

April 30th, 2023
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Delivered; Rescued From Bondage
Sermon #15 Title: Life at the End of the Trouble
Sermon #15 Text: (Exodus 12:1-13)

Opening our Bible to chapter 12 this morning we come to a moment 430 years in the making! The long dark night of Israel's soul was about to come to an end.

- Having entered Egypt under the banner of grace!
 - Grown in Egypt through generations of good times, the nation had known prosperity and freedom for a great number of years.
 - Then a Pharaoh came to power who rejected the blessing that Joseph had been on their nation.
 - and for the life of that Pharaoh's reign, and for the life of this Pharaoh's reign, the people of God had suffered mightily.

Of that 430 years in Egypt, over 300 of them were obviously comfortable, productive, and pleasant. Only the last 100 to 130 years were spent captured and enslaved by the Egyptians.

- But what a miserable century plus!

Without preaching an entirely separate message, we would do well to remember that the Apostle Paul said to us – “these things were written for our learning!”

- Furthermore, the Apostle Paul directly explained that Israel's Passover night, and Exodus from Egypt,

was a Divine picture of the work Jesus did in delivering us from sin!

Now it doesn't take Theologian with a post hole digger to recognize that if The Passover and Exodus are God's illustrations of Salvation and Deliverance; - that Egypt, and Pharaoh, are pictures of the World, the Flesh, and the Devil; all of which work to oppress you and me in sin!

- Now here's the point! – This passage today has more to do with you than you may think! The very dynamics that God exercised here getting Israel out of bondage; are the same dynamics God uses to get you free from sin, from self, and Satan!

- In short – He Pictured it in Israel; before He Provided it in Jesus.

That being said, we now come to a new tune, to a new audience, with a new set of lyrics.

- We are no longer singing the song of doom to Egypt; but now turn our attention to the Message of Deliverance for Israel.

3 general points of promise that the Lord gave to Moses and Aaron to give to Israel:

I. A New Day Has Dawned – vs 1-2 “**And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month *shall be* unto you the beginning of months; it *shall be* the first month of the year to you.**”

What a breath of fresh air, and brilliant burst of relief this word had to be for Moses, Aaron, and Israel.

- They had been told that this Word would come; but they no longer have to wait to hear it, the day has arrived!

A. Light at the End of the Trouble – “This month shall be unto you the beginning of months.”

*Note – Don’t miss the monumental moment that this is, because it is here the Lord said, “Change the Calendar! – Recalibrate the counting of years!”

- We don’t have to start over; - We’ll just start brand new right here!

1.) This was the Word that “what has been, and what is; is over!” – Darkness is going to give way to light, and death give way to life!

2.) For the record, the Jewish calendar to this day is meticulously observed by the Jews. It is complex, it is specific, it was structured by God and expected to be observed by the Jews.

*Note – Preacher that’s wonderful for Jewish history; but what does that have to do with me? – EVERYTHING! – Because it was THIS NEW DAY, that the Lord etched in cosmological concrete, to mark the day, Jesus would be sacrificed, buried, and raised again to “NEWNESS of life.” – You and I celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, and the work of our Salvation measured in time, by the marking of that day in History.

- The beginning of the year – Israel’s bondage was over and their calendar was in front of them.

- The crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus – our bondage was over, and our newness of life is out in front.

Let me tell you something that could rightly be said to you on the day of your Salvation – “This day is the beginning of months for you!”

- This Word is Light at the End of Trouble...

B. Life in the Word of Tomorrow – “months” “first month,” “year.”

1.) Each of those words are words of promise of time.

a.) this was a Promise to Moses and to Aaron

b.) this was a Promise to the Nation of Israel.

c.) this was a Promise that there would be multiplied “generations” for Israel.

*Note – These troubles are over – but your time is not! – (Moses and Aaron could rest assured that they would wake up here on earth tomorrow, and the next day.)

*Note – One way for troubles on earth to end is to die. Israel would not endure that. These troubles of bondage would end, but Israel wouldn’t have to die in order for them to cease!

- Bondage would die – but Israel would Live!

- Wherever there is the promise of tomorrow, or the promise of time, there is the promise of hope!

Now with all of that being said; for Israel a New Day Had Dawned.

II. A New Word Has Come – vs 3-10 – “Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to

the house of *their* fathers, a lamb for an house: And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next unto his house take *it* according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish a male of the first year: ye shall take *it* out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike *it* on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and und unleavened bread; and with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire."

This time the audience is different. Moses message is no longer to Egypt, but to Israel.

A. It was a National Word, for Beleaguered People –
"speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel."

1.) This is approximately the fourth occasion in which the Lord gave Moses a message for the people of Israel.

- He has now spoken thru Moses to Pharaoh 10 times.

2.) This occasion is no longer what God will do some day in the future, this is the occasion when God do His delivering in the immediate.

3.) This Word would be to the entire Nation, regardless of their personal degrees of suffering.

4.) This Word is to every person, regardless of their role in the nation!

Many times, God's message was for the "elders".

