

Good Friday April 2, 2021

“The Purpose of the Passover” – Exodus 12:12-14

I. The first purpose was / is protection –

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. Exodus 12:13 (NKJV)

1. God’s goal in sending “the destroyer” - Exodus 12:23, was to punish sin, particularly the sin of Pharaoh, and the Egyptian people who were keeping God’s people enslaved. The death of the first born in Egypt was the result of this judgment –

²⁹ And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. ³⁰ So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead. Exodus 12:29–30 (NKJV)

A. Some of these it would seem were less guilty of enslaving Israelites than others?

The first born of Pharaoh, yes, probably yes, he likely shared in his father’s guilt!

The first born of a captive in a dungeon, was he guilty? Probably not! However, every human being was guilty of sin!

The death of livestock; shows us, sin of the guilty carried a destructive power beyond the guilt!

B. Surely the Israelites were not guilty of enslaving themselves, yet of sin in general, they would have been guilty too –

¹⁰ As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. Romans 3:10–11 (NKJV)

Hence, as sinners they needed protection from God’s righteous wrath!

II. The second purpose of the Passover was to point –
¹⁴ “So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance. Exodus 12:14

1. As a “memorial” a regularly celebrated feast, for Israel, it pointed back, so they would remember what God had done for them –

A. Not only salvation / protection from the death of the firstborn; but deliverance from slavery in Egypt –
20 And God spoke all these words, saying: ² “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Exodus 20:1-2 (NKJV)

B. This remembrance of deliverance from Egypt was meant as motivation for keeping God’s commands –

20 And God spoke all these words, saying: ² “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ “You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴ “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.... Exodus 20:1-6 (NKJV), see also Exodus 20:1–17

2. The “throughout your generations” and “everlasting ordinance” aspects of the Passover, point forward to Christ, and the redemption He purchased for us with His blood –

⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 1 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)

Our redemption in Christ is also motivation for obedience –

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s. 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

A. It is the motivation for our keeping His commandments –

¹⁵ “If you love Me, keep My commandments. John 14:15 (NKJV)

B. *His love, His sacrifice is the reason for our love –*

¹⁹ **We love Him because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19 (NKJV)**

III. *A third purpose of the Passover was / is to point to the CROSS, the POWER of God for our salvation –*

¹⁸ **For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NKJV)**

1. *Understand, salvation is not only, or even primarily, salvation from Hell, sins penalty, but salvation is also salvation from sin itself, sin's power –*

²¹ **And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)**

2. *The phrase “to us who are being saved” points to a process!*

3. *Propitiation, Christ's dying on the cross was a one time acts, He paid for our sins, He said – “it is finished” –*

³⁰ **So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. John 19:30**

4. *Yet, sanctification, another aspect of our salvation continues in each of our lives –*

¹⁷ **Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. John 17:17 (NKJV)**

5. *We need this power of God, because we have no power of our own –*

⁵ **“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5**

6. *It is a strength too few recognize –*

53 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? Isaiah 53:1 (NKJV)

7. *It is the power of humble obedience –*

⁸ **And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point* of death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:8 (NKJV)**

8. *Such humble obedience, God empowered obedience would make us SHINE in a dark world –*

¹² **Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, Philippians 2:12-15**

9. *As pharaoh had power over Israel, to keep them as slaves, so sin has power over us –*

³⁴ **Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.” John 8:34 (NKJV)**

Yet, Jesus has power to set us free –

³⁶ **Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. John 8:36 (NKJV)**

A. *It is the sanctifying power of TRUTH –*

³¹ **Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:31-32**

B. *Sadly, some deny negative truth –*

³³ **They answered Him, “We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, ‘You will be made free’?” John 8:33 (NKJV)**

C. *Realizing the truth of bondage, is needed for being set free -*

²³ **Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. ²⁴ So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged *them*. Exodus 2:23-25**

D. *It took ten plagues to break Pharaoh's grip, sin's grip is strong too –*

²² **For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! ... Romans 7:22–25 A (NKJV)**

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