

Exodus 12:1-13, 24-27, 42-49

Over the Next 3 Weeks We Are Going to Focus on 3 Ordinances God Commanded Israel To Observe As He Guides Them Out of Egypt & Into the Promised Land.

Ordinance #1 *"The Celebration of Passover"*

Ordinance #2 *"The Feast of Unleavened Bread"*

Ordinance #3 *"The Consecration of the Firstborn"*

Definition of Ordinance: Various descriptions but generally

1. *A piece of legislation enacted by a municipal authority,*
2. *An authoritative order or decree,*
3. *A prescribed religious rite.*

In Other words, these are commands or orders given by God for a specific purposes.

With Each of These Ordinances We Will Structure Message in 3 Parts

- I. The Initial Intent of the Ordinance
- II. The Spiritual Significance of the Ordinance
- III. The Fulfillment of the Ordinance in Jesus Christ

Ordinances Became Part of the Larger Picture God Was Weaving To Reveal His Messiah

Romans 3:1-2 *"If everyone is ultimately saved by the atoning work of the Cross, and NOT by adherence of the Jewish Law, what advantage is there in being a Jew?"*

Answer: *"There is great advantage in being a Jew because God first gave His laws, His word, His commands, His ordinances to Israel in order to point them to Christ."*

Romans 1 *"Salvation came first for the Jew and then to the Gentile"*

God gave the Law, the Prophets, the Ordinances to lead His people to Christ.

Read 12:1-13, 24-27, 42-49

I. The Initial Intent of the Passover Ordinance

1. Was to Serve as a Memorial of God's Judgment of Egypt & Deliverance of Israel

a. Passover Uniquely Distinguished His People from Egypt

Vs 12 *"I will strike down all the first born in the land of Egypt, and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment, for I Am Yahweh."*

Vs. 13 *".....when I see the blood I will pass over you and no plague will destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt."*

Vs. 23 *"the Lord will smite the Egyptians, but will NOT smite you...."*

- As we have seen through the signs & wonders, God is differentiating His people
- The plagues fell upon Egypt's waters, Egypt's land, Egypt's livestock, Egypt's people, and it will be the same of the Egyptian firstborns.

b. It Was to Serve As a Reminder That God Kept His Promise of the Land

Vs. 25 *"you are to do this when you enter the land God has given to you according to His promise."*

c. It Was to Be Practiced Forever

Vs. 24 *"You shall observe this event as an ordinance for you and your children forever."*

Vs. 42 *"...this night is for the Lord, to be observed by all the sons of Israel throughout their generations"*

- In other words, there is no end date instructed by God
- They are to celebrate this forever so as never to forget what God has done for them.

d. It Was to be a Teaching Tool & Instruction for Future Generations

Vs. 26-27 *"And it will come about that when your children ask you what does this Passover Service mean to you?"*

- There will be Hebrew children who will exit Egypt with their parents but will be too young to know everything that took place that first night.
- The future generations who were not born will ask *"Why do we do this?"*

2. Passover Ordinance Demarcated A New Calendar of A New Nation

a. The First Night of Passover Represented A New Beginning

Vs. 1-3 *"This month shall be the beginning of months for you...."*

- God implies that Israel's calendar will now be represented by their deliverance from Egypt.

b. This New Calendar Now Represents a New Nation

Exodus 13:4, 23:15, 34:18, Num. 9:1-5 (Second year), Duet. 16:1

- With a new deliverance, into a new land, with new instructions, comes a new calendar
- God intends Israel to leave the baggage of Egypt behind and start fresh
 - Don't bring their false gods.
 - Don't bring their pagan practices.
 - Don't bring their calendars.

II. The Spiritual Significance of the Passover Ordinance

1. It Reveals The Consequence of Sin & the Cost of Salvation

- **Consequence of sin was the death of Egypt's firstborn**
 - Ex. 4:23 *"You have not let my son go, therefore I will kill your firstborn."*
- **Cost of Salvation Was The Death of Israel's Unblemished Lambs**
 - **Read Vs. 3-7**
 - a. **Lamb Had to Be 1 Year Old Unblemished**
 - The best of the herd.
 - A male sheep that represents a perfect specimen. No flaws or imperfections.
 - A male sheep that represents the ideal age for procreation & propagation
 - b. **Select Lamb on the 10th Day of the Month, Slaughter on the 14th Day**
 - The lamb must be selected and set apart for 4 days
 - Many will imply the lamb is brought into the house 4 days. No real evidence of this.
 - The ordinance requires preselection and the lamb is to be set-apart and protected.
 - They likely would have brought this lamb closer to home, away from the herds and penned nearby in preparation for slaughter.
 - c. **The Blood Was Spread Across The Lintel of the Door and Down The Posts**
 - The spiritual significance becomes a house protected by innocent blood.
 - This is now the first participation by God's people among these signs & wonders.
 - Every other plague God differentiated without the participation of Israel.
 - This time, God requires the participation of each family.
 - God knew the Egyptian houses from the Hebrew houses, but He requires their obedience
 - The spiritual importance of the blood is the obedience by each house.