Some times, God's message was for Moses and Aaron.

This time, God's message expects a response from EVERY Jewish Family and member of those families.

(they had all suffered. They had all suffered differently, and to varying degrees, and with varying pains.

From the runt of the family to the Front of the people – they ALL needed a good Word from God. – and they got one!

A - This was a National Word to a Beleaguered People -
B. It was a Survival Word, for Believing People –

*Note – Here is one of the most important things to know about the Word God gave to Israel. God is going to give them instructions about their deliverance! – How Wonderful?! BUT – they are "Functional" instructions; not "Philosophical" instructions.

- He is not going to tell them what to "think" but instruct them what to "Do."

(Now before we look at these instructions lets ask a few questions?

- God has already promised that Israel is going to leave Egypt that night!

- Pharaoh's first born are going to die/ he is going to relent/ and the nation of Israel is going to be thrust

out of Egypt like a rat out of a rug. – That has already been promised!

So what are these instructions all about? –

1 – They are about the “Faith” of Israelites. – They are willing to let God destroy the Egyptians; but are they willing to heed God’s Word about themselves?

2 – They are about God’s judgment upon Israel. They too are worthy of punishment because of sin. – At the very beginning of these exchanges with Moses, the Israelites were with him, until the Pharaoh made it harder on them, and they too grew angry at the Word from God.

- While they too are worthy of the same punishment of the Egyptians, God will offer them atonement, so they can avoid this punishment.

(The question for Israel was, “would they leave Egypt with their firstborn, or without their firstborn.”

- Would they be “delivered from Egyptian bondage” by “faith!” – or would they be “drug into a middle eastern desert with the smell of death, and the bitterness of doubt?”)

Now let’s recalibrate here for a second. If Egypt is the World, the flesh and the devil – there were two ways Israel was coming out. – Delivered by Faith or Drug out with Death.

There are two ways to part from the world, the flesh, and the devil; - delivered by faith; or drug out with death!)

- That being said, this was to be a “functional” faith, not a “philosophical” one!

The Lord gave Israel the message about going out with LIFE, rather than Death!

*note – (Now know this, and write it down. – THE reason that God redeemed Israel this way, was to show us the redemption of mankind in Jesus Christ. – That’s not my assumption, nor is it my theological math. – It is plain scripture.

1st Corinthians 5:7 – “...For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us!”

John 1:29 – “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

- What the lambs did for the Israelites “physically” is what Jesus did for us “actually.”

He told them to:

1.) – Choose a Lamb – “take to them every man a lamb.”

*Note – Now here is the Divine Direction pertaining to this lamb. – The Lord did not leave it open ended, He told them everything that He wanted them to know and to do about this lamb.

a.) “when to choose it” – 10th day of the month

*Note – This is strange to some people, but much of the Lord’s Word is not merely a matter of “what to do” as much as it is quite often “when” to do it.

- They could not go sooner, and they were not to wait later! – The Lord is now exercising verbal authority over their time and timing.

(For the record – Now in the New Testament age, He has told us “Today is the day of Salvation” – you don’t have to wait until the tenth of the month!)

b.) “what kind to choose” –without spot or blemish

*Note – This cannot be overlooked. There is not a farmer on planet earth that can guarantee the quality of animal birthed in his field. Men cannot make animals. Men may learn the art of husbandry, but he cannot have “control” over the quality of lamb being birthed.

(So know this: - If the Lord didn’t provide the lamb – there was not one for them to choose!

Verse 5 – **“your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep or the goats.”**

*Note – Now if the herd hasn’t produced them, Israel wouldn’t have them!

- Not any old lamb would do! It had to be the kind and quality that the LORD required!

- Furthermore, *(to add to this command of grace.)*

c.) “how many to choose” – according to the number of souls in the house and according to the eating portions of the people.

*Note – Not only did they have to hope there could find a “year old, blemish free, male lamb” – they had to hope they could find “thousands of them!”

- There had to be enough to supply the families of 600,000 men told about in verse 37.

(Now we didn’t say 600,000 families, we said the families of 600,000 men. – Doubtless there were brothers, sons and fathers, numbered together into one family.) –

- Nonetheless there had to be multiplied “thousands of spotless, one year old or less, male lambs”

- Here is miraculous grace! – What the Lord required – The Lord provided! He required something man could not produce, so He provided enough for men to receive!

2.) – Kill the Lamb

a.) When – 14th day

b.) What time of day – “evening”

*Note – He does not tell them how – just when. Rabbis tell us this happened around 3 o’clock in what we call the “afternoon.”

- Something would die, that Israel’s firstborn might live.

- Sin had to be paid for by death! – But to kill them with their sin ends them as well. – This would teach us the doctrine of substitutionary atonement.

- That in order for a “sinner” to live; an “innocent substitute” must die.

Now the animals did not die for the spiritual salvation of the people. They died by Israelite Faith! – If the Israelites did not believe God enough to do this; they would not be delivered!

