

Last week we covered that fateful night from Egypt's perspective. The warning of the death of the firstborn was given. Even the time it would occur was announced. Pharaoh would not humble himself before God. His pride was more precious to him than his own son. Midnight struck and a wail went up throughout Egypt.

In the land of Goshen, it was a completely different set of events. We will now hear the account from the Hebrew perspective. It is preparation for and celebration of the first Passover. It was a new beginning for the nation. In fact, from now on, this would be the beginning of the year. It came at the full moon in the month of Abib (our March/April). Because the Hebrews used a lunar calendar, it varies from our Easter celebration.

First, Moses described how they are to celebrate Passover in the future:

³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.

Each family was to select an unblemished yearling male sheep or goat. Because they were going to eat the entire animal, a smaller family could join together with another small family for the celebration. I love the fact that this richly symbolic celebration is to be done as a family. Since it so strongly points to salvation, we can be encouraged that God's heart is for our entire family to be saved. (Joshua 6:25; Acts 16:33)

They were to keep this lamb *until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.* They lived with this lamb for five days. This was to be sure that it was indeed unblemished. Defects might not be readily visible on first inspection. It surely made them attached to the lamb as well. You can't care for any kind of baby animal for five days and not get somewhat attached.

I raised rabbits for a time while I was in Japan. I had to quit because I just couldn't kill them. The implication is that our redemption is precious and should rend our hearts to see the price that must be paid. **If an animal becomes precious to us, how much more the Son of God!** (1Peter 1:19)

When the lamb was slain, its blood was gathered in a basin. This word for basin was derived from an Egyptian word, *sap*, meaning threshold. The Egyptian thresholds were like a trough in front of the door to keep water from flowing into the home. It is also used as translated in your text in verse 22 as "bowl". The rest of the descriptions in verse 7, however, are parts of the entryway into the home. This leads me to believe the animal was hung in the doorway and the blood drained into the trough in front of the threshold.

Commented [Paul Wall1]: Joshua 6:25 (ESV)
25 But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Commented [Paul Wall2]: Acts 16:33-34 (ESV)
33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.
34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

Commented [Paul Wall3]: 1 Peter 1:19 (ESV)
19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Then they were to take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood, and touch the doorframes and lintel. (John 19:29) This would have blood on all four sides of the doorway.

Commented [Paul Wall4]: John 19:29 (ESV)
29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

They then roasted the whole lamb, took it into the house, shut the door, and enjoyed the barbeque without breaking one of the animal's bones. (see verse 46) God warned them, ^{22c} *None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning.* They were to eat the lamb ^{11b} *with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste.*

It is the LORD's Passover. YHWH's *pesah*. As is so common in the Hebrew Scriptures, the word for the feast is connected with the key word in passage. Yes, God will pass through Egypt and execute judgment on all the gods of Egypt, even the god they looked to for the future, Pharaoh's son. But God calls it His *pesah* because He is going to pass over (*pasha*), His people. (John 3:36)

Commented [Paul Wall5]: John 3:36 (ESV)
36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Like many words it has several meanings. The obvious is to skip, or pass over something, which was derived from an earlier form meaning to limp. In this case it is the homes with the blood on the door. But it can also mean to defend or protect. I've found that one of the amazing things about God's word is that when there are two meanings, that unless one cannot fit the context, they are both applicable. In the execution of judgment, God skipped over the homes with the blood marked doorway, while He also protected them. I'll explain in a moment.

God declared that He would execute judgment on Egypt's gods and take the life of the firstborn. Then He again declared, *"I am the LORD!"* In other words, I am the Eternal One. I am the Judge. I am sovereign. I will do as I will. (Isaiah 46:10)

Commented [Paul Wall6]: Isaiah 46:10 (ESV)
10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.'

¹³ *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 no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.* Notice that the blood is a sign for "you", not the Lord. Just as God said that when He saw the rainbow, He would remember His promise not to destroy the earth with water (Genesis 9:16), so He now says that when He sees the blood on the door He will not enter to destroy. They are His children, but that is not the reason He will not enter in to judge them. He will not bring a destructive plague because of the blood on the door.

Commented [Paul Wall7]: Genesis 9:16 (ESV)
16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

Verses 14 through 20 describe the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Because of the urgency in departing, they did not have time to put yeast in the bread to make it rise. When they celebrated this great deliverance, they were to rid their homes of all yeast and for one week, the 14th through the 21st, they were to have no yeast in their homes and eat nothing with yeast. God was so serious about it that He ordered that anyone caught eating yeast would be cut off from Israel.

When God orchestrates our deliverance from the world, we are not to dally. We need to make haste. Yeast is a picture of sin. (1Corinthians 5:8) Every bit is to be removed from our homes. Seven is a number of completeness. (Revelation 1:4) The seven days is symbolic of the whole of our life. To not follow this ritual was to be cut off from Israel. God was showing how serious He is about removing sin from our lives and our homes. The same seriousness is seen in the blood of the lamb. (Leviticus 17:11)

Commented [Paul Wall8]: 1 Corinthians 5:8 (NIV) 8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.

