

Exodus Chapter 12 Commentary

Ex 12:1 ¶ "And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you."

Here, is the beginning of the Jewish calendar.

3 "Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: 4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: 6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening."

"every man according to his eating" The lamb was to be measured, according to the amount that the number of the people would be able to eat the whole lamb in this one meal. Just for example: if the chosen lamb was of the size to feed ten people, then they would get that many people together for that lamb. One house might have six people and the other might have four people, yet combined they would be able to eat the whole lamb.

Several commentators point out something, I have not researched, nor even thought of. They say that Jesus was in Jerusalem for four days and on the fourth day he was crucified.

There is a prophetic picture here, Did you notice that they kept the chosen lamb for four days? These four days are representative of the four thousand years of time, before Christ came into the world, to be the one true sacrifice for sin. The lamb, being chosen and kept for four days, is the picture of the blood of Christ, which will reach back through time and remove the sin debt of all who came before him, as seen in: **Heb 10:1-6; 1 ¶ "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. 5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure."** Christ was chosen by God, before the world was, to be the sacrifice for the redemption of sins. Under the sacrificial law, those sacrifices had to be made continually, showing that they only laid the sin aside, until the redeemer would come and satisfy the law, which demanded blood for the forgiveness of sins. It was not until the fourth day that Jesus, the true lamb, was slain, and he was revealed, as the one who will allow God's wrath to pass over us, and not destroy us in his final eternal wrath. Through, the shedding of Jesus's blood on the cross, his death, his burial, and his resurrection of Jesus Christ, the sin cursed fleshly bodies, of all God's people (before and after the coming of Jesus in mortal flesh), will be changed into sinless, incorruptible, and immortal bodies. Thank you, Lord Jesus.

The lamb, without blemish, is a picture of the sinless body of Jesus Christ, who is the one true sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin.

Ex 12:6 "And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening." We point out that there has been a reprieve of at least fourteen days since the last plague was lifted. My thought is this: Pharoah has had time to assess the devastation of Egypt. Surely, this will influence his decision to let Israel go, when the last plague is brought upon all Egypt.

7 "And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it."

The blood applied to the side post and the upper door post, is picturesque of the suffering of Jesus at the time of his crucifixion. Christ Jesus is the door into heaven, seen in: **Joh 10:7 "Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep."** And **Joh 10:9 "I am the door: by me if any man enter**

in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." Remember, they beat the body of Jesus, the side posts, and they put a crown of thorns upon his head, the upper door post. Thus, the blood of Christ is seen upon the upper and side post of the door into immortal heaven.

"wherein they shall eat it." We can only eat the body of Christ, set forth in the bread of communion at the Lord's Supper, in church fellowship. If you are not in church fellowship, you do not have the right to partake of the communion sacraments. Remember, the Israelites, God's people, were the ones who kept the passover. The Egyptians, who were God's enemy had no part in the passover feast.

8 "And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. 10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. 11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. 13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt."

God lays the groundwork for the first passover, which is emblematic of what shall happen in the end of time, and the final judgments of God. They were to eat the lamb while completely ready to rise up and depart from Egypt. God told them this, because he knew that Pharaoh, and Egypt, were going to thrust Israel out of Egypt in the night, and they needed to be ready to depart. God knew that this last plague would break all resistance against God and Israel.

We are to be ready for the return of Christ. We are to be waiting and watching for his return, and while we wait, we are to be in church fellowship, partaking of the Lord's Supper. It will only be those for whom Christ gave his life on the cross, that will go away to the immortal heaven. God's final wrath and judgment will be poured out upon this world, Egypt in a type, and all that are left, when God's people are called up, after the final judgment of God upon them, by their own works, they will be condemned and sent to suffer, forever, in the eternal lake of fire.

14 "And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever. 15 Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. 16 And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you. 17 And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance forever. 18 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even. 19 Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land. 20 Ye shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened bread."

God gives Moses the whole order of business for the passover, and its annual remembrance. Israel only kept this feast of the passover one time in Egypt. Christ changed this memorial passover feast, to what we observe as the Lord's Supper, our memorial feast, in church fellowship, seen in: **1Co 11:23-26; 23 "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."** He only did this once on earth. He told us in scripture: **Mt 26:28-29; 28 "For this is my blood of the new testament,**

which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Unleavened bread is figurative of being sinless. Leaven is a picture of sin. We should remember every day that Christ has removed our sins from us. We put the leaven out of our houses, by practicing living the Christian life by "***thus saith the Lord,***" and not by thus saith self.

When we come to the Lord's Supper; we are commanded to examine ourselves and so let us eat. We are to remember; only though the blood of Christ can we be sinless and eat, seen in: ***1Co 11:28; 27 "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged."*** This is plain speech, and easily understood.

21 ¶ Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover. 22 And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. 23 For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you. 24 And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons forever. 25 And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service. 26 And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? 27 That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD'S passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped."

Moses commands the people to perform the passover feast this night, declaring that God will kill all the firstborn of Egypt, both man and beast, this night, and they will be kept safe, only, by application of the blood to the lintel and two side post of the doors, and by remaining inside their houses.

"And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service." Moses passes God's instructions to Israel to keep the passover feast each year in the land of promise. Notice, Israel was to teach their children, and future generations, of the meaning of the passover feast. We do not participate in the Lord's Supper until we are a member of the church, which is our land of promise here in time. We are to teach our children the meaning of the Lord's Supper.

