

Overview of Passover in Book of Exodus

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—As many Church of God congregations approach the spring feast days, I want to spend six articles discussing principles that can be rehearsed at this time of year.

While the emphasis of my articles will be covering material from the New Testament, I will begin this short series with material from the book of Exodus.

Two main sections

It is my perspective that the book of Exodus can be viewed as two main sections—the Redemption from Egypt (Exodus 1-18) and the Covenant with God (Exodus 19-40).

The section about the Redemption from Egypt includes the story of the Passover event.

Knowing the Lord

One of the main messages given by the Lord was the following: "You shall know that I am the Lord." Notice the following verses.

- Exodus 6:7
- Exodus 7:5
- Exodus 7:17
- Exodus 8:10
- Exodus 8:22-23
- Exodus 9:14
- Exodus 9:29
- Exodus 10:2
- Exodus 14:4, 18

Let My people go

At various times throughout this ordeal, Moses quoted God as saying: "Let My people go." Notice the following verses.

- Exodus 5:1
- Exodus 7:16
- Exodus 8:1
- Exodus 8:20
- Exodus 9:1
- Exodus 9:13
- Exodus 10:1

Hardened Pharaoh's heart

At various times throughout this ordeal, we read that God hardened Pharaoh's heart. Before the 10 plagues were even unleashed upon the Egyptians, God foretold what was going to occur.

Exodus 4:21-23—"And the LORD said to Moses, 'When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. Then you shall say to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD: 'Israel is My son, My firstborn. "So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn." ' ' ' ' "

Protection from 10th plague

When the events finally came to the 10th plague, God instructed the children of Israel how they could be protected and delivered from that horrible event.

- Deliverance involved a lamb without blemish—Exodus 12:5 and Exodus 12:21.
- Deliverance involved being covered by the blood of the lamb—Exodus 12:7 and Exodus 12:22-23.

Finally got to leave

After the protection from the 10th plague, the children of Israel were finally able to leave Egypt.

Exodus 12:31-33—"Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, 'Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also.' And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, 'We shall all be dead.' "

Unleavened bread pictures leaving in haste

One of the consequences of the rapid departure from the land of Egypt was that the children of Israel had to leave with unleavened bread.

There just wasn't enough time for their bread to rise.

- Exodus 12:11
- Exodus 12:34
- Exodus 12:39

References by Stephen

At this time, let's notice a few New Testament references about the events found in the book of Exodus.

In Stephen's answer to the high priest in the book of Acts, he gave a quick history of events in the Old Testament. Included in his discourse were references to events in the book of Exodus.

- Acts 7:17-36—Stephen mentioned events from Exodus 1-14.
- Acts 7:39-41—Stephen mentioned an event from Exodus 32:1-6.

References in book of Hebrews

The author of the book of Hebrews made many comments about the events from the book of Exodus.

- Hebrews 7:22—Because of Christ, the New Covenant is a better covenant.
- Hebrews 8:6-13—Christ is a mediator of a better covenant.
- Hebrews 9:1-7—The tabernacle was a pattern.
- Hebrews 9:11-15—Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant.
- Hebrews 9:20—Exodus 24:8
- Hebrews 10:16-17—Jeremiah 31:33-34
- Hebrews 12:24—Exodus 24:6-8
- Hebrews 13:20—Through the blood of the everlasting covenant

References by Paul

Here are references by the apostle Paul.

- 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
- 1 Corinthians 11:20-22
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26