

Exodus 12-13:16 – The Gospel and Passover: Substitution, Remembrance, and the Great Reversal

Pray:

Opening Illustration – event/story: *A story that defines you, shapes you good and bad! Murray State! Around the Horn!*

- *That is what is going on here, a story that was so instrumental in the life of a people that it defined not only their past, but their future...*

Main Idea: We will see God's Delivering Power *displayed through Substitution, Sacrifice, Reversal, and Redemption!*

I. (12:1-28): The Passover Instruction – God delivers His people through a substitute that is Sacrificed

(v. 1-2) **New Calendar/New Beginning:** This is such a significant event that it will shape their calendar – **God is establishing their calendar in theology rather than the natural cycles – This will be a transformational event marking your salvation from slavery!**

(v. 3-6) **The Key Element in this New Beginning – THE LAMB – who is to be the substitute:**

- **A male, on year old without blemish** – selected on the tenth day (probably to prepare and inspect it) and kept till 14th day
- **Without blemish is huge... they needed a perfect substitute or sacrifice** – not a weak lamb, but the best, **without blemish!**

(v. 6b-11) **What they are to do with the Lamb (v. 6 Kill it/SACRIFICE IT)**

- **V. 7 The slain lamb is a vivid reminder that all deserve judgment, that a life had to be sacrifice in place of those who would be redeemed – because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God – and here the lamb takes Israel's punishment instead**
 - o Externally it was the actual blood that saved them
 - o Internally it was their faith in the application of the blood – **blood on the posts showed you believed God would keep His Word!**
 - o Israel escapes judgment by mediation of a sacrifice – Salvation accomplished by blood... **blood spilt on wooden posts (we will see this again)**

(v. 8-11) **Instructions on how to serve and eat it**

- Eat with unleavened bread because **have to leave quickly**
- **v. 11 dressed appropriately would picture** faith because trusted that God was going to do what He said
- **And ate Bitter Herbs** to remind them of the bitterness of the time in Egypt (look at Exodus 1:13-14)
 - o **V. 11 – Tell's who's event this is, "The Lord's Passover"**

Application: Don't Glorify your past, but when preaching gospel to yourself, REMIND YOURSELF OF THE BITTERNESS OF THAT SORT OF BONDAGE (BITTER)!

(v. 12-13) **PIVOTAL VERSES: THE LORD'S RESPONSE TO THE BLOOD ON THE POSTS!**

- **Verse 12: God will now act decisively against the powerless gods of the Egyptians, some had already been judged... but now all are judged, as none can stop what is coming!**
 - o **Yahweh always humiliates other "gods" and here is signaling a New King is here to be more feared than Pharaoh!**
 - o **The purposes of the plagues** have been repeated continually so that both Egypt and Israel will know exactly what God told Moses at the Bush, **"I AM" the Lord...**

Yahweh is the one true God: The events of Passover are the ultimate demonstration of **God's holy judgment** of Egypt for its stubborn rejection of recognizing who Yahweh is...

Verse 13: In Contrast THE BLOOD on your doors will be a sign that judgment has already fallen at that house!

- **SIGN Language** – just as the plagues were a sign to Egypt of God’s justice and judgment, **now the Pass over is a SIGN of God’s mercy to Israel!**
 - o **Promise of Genesis 3:15 and Abrahamic covenant: In the midst of looming judgment God provides a way for the seed of woman...** protecting her from slavery, death (males being killed), for future salvation!
- **He says He will make a distinction with Israel – This is not to say that Israel is innocent!** Israel is not innocent here based on their bloodline, they are innocent here **based on the applied blood of the sacrifice!**
 - o **Judges the obviously wicked (Egypt), but also the so called good (Israel) – demonstrating that apart from blood atonement of the Lamb they would be judged too**

Why? Because God is holy and all others are not: All are sinners and deserve to be cut off.. **we are all pharaoh-like whether we have the title or not!**

- **So God provides a way, through the blood of a substitute**
 - o **The person applying the blood recognized that they deserve death,** they deserve to be cut off... just like this Lamb
- **Theme – Faith: Though the Israelites have been protected from previous plagues they now have to act faithfully in order to appropriate the means by which the Lord will “pass over” them – By faith (Moses) he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.** (Hebrews 11:28 ESV)

Blood is an interesting topic (DAD NEEDLES, BLOOD BROTHERS) – Car Wreck: Why? Because it is life giving, reminds us we are not machines or gods... and that we will die

- **And that is significance here: in order for us to be saved/rescued – we need another’s righteousness/unblemishedness**
 - o **NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD – This why we sing about blood! Its not barbaric, its what saves!**

So Where does your righteousness come from – It does not come from within (niether did it here) – it comes from another, here an Unblemished Lamb – **You need Christ’s active obedience** – so its not just the sacrifice of Christ, it’s the Life as well!

