

Exodus 19 - Night of Judgment or Birth of Israel

Exodus (Names) - Changing the World

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Exodus 11:1-10

What is Passover?



Art work of the cost of Passover reflects Greco-Roman style promoting importance of women and children leading to false assumptions of their importance in promoting spirituality (Is. 5:12)

- Separation of Israel from all other nations
- Separation of God's people from all others
- Demonstration of the price of sin & redemption

God had warned Pharaoh (Ex 4:21-23)

- God told Pharaoh through Moses that this would occur if he refused to release the Hebrews
- God called Israel, "my *firstborn son*" and to "let him go that he may serve me"
- If you refuse then I (God) will kill your firstborn sons
- Pharaoh ignored the signs and the promised blow fell

God's Final Affliction

- God tells Moses that this will be His final affliction or blow on Egypt
 - Most English translations read, plague, but should read affliction or blow or perhaps even judgment
- God tells Moses that Pharaoh will say he will drive the Hebrews away; but, he will change his mind, again

Strengthening of Pharaoh

- God "hardened" or allowed Pharaoh to strengthen his resolve to live by his convictions - the indomitable human spirit that inspires so many books and movies
 - This traps the lost into worshipping Satan via themselves
 - They cannot fathom the truth of the Gospel
 - Then comes the judgment, via death, lasting forever
- Leaving Pharaoh to his sin, God will be glorified

Not Just a Jewish Sign



- Historically this has been linked only to the Jews
- Their *nationhood* began with this event
- But this event belongs to **all** who become saved, new creations in Christ

Just the Facts

- At midnight God will come to slay the firstborn sons of man and beast of all Egypt
 - No family will be spared
 - The grief will be very great
- This will not occur in Goshen among the Hebrews
 - Not even a dog will threaten the Hebrews

Presuppositions

- This is simply a generalization of what will occur
 - Subsequent passages offer more details of this event
 - All families who believe and follow the prescription of blood on the doorposts will be spared: Hebrews and Egyptians
 - All families who do not follow the instructions will not be spared: Hebrews and Egyptians

People Openly Desert Pharaoh

- Moses tells Pharaoh that even some of his people will come to bow before Moses and beg the Hebrews to go
 - This demonstrates the emptiness of Pharaoh as both god-priest and king by his own people (no Ma'at)
 - Pharaoh orders Moses to leave and pronounces a death sentence on him if he comes before him again; there can be only one "god" in Egypt (in mythology one god can "kill" another god)

Issue is not the facts

- If one puts these facts into a purely Jewish matrix then the hypothesis that the Passover is only for the Jews is the expected conclusion - this is the traditional view
- However, if one puts these facts into a different matrix then a different conclusion can be reached which will challenge the traditional view, though it can include the traditional view in a dispensational eschatological matrix

Why the Firstborn?

- The Father calls Christ His Son, His *only* begotten Son which makes Jesus His firstborn (Jn 1:14, 18; 5:3)
- Christ died on the cross for sin to redeem those who will believe on Him alone for their salvation (Jn 3:16)
- Passover emphasizes the cost of sin, His Son, and the futility of man's sacrifice, his sons; man found his loss painful, imagine God's sense of loss of His Son

Penalty for sin is Death

- This is self-evident today but it was not evident to the ancient peoples, including Pharaoh or the Hebrews since they did not have the Mosaic Law, yet
- The lamb was a substitution for the coming Lamb of God who would be the sacrifice for sin (Jn 1:29, Rv 5:6)
 - Putting the blood on the door lintels was an act of faith in the sufficiency of God's word and God saved them

Clear Choice

- Apply the blood to come under the blood of the sacrifice of God's firstborn to be saved, or
- Do not apply the blood and provide your own firstborn to determine if your sacrifice is sufficient for salvation
 - Sufficiency is proved by rising from the dead (cp. 1:16-21)
 - Insufficiency is proved by remaining dead, no resurrection

Man and Beast Insufficient

- The firstborn sons of all beasts was insufficient to pay the penalty for sin (Is. 51:16-17, Jer. 32:1-10)
- The Bible says that *any* system of works (*religions*) is insufficient to pay the penalty for sin (Is. 4)
- Rejection of the grace of God means establishing one's own righteousness or being greater than God

One God

- By definition there can only be one God
 - God is infinite
 - God fills infinity, ergo,
 - There can be only one infinite being
- Man has no innate righteousness
 - Man *had* the righteousness of God but sinned
 - Sinful man *cannot* develop righteousness, only sinfulness

Covered by God's Righteousness

- Placing the blood of the unblemished lamb on the door posts demonstrated faith in God
- This was a metaphor for the salvation God will provide
 - Christ is God (God's Son)
 - Christ is righteous because He obeys the Father
 - Christ died and shed His blood for sinful people
 - Sinful people accepting Christ's cross find life (Heb. 9:11-14)

Sinfulness of Moses (Ep. 6:10-13)

- Moses left Pharaoh's presence in "hot anger" (ESV)
 - Moses sees Pharaoh as the enemy, the immovable force
 - Moses has anger issues demonstrated by his murder of an Egyptian 40 years before, his anger is still strong
 - This reminds us that Moses is a sinful man, like us
 - Moses' anger will eventually result in his death, outside the Promised Land

Egypt Will Come to God (Is. 19:19-23)

- Egypt is commonly preached as a "type of the world"
 - The world is never redeemed, only a remnant is saved
 - In the Millennial Kingdom era, Egypt will turn to God, be healed and elevated over all kingdoms, with Assyria
 - God will save all who come to Him in faith
- Egypt is a "type" of a sinner who is lost then redeemed

Passover is Salvation (Ro 2:9-10, Ga 3:23-29)

- The Passover is the oldest continuing worship service known today -it represents salvation
 - Salvation for the Jews
 - Salvation for Gentiles (Greeks/Egyptians - metaphors)
- Exodus is the journey every person makes when coming out of the world (lost) into God's Kingdom (saved)

Jews Entrusted with the Oracles

- God made His people an example for the ancient world to see to prepare them for Christ's salvation
- The Jews preserved God's oracles (Word) even though most did not believe in God, just an idol of God
- God will use the Gentiles to bring some Jews into the New Covenant during the Great Tribulation (Ro 11:11-12, 25-31)

Not Ancient History

- The Passover is not ancient Jewish history to be ignored by Christians
- The Passover is *our* history, teaching *us* of the cost of salvation and the holiness of God that *we* must learn
- The imagery of Christ's sacrifice begins here and continues through Revelation - it is our history also