"Christ Is Our Passover—Part 1"

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I mentioned that there are seven Wednesday-night studies before we commemorate the suffering and death of our Savior, so I began a seven-part series.

The overall title of the presentation was "Christ Is Our Passover—Part 1." Each presentation will have a subtitle. The particular subtitle of that presentation was "Deliverance From Slavery."

Keynote scripture

The keynote scripture for each presentation in the series will be 1 Corinthians 5:7.

■ 1 Corinthians 5:7—"For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us."

How did Israel end up in Egypt?

At this time, let us identify Israel.

■ Genesis 32:28—God told Jacob: "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel."

In the book of Acts, Stephen gave a brief historical narrative in Acts 7. Notice some examples from his narrative that revealed how Israel ended up in Egypt.

- Acts 7:9—The brothers sold Joseph into Egypt.
- Genesis 37:28—Technically, the brothers sold Joseph to the Midianites, who later sold him in Egypt (verse 36).
- Acts 7:9-10—After Joseph had some serious trials in Egypt, he eventually became a trusted official under Pharaoh.
- Acts 7:11-14—Joseph's family did some business in Egypt, became reconnected with Joseph and moved to Egypt.
- Genesis 46:31-34—When Joseph prepared for his family to meet Pharaoh, Joseph told them that family members were going to dwell in the land of Goshen.
- Genesis 47:11—Joseph gave his family a possession in the best of the land of Egypt (Rameses), as Pharaoh had commanded.

- Acts 7:15-16—Although Jacob lived in Egypt, he did not want to be buried in Egypt.
- Genesis 50:13-14—After Jacob was buried in the land of Canaan, Joseph and the other sons of Israel returned to Egypt.
- Genesis 50:15-18—After Jacob died, the brothers were afraid that Joseph would seek revenge against them.
- Genesis 50:19-20—Joseph reassured them that he was not going to exact revenge.
- Genesis 50:24—Joseph promised his brothers that they would receive the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel).

Slavery for children of Israel

- Exodus 1:8—After Joseph died, a new king arose who did not have the wonderful relationship with Joseph.
- Exodus 1:11—The Egyptians assigned taskmasters over the children of Israel to afflict them with burdens.
- Exodus 1:13—The Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigor.

The Lord promised deliverance

- Exodus 3:7-9—The Lord told Moses that He had seen the oppression and had heard their sorrows.
- Exodus 3:10—The Lord's solution was to send Moses to deliver—although Moses resisted the idea.

The Lord described temporary setbacks

- Exodus 3:19-20—The Lord told Moses that the king of Egypt would not readily let them go—until the Lord showed wonders.
- Exodus 4:21—The Lord revealed that He would "harden" Pharaoh's heart so that he would not let the people go.
- Exodus 4:22-23—The Lord revealed that He would threaten to kill the first-born of the Egyptians.
- Exodus 12:29-31—When the Lord actually did kill the firstborn of the Egyptians, Pharaoh wanted the children of Israel to leave quickly.
- Exodus 14:4—The Lord revealed that He would again "harden" Pharaoh's heart to chase the children of Israel.
- Exodus 14:21—Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the waters divided.

■ Exodus 14:27—Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the waters returned to normal.

Paul spoke in synagogue

- Acts 13:16-17—When Paul spoke in the synagogue, he began his comments talking about the children of Israel in Egypt.
- Acts 13:23-41—He ended his comments showing the power of the Son of God, who delivers people from slavery.

Superiority of Christ

- Hebrews 3:1—Who is your Apostle and High Priest?
- Hebrews 3:2—The Son was faithful to Him (the Father), who appointed Him (Son).
- Hebrews 3:3—The Son was counted worthy of more glory than Moses.
- Hebrews 3:4—God builds all good things.
- Hebrews 3:5-6—Although Moses was a faithful servant in the Father's house, Christ was a Son over His own house.