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would be taken in a home with blood at the doorway. God wanted his people to remember this night forever. He therefore instructed them to establish an annual festival called the Passover (also known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread), which would commemorate the night in which death “passed over” their homes. During the Passover every family was to reenact this final meal in bondage. Through this reenactment they were to teach their children about God freeing Israel from Egypt. It was during the Passover season that Jesus was killed in Jerusalem.

DIGGING DEEPER

The meal itself consisted of roasted lamb or goat, bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. The purpose of the bitter herbs was to remind them of the bitter years of slavery that they suffered in Egypt. Yahweh never wanted them to forget where they had been. The bread was made without yeast because there would be no time to let the dough rise. When Yahweh struck the Egyptians Pharaoh ordered the people to leave Egypt immediately. This is also why the Israelites were to eat with “your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand.” They were to eat in haste because the LORD was about to strike, bringing a decisive end to their time of bondage in Egypt.

Before the lamb or goat was roasted, the Israelites were to drain the blood from it and use a hyssop branch to spread the blood on the doorframes of their homes. The blood would be a sign to Yahweh that Israelites lived in that house, and thus the firstborn of that house would not be struck dead when the Destroyer struck down the firstborn of all the houses of the Egyptians. The blood served as a protective, identifying mark of belonging to Israel.

The Lord’s Supper is our Passover. It is the meal that teaches the event of our salvation: God giving His Son Jesus that we might be saved. When we celebrate Communion, we are reminded of the exodus, the God who brings freedom, the incarnation, the cross, the resurrection, and the promise of Christ’s return. The event of our salvation is brought forward into the present. The future of our salvation, the consummation of the Kingdom, is brought backwards into the present. We are called to live true to both events in this in-between time. Like the Passover meal taught Israel, this meal teaches us who we are: a people saved by the mercy of God in Christ Jesus that we might declare His praises.

Devotional Guide

For Individuals and Families (Issue #12)

THE JOURNEY OF MOSES: SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL

Although Moses protested, insisting that he was the wrong man for the job, he finally complied with God’s directive. Back in Egypt he teamed up with his older brother Aaron to ask the pharaoh to free the Israelites and let them leave the country. When the pharaoh refused, Moses warned that God would bring catastrophe on the kingdom.

Over the next few months ten different natural calamities befell Egypt, each orchestrated by God. Prior to each disaster, Moses announced what was about to occur. He wanted to leave no doubt that God was behind these events.

Yet none of these plagues led the pharaoh to relent. On occasion he bargained with Moses, promising a concession to Israel if Moses would end a particular plague. But as soon as the crisis passed, the pharaoh reverted to his former stance and withdrew his promise.

God then told Moses to anticipate one final blow that would bring Egypt to its knees. In a single night all the firstborn of Egypt would die. This would result in the Egyptians finally allowing the Hebrews to leave. God instructed Moses to get the people ready to depart at a moment’s notice.

The Lord also told Moses to have his people celebrate their anticipated departure with a special feast. Their bread for the meal was to be unleavened, signaling that God was about to act so hurriedly that they should not take time for the bread to rise (Exodus 12:39)

Their preparation for the feast was to include the slaughter of a lamb, which was eaten as part of the meal. In addition, they were to smear the lamb’s blood on the door frame around the entrances to their houses. God promised that no firstborn (cont. page 4...)

Journey Through the Bible
Journey to a Better Family

Mile Marker
Exodus 4-15

DISCUSS AND READ

THE TEN PLAGUES

1st Plague: Water to Blood

One morning, Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh by the Nile River. Aaron struck the river with his staff. All the water became blood; the fish in the Nile died; the river stunk; the Egyptians couldn't drink its water. Egyptian magicians did the same thing using their magical skills. Pharaoh's heart became hard. The Egyptians dug along the Nile to get drinking water (Ex 7:14-24).

2nd Plague: Frogs

Seven days after the Lord struck the Nile River, Aaron stretched his hand over the waters of Egypt, and frogs came up and covered the land. Magicians did the same thing by their secret arts; they also produced frogs. Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and requested, "Pray to the Lord to rid us of these frogs and I'll let your people go to offer sacrifices to the Lord." Moses prayed. The frogs died. Pharaoh saw the relief from the frogs, but Pharaoh hardened his heart and wouldn't let the Israelites leave Egypt (Ex 7:25 - 8:15)

3rd Plague: Gnats

Aaron struck the ground with his staff and the dust on the ground throughout Egypt became gnats. The magicians couldn't produce gnats by their secret arts. They told Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh wouldn't listen, just as the Lord had predicted (Ex 8:16-19).

4th Plague: Flies

Moses confronted Pharaoh, "The Lord says, 'If you don't let my people go, I'll send swarms of flies on your people. But I'll deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people live; no flies will be there. I'll make a distinction between my people and your people.'" The next day, the land of Egypt was ruined by flies. Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "I'll let you go to offer sacrifices to the Lord your God in the desert. Now pray for me." Moses left Pharaoh and prayed; every single fly left. But Pharaoh hardened his heart and wouldn't let the people go (Ex 8:20-32).

5th Plague:
Death of the
Egyptians'
Livestock
(Read Exodus 9:1-7)

6th Plague:
Boils
(Read Exodus 9:8-12)

7th Plague:
Hail
(Read Exodus 9:13-35)

8th Plague:
Locust
(Read Exodus 10:1-20)

9th Plague:
Total
Darkness
(Read Exodus 10:21-29)

10th Plague:
Israelites'
First Passover;
Death for
Egyptians
(Read Exodus 11:1-8; 12:1-27)

GOALS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY

- Review/Discuss notes from Bible class.

MONDAY

- Read THE BIG STORY from page #1
- Start on "Discussion" from page #2

TUESDAY

- Complete "DISCUSSION" from page #2

WEDNESDAY

- Review/Discuss notes from Bible class.

THURSDAY

- Read and work on MEMORY VERSES

FRIDAY

- Use DIGGING DEEPER from page #4 as a guide for discussion.

MEMORY VERSE

Exodus 9:16

"But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."