

# Come to the Table

Exit and Enter

Exodus 12: 1-30; 43-51

Luke 22:7-20

**Exodus 12:1-30** While the Israelites were still in the land of Egypt, the Lord gave the following instructions to Moses and Aaron: 2 "From now on, this month will be the first month of the year for you. 3 Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household. 4 If a family is too small to eat a whole animal, let them share with another family in the neighborhood. Divide the animal according to the size of each family and how much they can eat. 5 The animal you select must be a one-year-old male, either a sheep or a goat, with no defects.

6 "Take special care of this chosen animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of this first month. Then the whole assembly of the community of Israel must slaughter their lamb or young goat at twilight. 7 They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the sides and top of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the animal. 8 That same night they must roast the meat over a fire and eat it along with bitter salad greens and bread made without yeast. 9 Do not eat any of the meat raw or boiled in water. The whole animal—including the head, legs, and internal organs—must be roasted over a fire. 10 Do not leave any of it until the next morning. Burn whatever is not eaten before morning.

11 "These are your instructions for eating this meal: Be fully dressed, wear your sandals, and carry your walking stick in your hand. Eat the meal with urgency, for this is the Lord's Passover. 12 On that night I will pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the Lord! 13 But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt. 14 "This is a day to remember. Each year, from generation to generation, you must celebrate it as a special festival to the Lord. This is a law for all time. 15 For seven days the bread you eat must be made without yeast. On the first day of the festival, remove every trace of yeast from your homes. Anyone who eats bread made with yeast during the seven days of the festival will be cut off from the community of Israel. 16 On the first day of the festival and again on the seventh day, all the people must observe an official day for holy assembly. No work of any kind may be done on these days except in the preparation of food.

17 "Celebrate this Festival of Unleavened Bread, for it will remind you that I brought your forces out of the land of Egypt on this very day. This festival will be a permanent law for you; celebrate this day from generation to generation. 18 The bread you eat must be made without yeast from the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month until the evening of the twenty-first day of that month. 19 During those seven days, there must be no trace of yeast in your homes. Anyone who eats anything made with yeast during this week will be cut off from the community of Israel. These regulations apply both to the foreigners living among you and to the native-born Israelites. 20 During those days you must not eat anything made with yeast. Wherever you live, eat only bread made without yeast."

21 Then Moses called all the elders of Israel together and said to them, "Go, pick out a lamb or young goat for each of your families, and slaughter the Passover animal. 22 Drain the blood into a basin. Then take a bundle of hyssop branches and dip it into the blood. Brush the hyssop across the top and sides of the doorframes of your houses. And no one may go out through the door until morning. 23 For the Lord will pass through the land to strike down the Egyptians. But when he sees the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe, the Lord will pass over your home. He will not permit his death angel to enter your house and strike you down.

24 "Remember, these instructions are a permanent law that you and your descendants must observe forever. 25 When you enter the land the Lord has promised to give you, you will continue to observe this ceremony. 26 Then your children will ask, 'What does this ceremony mean?' 27 And you will reply, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt. And though he struck the Egyptians, he spared our families.'" When Moses had finished speaking, all the people bowed down to the ground and worshiped.



28 So the people of Israel did just as the Lord had commanded through Moses and Aaron. 29 And that night at midnight, the Lord struck down all the firstborn sons in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sat on his throne, to the firstborn son of the prisoner in the dungeon. Even the firstborn of their livestock were killed. 30 Pharaoh and all his officials and all the people of Egypt woke up during the night, and loud wailing was heard throughout the land of Egypt. There was not a single house where someone had not died.

- **Exodus 12:43-51** Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "These are the instructions for the festival of Passover. No outsiders are allowed to eat the Passover meal. 44 But any slave who has been purchased may eat it if he has been circumcised. 45 Temporary residents and hired servants may not eat it. 46 Each Passover lamb must be eaten in one house. Do not carry any of its meat outside, and do not break any of its bones. 47 The whole community of Israel must celebrate this Passover festival.

48 "If there are foreigners living among you who want to celebrate the Lord's Passover, let all their males be circumcised. Only then may they celebrate the Passover with you like any native-born Israelite. But no uncircumcised male may ever eat the Passover meal. 49 This instruction applies to everyone, whether a native-born Israelite or a foreigner living among you."

50 So all the people of Israel followed all the Lord's commands to Moses and Aaron. 51 On that very day the Lord brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt like an army.

**Chapter 12 of Exodus** is one of the most important chapters of this book, and perhaps one of the most important of the Old Testament. The reason is that it paints for us a picture of the human condition, and God's plan to save mankind.

