

Church of God Sunday School

THE PASSOVER AND THE EXODUS

Exodus 10:27 — 13:22

Again and again Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused to let the people of Israel leave Egypt to worship God. Moses and Aaron went before Pharaoh one more time, but Pharaoh would not listen. He said, "Get thee from me . . . see my face no more." Moses declared to Pharaoh, "Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face again no more."

God told Moses that one more plague, the last one, was about to come upon Egypt. This plague, the *death of all the firstborn* of man and beast, would happen to the Israelites also if they did not obey God's instructions.

God told Moses and Aaron that "this month" (the month when they were to leave Egypt) would be the "first month of the year to you." On the tenth day of that month, the Israelite people were to "take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house."

The sacrificial animal had to be a one-year-old, perfect male lamb, without blemishes or spots of any kind. After the lamb was killed, its blood was to be sprinkled on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the house where they would eat.

Next, each family was to roast the lamb whole (breaking none of its bones) and eat it with bitter herbs and unleavened bread (bread with no yeast). This feast was called "the LORD's passover." The people were told to eat completely dressed, with "your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand." They were to be ready to leave Egypt! The people went and did as they were told.

At midnight, on the fourteenth day of the month that God had spoken of to Moses, "the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt." Wherever He saw blood on the doorposts of a house, He passed over that house. All who were inside were safe!

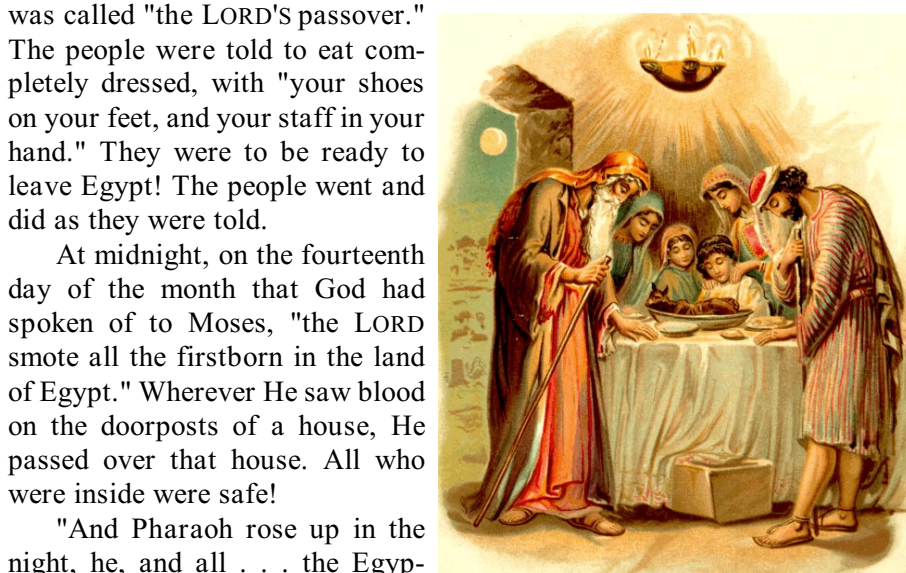
"And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all . . . the Egypt-

tians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead." Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. He told them: "Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as ye have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone . . ." The Egyptians wanted the Israelites to leave in a hurry. They were afraid they all would die!

The Lord had told Moses to tell the Israelites to borrow jewels of silver and jewels of gold from their Egyptian neighbors. The Egyptian people looked upon Moses as a great man. God also gave the Israelites favor in the sight of the Egyptians. The Egyptians gave the Israelites whatever they asked for.

Moses took Joseph's bones with him, because Joseph had asked that his body be taken out of Egypt whenever God's people left there. A mixed multitude of people also left with the Israelites. These people were taking advantage of God's blessings on the Israelites.

God led the people out of Egypt "through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea." During the day, God led them "in a pillar of a cloud." Then, at night He led them "in a pillar of fire."



In this manner, God led His people out of the bondage of Egyptian slavery to begin their journey to the Promised Land. It was such a wonderful deliverance that God did not want them to forget it! Moses told the people, "Remember this day, in which ye came out . . . of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place . . ."

The Passover feast was to be kept every year after that as a memorial, so that the people would not forget. Then, when their children asked why they celebrated the Passover and what it meant, the parents

could tell them what God had done. They would say that God brought His "people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror" (Jeremiah 32:21).

God's directions for the Passover had to be followed exactly. This was important, for these things were all types (or examples) of things in the New Testament plan of salvation, which would come in the future.

The *lamb* was a type of Jesus, the Lamb of God. He would die on the Cross (and none of His bones would be broken).

The *blood* was a type of Jesus' blood that would be shed on the Cross for man's sins.

The *bitter herbs* stood for the Egyptian bondage, which is a type of sin's bondage. The bitter herbs also

signified Christ's suffering for us and the godly sorrow one has for committing sin.

The *unleavened bread* shows that there is no sin in Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. We will not have any sin in our hearts either after Jesus saves us.

To eat "*with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand*" shows that you are willing to leave sin and are ready to share the Gospel with others (Ephesians 6:14-15).

Long ago, the blood of a lamb applied to the doorpost protected the people in that house from physical death. The Lord passed over, or spared, those inside, because they were obedient. Today, if we allow the blood of Jesus to be applied to our hearts, we will be protected from spiritual death. We will be spared because of our obedience to God.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage." —Exodus 13:14*  
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