Commented [Paul Wall9]: Revelation 1:4 (NIV) 4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,

To this day, there is a ceremony on the 14th of Abid in which the house is searched for yeast. One little bit is left to be found, ceremoniously swept up, and disposed of outside the house.

Commented [Paul Wall10]: Leviticus 17:11 (ESV) 11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.

That was the description for future Passover celebrations. Then, in verse 21, Moses told the elders to go ahead and pick a lamb for each clan and kill it that evening, and put the blood on the doors. They didn't have the five days for each family to watch their lamb on this first Passover. That would be done in the future. This night was the night the firstborn would die at midnight.

23 For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. Here we see that sense of the verb *pasah* in defense or protection. It is used in Isaiah of a mother bird hovering over her chicks to protect them from predators. (Isaiah 31:5)

Commented [Paul Wall11]: Isaiah 31:5 (KJV) 5 As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.

The LORD passed through to strike the Egyptians, but He protected the marked doors to keep the destroyer out. This wording is not a mistake. **God protects us from His own judgments.**

Commented [Paul Wall12]: Exodus 10:2 (ESV) 2 and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the LORD."

The same idea is repeated in verse 27 where the LORD commands the people to tell each successive generation about this night. (Exodus 10:2) This is not to be forgotten. There is something about this that is critical for people to remember.

27 you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.' " And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

The people did as the Lord commanded. I wonder how many Egyptians imitated the actions of the Hebrews. It would have been a real act of faith if any Egyptians did kill their sacred goat or left their home to stay with the Hebrews. It would have said to their neighbors that they had abandoned the gods of Egypt and were siding with the Hebrew God. (Joshua 24:15)

Commented [Paul Wall13]: Joshua 24:15 (ESV) 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Midnight struck. A wail went up. Every house that did not have blood on the door saw their firstborn die. The future Pharaoh was dead. Pharaoh was defeated. He pleaded with the Hebrews to go serve their God. He's been forced to allow them

to serve another god, the true God. ³³ *The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead."* They took their unleavened dough in the kneading bowls and carried it on their shoulders. They asked for the wealth of their neighbors in clothing, gold and silver. ³⁶ *And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.*

When the Hebrews left, they did not leave alone, for God had convinced many of the Egyptians that their gods were no gods at all. ³⁷ *And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children.* ³⁸ *A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds.* A mixed multitude went up with them. I love that line because it tells us salvation is for all who will believe. (Romans 10:13) Slaves from other nations as well as Egyptians were a part of this mass migration. God not only did what He had promised Moses, and Abraham before him (Genesis 15:14), but He did more than either of those great men could have imagined. He brought the honest souls of other nations out with them, making them one with Israel. (Genesis 12:3)

In the closing verses of the chapter, God told them how the people of other nations could participate with them in the celebration of Passover. As long as the males were circumcised, they could participate fully with the Hebrews and be considered as one of them. That was the sign of entering into a covenant with the God of Abraham. (Genesis 17:10)

What a picture that must have been! If there were 600,000 men, then there must have been a total of over two million people! Archeologists argue that Egypt's largest standing army was only 20,000. It may be that the word *elef*, translated thousand, may mean "clan" or "military unit". Nevertheless, along with the mixed multitude it would have been an historically major mass migration. All were following the stuttering shepherd Moses and the staff of God. What an amazing record of God's faithfulness to keep His word and expose the lie of the culture in Egypt! But is there more? Oh is there!

Pharaoh was a real character, and Egypt was a real place. These are real events, but they picture something far greater. Pharaoh is a picture of man's opposition to God, setting himself up as God. God would say something and Pharaoh would say the opposite. It was a struggle for power with which we are all too familiar.

Egypt and its false gods symbolize the world and the oppression of sin. Sin enslaves. It is a hard taskmaster. Jesus clearly used this kind of language warning us that whoever sins is the slave of sin. (John 8:34) Jew and Gentile alike are enticed to believe that false gods of prosperity, glamour, pride and power can fill our empty hearts. They promise peace but leave us in chaos.

Commented [Paul Wall14]: Romans 10:13 (ESV)
13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Commented [Paul Wall15]: Genesis 15:14 (ESV)
14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

Commented [Paul Wall16]: Genesis 12:3 (ESV)
3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Commented [Paul Wall17]: Genesis 17:10 (ESV)
10 This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.

Commented [Paul Wall18]: John 8:34 (ESV)
34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."

At just the right time, God sent a deliver. (Romans 5:6) Moses said that God would raise up a prophet like him, in other words, a humble deliverer that would lead us out of captivity. (Deuteronomy 18:15)

Commented [Paul Wall19]: Romans 5:6 (NIV)
6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

The plagues are God's judgment on the gods of this world. We see them in our own day as the things that man trusts in fail. Then God offers to take us out. Pharaoh/Satan does not want to let us go, but God forced his hand.