The first holy assembly, the spring Feast of Passover, is the most frequently mentioned festival of all Israel's feasts in both testaments. **It is mentioned over fifty times in the Old Testament and twenty-seven times in the New Testament.**

Reminder that the O.T. is a foreshadow of all that is to come in and through Christ Jesus!

- The judgment covers everyone - Israel cannot escape just by living in a certain place
- It is very discriminatory - no massive hail, but literally an angel will kill every first-born male of human or animal
- There was preparation for the plague
- To escape death, death had to occur and be appropriated to each family
- There was warning, but no chance to escape for Pharaoh

## Observations and parallels in relation to our salvation in Christ:

- **Verses 1 – 2** Passover is a beautiful and powerful picture of God's plan for salvation - and just as the people in Israel were starting over - this was now going to be the beginning of their year - so too with us when we come to salvation through the Lamb of God Jesus Christ we start over as well.
  - **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation . The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ESV
  - Now the children of Israel are going to have to follow a very specific instructions to be saved from this plague - very picturesque and full of shadows of things to come - but could have been somewhat confusing for this people.
- **Verses 3 – 6** Notice that God said for every family to take a lamb - but if they couldn't afford one, they should find their neighbors and go together. No one was to be excluded for lack of means - even as with our salvation - the cost was great, but the price is free.
  - **Isaiah 55:1** "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! ESV



- Also notice that the count was made according to what each person can eat. **Salvation through Jesus is always enough** – The Book of Hebrews is dealing with Jesus as our “once and for all” sacrifice.
- The lamb was to be without blemish or physical defect. This pictures the fact the Lamb of God was to be without sin.
  - **John 1:29-30** The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! NLT
  - **1 Peter 1:19-20** It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. 20 God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but he has now revealed him to you in these last days. NLT
  - **2 Corinthians 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ESV
- The lamb had to be slain
  - **Hebrews 9:22** In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. NLT

## Verses 7 – 10 also look at vs. 22 – 23

- the male of the household, would take a bunch of hyssop leaves, dip them into the basin filled with blood, touch the blood on both sides of the doorpost, and above the doorpost. Consequently, the entire entry into the house was covered by the blood of the sacrifice.
- **John 10:7-9** So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ESV
- The hyssop bush holds water in its stem. When the blood was applied, water would flow out of the stem and cover the blood. The entire entrance into the house was covered with "blood and water." The blood represents a life given, while the water represents a life received.
  - It is only through the blood of the Lamb of God, applied to our hearts - our inner person, our soul - that gives us new life and escape from death.
- The blood was not an inoculation. They were to stay inside - under the protection of the blood all night.



- Once inside the family (or families) could not go out the door of the house until the following morning. While the family (families) were inside the house, they could not see the blood covering, but they had faith that God would save them because of it.
- It did not matter what they had done or not done in their lives. It only mattered that they were in the house with the Lamb's blood on the door. That is, they were saved by grace through faith in the blood of the sacrifice, which they could not see and not by works.
  - **Ephesians 2:8-10** God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.
  - **Hebrews 11:1-2** Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.

**Verses 11 – 12** They needed to be ready to go - and you know, there is sort of a parallel to our accepting Jesus as well.

- **Hebrews 3:7-8** That is why the Holy Spirit says, "Today when you hear his voice, 8 don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled, when they tested me in the wilderness. NLT
- When we make the decision to give our life to Christ, there is a finality to it.
  - **Luke 9:62** "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." ESV

**Verses 13 – 20** Notice that God didn't say "When I see you" it was "when I see the blood." It isn't anything in us that God finds intrinsically good - it is the blood of Christ and His righteousness that God finds good and applies to us.

- They were to remember this by commemorating it with a feast - not a funeral.
- Hallmarks of the feast - no yeast, no work, celebrated forever.
  - We are now sinless in Jesus, we can rest in the work that He has done for us and we will celebrate this fact for all of eternity!

**Verses 29 – 33** At last the final straw - Pharaoh tells them to leave - not sneaking out the servant's entrance, but in full view of everyone - victorious as God's people. No conditions - just go.

- It's amazing once the real effect of God's judgment is felt - how quickly people respond.

## For us Today

**Luke 22:7-20** Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed.

8 Jesus sent Peter and John ahead and said, "Go and prepare the Passover meal, so we can eat it together."

14 When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table. 15 Jesus said, "I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. 16 For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God."

17 Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. 18 For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come."

19 He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

20 After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you. NLT



The background of the image is a soft-focus landscape. The top half is dominated by a warm, golden-yellow and orange sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. In the lower portion, there are rolling green hills and mountains. On the right side, a bright sunburst or starburst effect is visible, with rays of light emanating from a central point. The overall mood is bright, warm, and inviting.

**YOU ARE INVITED!**