2. It Gives New Meaning to Animal Sacrifice & Burnt Offering

- a. **The sacrifice was to be burned not boiled.**
 - Many pagan cultures made burnt offerings and sacrifices to their gods.
 - This was not a new practice in the A.N.E. cultures.
 - Blood & fire sacrifices were exercised to appease false gods.
 - They were intended to encourage benevolence of false deities.
 - They were performed on the terms of men.
 - Here we see God giving new meaning to blood and burnt sacrifice.
 - God begins to redirect the meaning of this practice & point it toward atonement.
 - We see a foreshadow of the Mosaic Law, and ultimately the blood sacrifice of Christ.

3. It Is Reserved for God's Covenant People

- a. **Vs. 43-49**
 - The spiritual significance of the Passover Ordinance was for those descendants of Abraham through whom Yahweh made a covenant.
 - Sojourners passing through the Land are not Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob's descendants.
 - Foreigners hired or owned by Israel were not descendants of the covenant.
 - In future generations, they will not be ones that were rescued from Egypt.
 - God does not forbid them from becoming proselytes. But in order to celebrate the physical and spiritual significance of the Passover they must also undergo the physical and spiritual ritual of circumcision.

4. It Represents Rescue & Deliverance by Substitutionary Death

- Israel avoided death by shedding the blood of an innocent animal. It was another life.
- This will point to the ultimate substitutionary death of Christ

III. The Passover Ordinance Fulfilled in Christ

(These Points Will Become Our Practical Application)

Today We Do Not Literally Practice The Passover Ordinance As Prescribed in Exodus

This Does NOT Mean the Principles of Passover Have Been Eliminated

Rather, Jesus Has Become The Passover Lamb for You & Me In The New Covenant

Matthew 5:17 *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law of the Prophets, rather I have come to fulfill them."*

1. Jesus & New Testament Authors Reveal That He Gave New Symbolism to the Passover Lamb

- Before The Sermon on the Mount, John the Baptist Referred to Him as:
"The Lamb of God Who Takes Away the Sins of the World"
- During the last Passover meal Jesus symbolically applied the bread to His body and the wine to His blood.
- Paul outright refers to Jesus as the Passover Lamb sacrificed for us. **(1 Cor. 5:7)**
"Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed."

2. He Was Sinless and Unblemished Just as God Required in Exodus 12.

- II Cor. 5:21 *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*
- I Peter 1:17-20 *"We were not bought with silver and gold but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ."*
- Hebrews 4:15 He was tempted in all the same ways we are tempted, yet he did not sin.
(This is what qualifies Him as sinless, spotless, and unblemished)

3. He Was Put on the Cross At the Time of Passover As An Innocent Man

- Extra Biblical texts, Josephus writings, and Christian tradition hold that Jesus entered Jerusalem on the 10th Day of Nisan which is the first month of the year in the Jewish Calendar
- A harmony of the Gospels puts Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, & John 12 at this time.
- Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19 state that Jesus cleansed the temple when He saw the corrupt buying and selling. Much of this corruption was around the selection of Passover Lambs
- He enters Jerusalem on the 10th Day & was crucified on the 14th day of the Month.
- Isaiah 53 tells us that Jesus would be silent before his accusers like a lamb who is silent before his shearers being led to the slaughter.
- Matthew records that Jesus remained silent in the courts.

4. No Bone Was Broken In His Body When He Was Crucified

- God Instructed Israel that no bone should be broken of the Passover Lamb (Ex. 12:46)
- John applies the fact that no bone in Jesus' body was broken to reveal Him as the Passover Lamb. **(19:36)**

5. His Death Is A Substitutionary Death for Us Just Like the Passover Lamb

- **Romans 5:9** *"Much more then, having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him."*
- In the same way that Israel was protected from God's wrath by the blood of the Passover Lamb, we too are saved from God's wrath by Jesus as our Passover Lamb.

6. There is No Forgiveness of Sin Without the Shedding of Blood

- There was no safety for the Israelites unless they sacrificed the blood of the lambs.
- There is no forgiveness of our sins without the sacrifice of blood.
- **Hebrews 9:14** *"Jesus offered Himself to God without blemish to cleanse our conscience"*
- **Hebrews 9:22** *"there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood"*
- **Hebrews 10:4-10** *"God took away the Old in order to establish the New."*

Today we understand the new meaning Jesus gave to Himself as the Passover Lamb.
Today we can see the motif and symbolism of what the Passover Lamb foreshadowed in Egypt.
God has provided many motifs in the Bible that point to the saving work of the cross.
We primarily understand the principle of the animal skins in the Garden because we view these events through a post-cross lens.
We recognize that fig leaves were inadequate to cover sin. There had to be the shedding of innocent animals to make skins, to cover the sin.

We are rescued from the condemnation of sin by the blood of a lamb just like Israel was rescued from the bondage of Egypt by blood. God passes over us when he judges sin. Not because we are sinless, but because we are protected by God's Passover Lamb.