(14-20) FOCUSES ON THE FUTURE OF THIS EVENT AND WHAT THEY WILL DO IN THE PROMISE LAND

- **v. 14 – You should always remember this act of deliverance**
 - o **Application: Preach the Gospel to yourself – remind yourself of your great deliverance, accomplished by the blood of another!**
- **V. 15 - 20: For seven days they will eat bread without yeast**
 - o **Yeast is symbolic for sin** (cf. 1 Cor. 5:6-8). By initiating this feast, it is as if the LORD is providing a picture of a sanctified life (SEE MORE OF THIS LATER)
 - o **In comparing the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Ryken says this: “Passover is about getting saved. it reminds us that we have been delivered from death by a perfect substitute whose blood was shed as a sacrifice for our sins. The Feast of Unleavened Bread reminds us what God wants us to do once we’ve been saved, and that is tot live a sanctified life, becoming more and more free from sin”** (Ryken 338).
 - o **The consequences for those who did not abide by these instructions were serious** – “cut off” from Israel.

(21-28) Now Israel carries out what God has commanded

- **(v. 21) The Elders select the Lambs and slaughter them – with hyssop and blood that had spilt in basin and spread it on the door posts**

- **Ironic that the first sacrifices Israel will make are in the land of Egypt... not outside signifying the judgment that is coming upon Egypt**
- (V. 23) **The Lord will now sovereignly acting in mediating justice through the death of the first borns!**
 - **“BUT SPARED OUR HOUSES” The angel will move on past Israel houses when angel sees death/judgment has already taken place here (at Golgotha) – they understand that they deserved judgment too**
- **(24-28) Talks about remembrance and we will focus on that in chapter 13!**

II. (12:29-32): The Passover and Killing of the Firstborn – God’s Delivering Power displayed in Great Reversal

(V. 29-30) **God strikes down the firstborns – He will end the debates with one cataclysmic sign!**

- **He judges all of Egypt without distinction, from rich to the poor**, the good and the bad – imagine the cry in the land!
- **The destroyer is going to go through the most mighty nation in the world, like a knife through butter – God has kept his word in 4:22-23 “if you do not release my firstborn... I will kill yours”**

God is doing what He always does... turning evil on its head – We will see this again!

ILLUSTRATION: GIANTS AGAINST THE PATRIOTS

- **Pharaoh had decided to throw Hebrew boys in the Nile, now God is enacting judgment on their sons!** You want to destroy our males (or even the firstborn Israel), **it will come back on your head!**
- **2nd striking down the 'gods' of Egypt, in particular Pharaoh’s son – He is telling Pharaoh you are not a God, and neither is your son... you will die, Gods don’t! I am the judge... I AM!**
 - This blow is both **hurtful personally (losing a son) but also theologically** to their idea of succession!

Application: Same is true with us – we all deserve this kind of judgment – We are all Pharaoh Like!

- **Some in this room possibly think you will never be judged, that you can spend your life setting yourself up as God**, chasing stuff, piling up pyramids full of stuff and fame, and refusing to bow down to the true God... and in the end it leads to God showing you who is really in charge and to be worshipped
 - **Pharaoh is like Adam, Adam was thinking he was someone who could grasp the power of God... AND SO ARE WE!** – And just as God promised the result of the sin of Adam would be **returning to the Dust**, so now with Pharaoh and all others who try to substitute themselves for God!
- **There is no one else like Yahweh, and He has made His point – All will get justice, some by judgment (EGYPT), some by mercy (ISRAEL) – He had shown forbearance in the plagues, and his slowness to wrath, but the guilty will not go unpunished! (TURN TO GOD FROM SELF THROUGH A SUBSTITUTE)**

(v. 31-32) **The Lord visits Egypt and finally Pharaoh relents and releases Israel!**

- **Even though Pharaoh had resolved not to see them, he could not keep it... and releases them**
 - **Pathetic nature of this cataclysmic reversal (the humiliation of Pharaoh), the one that thought he was a God, is now begging another to bless him!**

This great Reversal leads to great liberation – They are freed from slavery, and so are we because of a Great Reversal demonstrated at the Cross!

- **ROMANS 8 shows that He is in control of the affairs of men, and so can flip evil on its head**

And We have in Moses another Joseph, a prince of Egypt who brings salvation for the People of Israel, but in a great Reverse: He doesn’t bring them in the land but leads them out!