Having received the message, deliverance from Egypt will come this night; Israel worships God. When we are awakened from our death in trespasses and sins, we should bow our heads and worship God. We should praise our Saviour and Lord, Christ Jesus, for the shedding of his blood that God will not send the destroyer into our houses. Hallelujah! Amen!

28 "And the children of Israel went away, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they. 29 ¶ And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle. 30 And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and 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. 31 And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, 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. 32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also. 33 And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We be all dead men. 34 And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading troughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders. 35 And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: 36 And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians."

God performs this last plague of slaying the firstborn of the Egyptians, both man and beast. Pharaoh's heart and spirit are now broken. He calls for Moses and Aaron and tells them to go as they have said God required. He tells them; do not wait until morning but go now in the night. Not only is the heart of Pharaoh moved but the hearts of the Egyptians. They laid Israel with all they need and more, and hasten them in departing from Egypt, because they thought they were all going to die.

We do notice; Pharaoh now asks to be blessed. Thus, we see the heart and mind of Pharaoh, and Egypt, totally humbled before God. This humbling is not to salvation, but submission to the will and purpose of God being fulfilled, and a desire that God's judicial wrath be abated. How often do we see those who do not profess Christ as Saviour, come and ask God's people for prayer for God's blessings, when they are under great duress in life. They are not asking for salvation; they are seeking relief from their present anguish.

37 ¶ "And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children. 38 And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle. 39 And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought forth out of Egypt, for it was not leavened; because they were thrust out of Egypt, and could not tarry, neither had they prepared for themselves any victual. 40 Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. 41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. 42 It is a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations."

"And a mixed multitude went up also with them;" We do not know for sure who the mixed multitude were, but we believe that some were Egyptians who had come to believe God. There would have been strangers, who had come to believe and profess God, in this mixed multitude. We do not know the number of the mixed multitude that went forth from Egypt with Israel. We do know; they were a part of the **"all the hosts of the Lord."**

This is a very large number of people. Six hundred thousand Israelite men, who walked out of Egypt on foot, not counting their wives, and children, and those, who went out by other means than walking. Remember, Israel, Jacob, and his family, came into Egypt seventy souls, four hundred years earlier. Look at the multitude now. Do you see how God fulfilled his promise to Jacob, to make him father of a multitude of people?

"this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations." As we see this great demonstration of the fulfillment of God's promise, and the greatness of his miraculous power, we should indeed remember this night. This night is prophetic of the end of time when Christ shall gather all his saints to heaven. Notice, Israel left Egypt in the darkness of night. We are told that at the end of time, there is a great darkness coming:

- **Re 8:12 "And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise."**
- **Re 9:2 "And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit."**

As the plagues of God upon Egypt were to free God's people from bondage to them; so, God will plague the earth at the end of time, and remove his people from the earth. Actually, it will be better for God's people than for Israel. How? Not only will we be freed from the bondage of sin; we will be freed from all earthliness, because we will be transformed into immortality. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

43 ¶ "And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof: 44 But every man's servant that is bought for money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof. 45 A foreigner and an hired servant shall not eat thereof. 46 In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof."

"There shall no stranger eat thereof:" A reason why the church has closed communion. The Lord's Supper is for born-again believers, who have made their declaration of faith, and are walking in church fellowship.

"neither shall ye break a bone thereof." This is a prophetic picture of the true sacrificial Lamb, Jesus Christ, and the fulfillment of scripture seen in: **Joh 19:36 "For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken."** They broke the legs of the two who were crucified with Jesus, to hasten their deaths. When they came to break Jesus's legs; Jesus had already given up the ghost, therefore, his legs were not broken and fulfilled this prophesy.

47 All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. 48 And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof. 49 One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you. 50 Thus did all the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they. 51 And it came to pass the selfsame day, that the LORD did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies."

God provides the way that strangers may be included in the passover feast. One law for all. In other words, if you were not an Israelite, you must conform to the commandments of God for Israel and be circumcised, which set Israel apart from the rest of the world, who did not practice circumcision. You must take God to be your God. This is the reason you must be in church fellowship, to partake of the Lord's Supper.

"that the LORD did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies." The individual tribes, bearing the names of Jacob's sons, are here classified as armies, indicating that each tribe of Israel was an independent army. God's people, in this age of grace, are children of God, who, when born-again, are drafted into the army of the Lord. When they join the organized church, they leave Egypt, the world, and they become part of an army. Each organized church body is the representation of an army.

This is why we sing the song in the Lloyd Hymnal: **Hymn #396 to the C. M. titled Fortitude and courage.**

1. *AM I a soldier of the cross, A follower of the Lamb? And shall I fear to own his cause, Or blush to speak his name?*
2. *Must I be carried to the skies, On flowery beds of ease, While others fought to win the prize, And sailed through bloody seas?*
3. *Are there no foes for me to face? Must I not stem the flood? Is this vile world a friend to grace, To help me on to God?*
4. *Sure I must fight if I would reign; Increase my courage, Lord! I'll bear the toil, endure the pain, Supported by thy word.*
5. *Thy saints, in all this glorious war Shall conquer, though they die; They see the triumph from afar, And seize it with their eye.*
6. *When that illustrious day shall rise, And all thy armies shine In robes of vict'ry, through the skies, The glory shall be thine.*

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for bringing us into thy fold, and for giving us the promise of eternal life, in immortal glory. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Amen!