

# Exodus 21 - The Passover: Trial of Faith and Failure

Exodus (Names) - Changing the World

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Exodus 12:29-51

## Three Part Study

- Death of the Firstborn
- Beginning of the Exodus
- Institution of Passover
- Why They Failed, for Us



# Death of Christ

## Death of the First Born

Exodus 12:29-32

## Night of Judgment

- Those who believed and applied the blood of the lamb were spared the price of the firstborn
  - Christ, God's firstborn, took their place applying His blood as sacrificial lamb for all who believe (Ro. 2:4-8; 3:21-25)
- Those who did not believe had to supply their own firstborn as a sacrifice, including animals, their death showed their sacrifice was not sufficient

## Everyone Must Give Account

- Everyone from Pharaoh to the slave must answer for sin - NO exception
  - No blood = price for sin in blood (Le. 9:23)
  - Every Egyptian household was found insufficient
  - Every Hebrew home with blood was sufficient
- The price for sin is blood - yours or Christ's

## Pharaoh Found Powerless

- Pharaoh realized his absolute powerless against death
  - He could not keep his own firstborn from death
  - He could not protect his people from death - no Ma'at
- World's lesson - only God has power over death
  - Death equalizes man in the flesh - all die, even Jesus
  - Only risen Christ has power over death (1Co. 15:34-35)

## Pharaoh Releases the Hebrews

- Realizing his utter frailty, Pharaoh releases the Hebrews
  - Pharaoh capitulates to all of God's demands
  - Pharaoh in mourning asks Moses to "bless me"
  - This is acknowledgement of God's divinity, but not of repentance, his heart did not change as events show
- This ends Egyptian sojourn, begins the Hebrew exodus

## Beginning of the Exodus

Exodus 12:33-42; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

## The Unfaithful Rejects the Faithful

- Egypt demands the Hebrews leave lest Egyptians all die!
  - Demonstrates lack of understanding of God's mercy
  - They gave the Hebrews whatever they asked to hurry them along
  - They gave up their personal wealth in exchange for peace and safety, but missed salvation and true peace

## The Problem of Numbers

- English translation place the number of Hebrews who left at 600,000 men plus women and children and an additional number of Egyptians (mixed multitude)
  - The total exodus would be about 2.5 million people
  - This column would be about 350 miles long
  - The logistics of supply and waste management refutes this translation (even armies not that large then or now)

## What's in a Number?

- Eleph: Translated as thousands here can mean clans
  - Ancient armies were not that large for many reasons
  - If the Hebrews were 2.5 million they would have overwhelmed the Egyptians by sheer numbers
- If translated as clans or chiefs, including wives and children, then the total becomes more manageable: 20,000 - 30,000 people left Egypt

## Night of Observance

- The Lord observed them, preserved them, so they could leave Egypt in one night
  - They were to keep this night as an observance for the rest of their cultural existence, which they have
  - This is the oldest continual observance in human history uniting this people around one experience
  - We are joined in that observance via the Lord's Supper

## Institution of Passover

Exodus 12:43-51

## Passover Commemoration

- This is a summary of the continual commemoration or observance of the Passover with important additions
  - Those who were under the Abrahamic Covenant, AEB circumcision, could keep the Passover
  - The uncircumcised could not keep the Passover
- This shows the integration of non-Jews into the faith, and society, based on one's standing with God

## Integration Without Prejudice

- God's intention for the Jewish nation was to spread the word to the Gentile nations inviting them to trust God
  - They were to be an open society so that all may learn of God and partake of Him freely
  - There was to be only one level of society - believers; non-believers would not be part of society though there would be relations to evangelize them without compromising the truth of God

## They Failed

- They integrated with non-believers incorporating their demonic practices while failing to evangelize them
- They rejected the prophets God sent to woo them back to Him, killing many of them in the process
- They killed God (Christ) when He came to teach them the truth of the Law which they perverted

## Why They Failed, For Us

Romans 9:27-29; 10:19-21; 11:25-31

## Psalm 89

- The recalling of the events in Exodus occur in special contexts that teach us why Israel missed their calling
- The psalmist at the end of Book III asks the question in every Israelite's mind entering the Captivity:

“Lord, where is your steadfast love of old,  
which by your faithfulness you swore to David?” *ps. 89:49*

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2089&q&v=ESV>

## They were Rebellious

- The Psalmist of Psalm 105/106 answers that question with the truth of their history *(Ps 106:43)*
  - “Many times He delivered them, but they were rebellious in their purposes and were brought low through their iniquity”
- The psalmist details their failure in keeping the faith of Abraham supported by the signs given through Moses

## Stephen Repeats This Truth

- Stephen also recounts their history to the high priest, and the Sanhedrin, ending in the truth that they were always a rebellious and stiff-necked people *(Ac 7)*
- They responded to the truth like all rebellious men do, they killed the messengers to remain in the flesh
- But, God did not cast them away forever

## The Truth Did Go Forth

- God used the Jews to preserve His word, though they did not believe or understand the word
- God used the Jews to begin His Church which has spread around the world through the Gentiles (us)
- God will bring the Jews back into the fold because of the faithfulness of His Word according to His purposes