells us that Esau have I hated and even from Rachel and Leah.

They had 12 boys and the people had grown to the great number of 70. Well, 74, if you include Joseph and his wife and his two sons back already in Egypt, but 70 came down from Canaan to Egypt. So 74 seemed like such a big number just a couple of generations ago and now Moses who is through his mother's side, Levi's grandson At the age of 80 is leading out some five or six million people or perhaps just too.

Really just So the Lord has, kept the multiplication promise. You see the number of the Israelites you're coming out, that's definitely with the 600,000 and the hosts, and the hosts, or armies and armies. There's an emphasis on the number. There's also an emphasis on the variety of these people.

Notice verse 38, short verse big meeting, a mixed multitude went up with them. Also a multitude of people

from all the nations was added to the Israelites. They're like get us out of Egypt. Seen what Egypt is and we have seen who yaha is and we choose Yahweh. We're going with him to the extent that when he repeats some of the Passover instructions here, the point of the repetition of the Passover instructions from verse 43 and following is how to incorporate members of the mixed multitude.

If they were willing to become Israelites Either by becoming circumcised servants, in an Israelite household, or being circumcised to join a tribe as a native of the land, Then they could take the Passover. And so, there is, there is provision here spiritual provision, for those who were converted to following and worshipping Yahweh who had humiliated Egypt, but had saved his covenant people.

And they would want to commemorate the day or the great event in which they came to know the Lord and he said, you can't do that unless you're become an Israelite, but it means of circumcision. So the churches today actually are full of people who think that, you know, there is this great distinction between Old Testament in, which God's people was an ethnic people Israel and New Testament in, which God's people are a converted people.

And yet, as the apostle tells us in Romans 9 Israel, even in the Old Testament was not by God measured by all those who had descended from Israel. But all those who had faith The spiritual descendants, those who are the descendants of promise. So, yes, there is a distinction in that in the Old Testament.

If you are from one of the other nations, you had not only to convert to the worship of Yahweh, but to be incorporated, into the nation of Israel. But it was never merely an ethnic nation. It was always a covenantal nation And if they were practicing what God had told them to do, rightly they would have been excommunicating.

Which means cutting off from their people just much more severe than New Testament text communication. But if they were obeying God's commands, they would have been continuously putting out of the people. Any descendants who did not grow up to trust in the Lord and walk with Him. So there's actually according to God's instruction.

The only difference as you don't have to become an ethnic Israelite. Now, to be part of God's people, but the church in the Old Testament, the church in the New Testament are actually very similar. And the reason is, as the Apostle tells us in Romans for God was determined to make Abraham the father of all of the circumcised through faith and the Father, through faith of all of the uncircumcised to believe as well.

And this is another part of his promises to Abraham. Wasn't it all the way back to chapter 12 in Genesis that in him, all the families of the earth would be blessed. And so we see the number promise and we see the whole world promise fulfilled here. And then we also see the the presence promise, the essence of the Covenant being, I will be your God and you will be my people.

They are the people of Yahweh verse 41, calls, them, Yahweh's armies. This is one of the wonderful things about God, bringing sinners into covenant with himself. You look at that covenant and who is in it. God and His people. And you say, wow everything. Good in that covenant has come from God.

Think about even from a military perspective, what you would think of the 600,000 who are coming out on foot and like Yahweh's armies? Well, Pharaohs armies looked a lot more impressive. Well, maybe not at this point but probably still with their shields and spears and long bows at which they were expert and which was the great weapon of the time, their chariots and horses, and armor and very impressive Israelites.

Running out with flatbread didn't even have time to let it rise before they baked it. Many with their needing bowls still strapped. To them didn't even have time to bake that and a bedraggled people who the only thing they had known up till now, was how to be slaves.

That was their training. The Israelites are the Egyptians definitely were not training them for military prowess because for 80 years, one of the great concerns was that the Israelites might join an enemy. If there was a war, these are always armies. Well yeah, they are because Yahweh and his armies.

When they go out to war, the one who matters as the Yahweh part. That doesn't mean that they would refuse to be ready or to train or whatever. But you see how the identity here? Excuse me. You see how they identify? Here is their identity with the Lord, identified with him by circumcision.

So that they may be identified with him by keeping the night of Yahweh, which is what Passover is called at one point here. So they may be identified with him. As being his people, you do everything. According to His commands. That's the biggest part of the promise. Yes. The numbers part is wonderful.

Yes, the people from all the nations part. The worldwide blessing part. Bringing them into the covenant to do the Lord. Through Abraham part is wonderful, But the best part of God, keeping this promises was him being there. Covenant God and then getting to be his covenant people to be identified with him.

That's the best part of his promises to you, Promises. I'm not changed. Jesus is still gathering to himself a multitude that no one can count. Jesus is still glorifying himself by the fact that it is to all the nations and to the ends of the earth that repentance and remission of sins are being proclaimed in his name.

But the greatest part of what the Lord is doing is identifying us with himself uniting us to himself by faith so that we know ourselves to be united to Christ Bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh so that we know ourselves to be the beloved children adopted of the Father who called Jesus, the beloved Son so that we know ourselves to have fellowship with the Spirit because the scriptures teach us that it is the Holy Spirit, who trains our hearts and mouths to say, Abba when we talk to God, something that no one until the indwelling of the spirit by the pouring out of Christ, had the temerity to say to the living.

God. And now we in Christ can be confident of it. We are his. That means all of the good. All of the power comes from him. Just as it did here, that means we are identified with him. Our worship is His worship. The Lord's day is his day. We are the people who obey His commands who've been fault with his blood, the best part of Covenant with him is him and let's pray.

Our father in heaven. We thank you that you who had kept these promises and made such display of that in the portion, that we read this morning are still keeping these promises and that are coming to faith and are seeing our children, come to you and are seeing others converted and brought in to your people and receive baptism our belonging to you is still in Christ.

The perfection, which what we saw in our passage anticipated, help us, especially Lord to delight that. You have taken us to be your covenant people and that you have declared yourself as our covenant. God, we ask this all in Christ's name, Amen.