Commented [Paul Wall20]: Deuteronomy 18:15 (NIV)
15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him.

Yet, when judgment comes to this world, why should we be spared when we have done the same things as the rest of the world? We worshiped the same gods. Why can the just Judge of all the earth pass us over? Why should He as one that is lame hop over us, and protect us?

Long before the Exodus took place God foretold that the heel of the Seed of the woman would be struck by the serpent (Genesis 3:15), and yet, this male offspring of the woman would crush the serpent's head. Why does YHWH limp over the homes with blood? Why is the blood on the door a sign for us? His heel was struck on the cross. He took our punishment upon Himself so that He could be just and yet righteously merciful.

Commented [Paul Wall21]: Genesis 3:15 (ESV)
15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

You see, on the 10th of Abid 30 A.D., when everyone was choosing their lambs, Jesus presented Himself, the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world, the unblemished lamb without defect. (John 12:1, 12) We call it Palm Sunday. And though the crowd seemed to choose Him, they later rejected Him. (Mark 15:14) But that didn't stop Him. He who declared Himself to be the door, the door we must enter in to be saved (John 10:9), allowed Himself, the perfect lamb, to bleed from His head, hands and feet. He became that blood -marked door.

Commented [Paul Wall22]: John 12:1 (ESV)
1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

Commented [Paul Wall23]: John 12:12 (ESV)
12 The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.

Commented [Paul Wall24]: Mark 15:14 (ESV)
14 And Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him."

He invites your family into this place of safety. When He comes as the just Judge to give to every man according to what they have done, He sees you safely within the blood stained door. **His own blood stands between you and judgment.** He looks at His own blood shed for you and passes you by. To the world, He is the destroyer. To you, He is your protector and Savior.

Commented [Paul Wall25]: John 10:9 (ESV)
9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

He is the lamb of which we partake. No wonder He said that unless we eat His flesh and drink His blood we do not have life. (John 6:54) He is the word made flesh. (John 1:14) If we have entered that blood stained door, we will partake of the Lamb who shed His blood for us. We will be hungry for His word and Spirit. We will be freed from the bondage of this world symbolized by leaven.

Commented [Paul Wall26]: John 6:54 (ESV)
54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

Commented [Paul Wall27]: John 1:14 (ESV)
14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

And so the Apostle Paul tells us, *7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.* 1Corinthians 5:7 (ESV) We know the truth and the truth has set us free. (John 17:17)

Commented [Paul Wall28]: John 17:17 (ESV)
17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Now as a great mixed multitude (talk about unbiased toward ethnicity! Revelation 5:9-10) we leave our tools of slavery behind and we are free. We get up to leave and join the crowd (Hebrews 12:1) of those who follow the Shepherd, not the shepherd Moses. He was just a picture of the One to come. Our shepherd is the Great Shepherd, Jesus. He's the Shepherd, the door, the lamb that was slain, and the blood upon the door. He leads us out of the world into the freedom of the Spirit.

In the time between our choice of Jesus as the Lamb and the fullness of what His sacrifice means to us, we become increasingly attached to Him. Our hearts are broken at the price He had to pay for our sin. That's why it is with great gratitude that we leave the bondage of the world behind, forsaking sin, and walking in the freedom of the Spirit. His rod and staff comfort us, for we've seen the power of His judgments on the false gods of the world. (Psalm 23:4) We know it is this power that will lead us through the wilderness of life and to the Promised Land.

The Exodus is the story of every follower of Jesus. It is a blueprint for the ages to follow. It foreshadows the Great Tribulation. Because our hearts are circumcised (Deuteronomy 30:6), we have been grafted into Israel. (Romans 11:17) We've entered that blood stained door. We've gotten rid of the sin represented by leaven, and we partake of the Passover Lamb. We are freed! All glory to God!

Questions:

- 1 What did Jews do with the Passover lamb?
- 2 What are the two meanings of *pesah*?
- 3 What kept the destroyer from the Hebrew homes?
- 4 What did yeast symbolize?
- 5 From what did God protect them?
- 6 What requirement was there for foreigners to eat the Passover?
- 7 What does Pharaoh picture for us?
- 8 What does Egypt, hard taskmasters, and the false gods picture?
- 9 Why does YHWH limp over the houses of the Hebrews?
- 10 What happened on the 10th of Abib 30AD?
- 11 Who is the blood-marked door?

Commented [Paul Wall29]: Revelation 5:9-10 (ESV)
9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

Commented [Paul Wall30]: Hebrews 12:1 (ESV)
1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Commented [Paul Wall31]: Psalms 23:4 (ESV)
4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Commented [Paul Wall32]: Deuteronomy 30:6 (ESV)
6 And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Commented [Paul Wall33]: Romans 11:17 (ESV)
17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree,

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