- **Conclusion – REVERSAL: Bruising of the Heel, Crushing of the Head, and protection of the seed of woman:** We see here the promises of Genesis 3:15, though the seed of woman's heel was bruised (bitter bondage) the head of the enemy (the one who wore a snake on his head) is now crushed!
 - o **And in what seems like a harsh judgment (killing of firstborns) you should read John 3:16 – God so loved the World He would protect His coming Son, the Seed of the Woman!**

III. (12:33-42 **READ –TELL THE STORY**) The Exodus – God's Delivering Power Manifested in Kept Promises

(v. 33-36) **NOW AS THE ISRAELITES LEAVE THE LAND... The Israelites pillage the Egyptians as God had commanded**

- **This points us to the greater exodus we have in the gospel – A king who vacates a grave and gives gifts to men (Eph. 4) – he gives us the spoils of His victory which eventually will include every corner of the Cosmos!**

See Three Promises fulfilled – NOT LIKE OUR PROMISES – I PROMISE I WONT TELL ANYONE!

- 1) (33-36) **Fulfillment of Genesis 15:14 – Plundering – Halloween we ask for stuff (but not Jewlery) – God has given them favor in sight of Egyptians**
- 2) (V. 37) **Further promises fulfilled, the people have been fruitful and have multiplied** – Charge to Adam and Abraham (numerous offspring) is now connected with this nation! A People who are to display His glory among the nations!
- 3) (V. 38) **Further Promises fulfilled, the nations are being blessed through the seed of Abraham – ALWAYS TO HAVE BEEN A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS**
 - o **Probably includes Egyptians mentioned in 9:20** – showing that some believed God... while others remained in their non-worship of him, and worship of self or pharaoh!

(V. 40-42) They had been in Egypt 430 – But God Delivered Them!

- **Application:** God Keeps His promises... **maybe 430 years before resurrection, but it is coming – (Sam Sinclair)**
- Believe the Promises, don't be practical atheists (anxiety, depression, all should be killed) – **BE UNTOUCHABLE! BE STRENGTHENED**

IV. (12:43-51): Further/Future Instructions for Passover Observance – **GO QUICKLY IN THIS SECTION**

- (v. 43-51) **The Lord talks more about Passover** – more instructions probably because of mixed multitude:
 - o Don't break its bones (we will see this again)
 - o Only for covenant community
 - o Punishment is harsh, same with LS – don't take meal if shouldn't!

And you see against the Beauty of God's work, they did not accomplish this for themselves, **but “that very day the Lord brought” them out! He is good to His people!**

V. (13:1-16): Consecrating the Firstborn and The Feast of Unleavened Bread – Remembering God's Delivering Power (WE HAVE SEEN REMEMBRANCE LANGUAGE THROUGHOUT)

- (V. 1-2) **Because God had distinguished and redeemed Israel, His firstborn, they would now consecrate their firstborns (ones passed-over) to God**
- (v. 3-16 **READ?**) **This will be done for a time of remembrance of leaving Egypt, out of the house of slavery and setting apart to the Work of God**
 - o **A Defining Story:** Throughout the Generations, they will identify with what happened in the past – A GRANDFATHERPASSING DOWN!

We are also called to remember – the Lord's Supper!

- **A meal that signifies our great deliverance... just as they looked back to the Passover, we in the new covenant look back to the cross in our LS!**

- **Why not do it every week! It's a meal that pronounces every week, OUR GOD HAS WON! AND WE HAVE TOO!**

IN this meal we preach to ourselves and we remind one another constantly We are sinners that deserve crucifixion (deserve plagues), I am a sinner that deserves to be cut off... BUT GOD had mercy on me in Jesus, my Passover Lamb!

- **A meal in which Jesus says again blood has to be spilled...**
- **And just as the Israelites here (v. 8) are to tell their children, we too... parents you will be asked about the LS, and it is a great time to share the gospel!**

Illustration: Children ask all kinds of questions... WHY? WELL WHY?

- But some are serious? Like Why do people die? Is Heaven Real?
- **And they will ask you why about this?**
 - **And you say, we were slaves, but God rescued us! We deserved the death angel, but God passed over us!**
- **MARRIAGE SUPPER: In this we look back** (To a sacrifice delivering us) **but we also look forward** to that day when we will sit down at a banquet table with our King! A marriage supper of a Lamb!
 - **No wonder Passover is a holiday, it's a day of celebration (July 4th)! Though we didn't see the Sea and at the Passover, we were there! We know what happened! We were freed!**

And though we didn't see Golgotha and the stone rolled away... in this meal, a meal passed down for 2,000 years we can say that we were there!

- So when those fragile voices ask those questions – **point them to a meal and to the gospel!**
- **And remember Who did this? The Strong Arm of the Lord (v. 3 and 9)**

Our response: worship, Consecrated to Him, just like v. 27 In response to this news, “the people bowed their heads and worshipped” (v 27).