From the death of the animals used to provide Adam and Eve’s clothing, to the lamb offered by Abel, to the ram trapped in the bush at Isaac’s sacrifice, to the passover lamb, to Golgotha’s hill. **– As the Lord was instructing them, He was training the world to learn this redeeming reality!**

3.) – Display the Blood of the Lamb – “strike the blood on the side posts and on the upper post of the house that they ate it in”

*Note – One could not be “secretly passed over!” – One could not both “identify with the blood” and “hide the blood” at the same time!

- When the Angel of the Lord came into the land that night, he was not finding out who would live and who would die – He already knew that.

(Preacher, are you saying God didn’t look for Blood on the doorposts? – Not at all – He could see that from heaven!

He could see the Blood on the Doorposts from heaven – But the Egyptians couldn’t... The unbelieving Israelites if there were any couldn’t... Strangers, neither Egyptian nor Israelite, couldn’t...

- The Lamb’s blood on your door was to be public Knowledge!

- There was no one protected without having to put the blood out!

4.) – Eat the Lamb

a.) They would be under the blood

b.) They would be filled with the lamb

The Lamb wasn’t just taken for them – the Lamb was put in them!

- To roast it with fire – fire is typically the symbol of judgment! – How this lamb was put through the fire of judgment, and then the Israelites put that Lamb on the inside of their body!

The Lamb didn’t “get them out of Egypt” – the Lamb “went with them out of Egypt” – Giving them strength – Giving them life – Giving them fullness – giving them himself.

(Now note this – vs 9 – “his head, his legs, and the purtenance thereof.” – that’s the entrails, the inward parts.

(All but the skin and bones really – which were to be consumed by the fire)

Here is our lesson: - You don’t take Jesus, parts at a time. – Sometimes people say – You have to take Jesus as Lord! Sometimes people say – You have to take Jesus as Savior!

- the Bible teaches you have to take JESUS! - Who He Is, All He Is. He is not the Savior who happens to be Lord, He is the LORD who Happens to Save. You don’t believe in Gentle Jesus, but not Judge Jesus. You don’t take the Savior Jesus, but not the Lord Jesus – You TAKE unto you – JESUS!

A New Day had Dawned!

A New Word had Come!

A - This was a National Word to a Beleaguered People

B - It was a Survival Word, for Believing People

III. A New Life Is Opened – vs 11-13 – “And thus shall ye eat it; *with* your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD’s passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the Lord. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and when I see the blood, I will pass over *you*, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”

*Note – Here is the wonderful Word of God’s plain and clear instruction for the Israelites not just to avoid death – but to embrace their new life for tomorrow!

A. The Lamb was to be Received Ready to Go – “And thus shall ye eat it; *with* your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD’s passover”

*Note – You cannot miss the degree of instructions that the Lord has given them. 1.) What to do. 2.) When to do it. 3.) How to do it.

- God’s Word is in Total and complete control. – He has left no room for man’s input, ideas, improvements, or thoughts. – There is not a thought Israel could contribute, not decision they had to make; and not even at a “pace” they could choose to keep.

- Don’t eat before – Don’t eat later – Don’t eat slow.

- Eat with bags packed, keys in hand, and ready to go at the first word given.

(Now here’s the point – No Jew could say, “All-right Moses – I got it. Kill the lamb, eat the lamb, and leave Egypt in the morning – I got it. That’s fine. But now let me handle the details my own way. It doesn’t really matter what all is on the menu; it doesn’t really matter what time of day I start cooking; it doesn’t really matter what kind of ambience, atmosphere, and mood. Moses I really just like to relax when I eat supper; but don’t worry – we’ll get the big points.

- The Lord said, ALL my points are Big points. – You either receive My Words; or you don’t receive My Word!

This New life is to be Lived Under the Word of the Lord! – There is hardly anything more insulting to God than to say – “Deliver me” but don’t Instruct me!

- This new life is a Life Lived Under the Word of God; and under the Wonderful Word of God.

Every Christian ought to know – God’s Word to Us is Infinitely better than any opinion or thought I might have; or you might have.

The Word teaches us how to Leave the Past behind! – Salvation comes to bring us into a New Life with a New Land – Ready to Leave the world behind!

B. The LORD Would Come Ready to Kill – “this night (14th of Nissan) and smite the firstborn in the land”

1.) In judgment – yes.

2.) In order to separate His people from the World.

(There is coming a day when God will divide humanity with death. Some will go be with Him; and some will go into everlasting fire and darkness.)

C. Life was Given Under the Blood – “when I see the blood, I will passover you!”

- This promise to Israel for that night – Is God’s promise to all men for EVER! –

Conclusion: - I want you to hear how all that happened on that historic night that Israel celebrates to this day has affected you.

Hebrews 10:4 – “For *it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.*”

Hebrews 9:12 – “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us.*”

The Blood of Jesus is on the Altar in Heaven.
The Blood of Jesus is the covering for the Saved.

- The Blood of Jesus – is added guilt to the lost.

Hebrews 10:29 – “...how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?”

The blood decided on whether or not one left Egypt with death and despair; or with Life and Hope!