- **(NEO-CAL) Our response is Worship – not just singing, but all of our lives! ROMANS 12**
- We have said all along **Exodus sized deliverance demands Exodus sized mission** – we now offer our bodies to our Great King who delivered us!
 - Go to the Nations! And to our Neighbors!
 - **Because we were slaves and now we are sons!**
 - **V. 8 tells us: AND NOW LETS TELL OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS THIS IS BECAUSE OF WHAT THE LORD DID FOR ME WHEN I CAME OUT OF BONDAGE!**

How is this all possible for any of us? We are all in Egypt type bondage to sin and self we are all like pharaoh worshipping ourselves and our appetites:

- **You see we are all in bondage, because we have all tried to live life as though we were God... but this doesn't bring liberty**
 - **Gaga – it brings chains! And we all need deliverance from chains (pressure to perform – FUNCTIONAL SAVIORS – human approval)**

And deep down we know things are not right with the world or with ourselves, we have a sense of justice

- **How can it be fixed? How can we be right in the presence of a holy God, we who would worship ourselves, serve our own interests and desires?**

- THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!

YOU SEE THERE WILL BE ANOTHER SUBSTITUTE LAMB WHO BRINGS TRUE FREEDOM:

- **There will be another sacrificial lamb who's blood will be spilled on wooden posts** – sacrificed during the days of the Passover Feast
 - **A lamb chosen before the foundation of the world – without blemish!**
 - **A Lamb who's bones will not be broken!**
 - **A Lamb who will die at Twilight (Matthew 27)**

- There will be another that leads an even greater Exodus, not just from physical slavery but spiritual slavery and certain death – **one who frees us from the Pharaoh behind the Pharaoh!**
 - o **There will be another one who if His blood is applied to us the death angel will ultimately pass over us!**
 - o **There will be another who will institute a meal that points to deliverance** – as He sits down with His disciples demonstrating He is the unblemished Lamb saying "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." (Luke 22:15).

And what is odd at this Passover account is that there is no lamb mentioned at the meal, why? Because the Lamb was sitting at the meal!

- **There will be another Firstborn consecrated to God**

And there will be a greater Great Reversal – **SATAN THINKS HE HAS WON** – at the Cross – the true crushing – Justice and Mercy will fall again at the same place!

- THIS IS UNIQUE, NO OTHER RELIGION HAS ITS KING DYING IN THE PLACE OF HIS ENEMIES!

There may be some in this room that are indifferent to this message – but deep down you know judgment is coming and that on your own you cannot stand! You are in bondage!

But hopefully your question is what this passage is talking about – How can sinner, self-worshippers, come into the presence of a holy God?

- **The answer is given here, only through an unblemished substitute** – only through this Jesus who lived the life you could not live and died the death you should have died!
- You need His righteousness!
 - o **The cry for you is see me in Christ, I want the hell that was poured out on Him to count as my hell, and the righteousness He has to be accounted to me, that is the only way!**
 - o **This is the Sinner's prayer, I deserve death, but please have mercy**

Moore Quote: “does it remind you that the death angel is coming for us to?...If the Lord waits... We will all be placed in the ground. We are not gods! But what the gospel reminds us is that we're passed over... so even as we eat and drink in this life, we keep our shoes on, we recognize the people we belong to, and when we finally stand in judgment we don't come cowering in fear, we come marching triumphantly to Zion right through that door, that narrow little door, that everybody great or small must pass through if we would be redeemed and it's the one with blood all over it, that's the Gospel!” – PLEASE TURN TO THIS GOSPEL MESSAGE, I PLEAD WITH YOU!

But Believer you need this message to:

- **Of an Unblemished Lamb – Active Obedience – right now I stand in need of Jesus active obedience on behalf CHILDHOOD TO ADULTHOOD!**
- **Need for Mercy**
- **But also to understand you are free... all the things that threaten that accuse! – THERE IS NOW NO CONDEMNATION!**
 - o **You are free, you are out of Egypt, out of Chains, but we still want to go back to Egypt (Slavery to success, image, entitlement, APPETITES... etc)**
 - o **Or even assurance, if your struggle is that you are looking too much at yourself, and not at the substitute Lamb – WHERE IS YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS CHRISTIAN?**
- **AND now we should worship unhinged – certainly right now as we sing IT IS FINISHED! If you believe you are free LET GO – but with all of your life!**

Turn to the one who will lead you out of your bondage – turn to Christ! But this blood has to be applied by repentance and faith! Just as the blood of the Lamb profited the Israelites nothing if they did not put it on the post, if you don't turn to Christ it profits you nothing that He died as a substitute!

There are all kinds of stories that define us, give us meaning, give us purpose... but ultimately we unless it is this greater Passover/EXODUS.... The Gospel, we will spend our lives always trying to find something to fill what only that can fill and we will be left empty... and here is the story:

"And the only way I know for any man ... to escape (EXODUS) the sinner's payday... is through Christ Jesus, who took the sinner's place upon the Cross, becoming for all sinners all that God must judge, that sinners through faith in Christ Jesus might become all that God cannot judge."

~R.G. Lee Pay Day Some Day

Prayer – WHAT CAN WASH AWAY MY SINS?