

Your Count for the Lamb

Exodus 12:1 – 13

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God reaches an unprecedented high point in the Book of Exodus in this report. We made it through all of the plagues - except the final judgment - and we will now consider the Passover holiday feast along with the death of every first-born child in Egypt. They just happen to go together, too, by the way. Remember, the Lord Jesus Christ died on the Passover holiday. The religious rulers had said, "... not on the Passover." Jesus said, "... on the Passover." Well, the record is clear; and the Lord is preparing to reveal the institution of the first Passover feast through Moses and Aaron in this section of Scripture. The Passover is not about individuals; it is about families. Paul says, "... Christ, our Passover, is offered for us!" Well, our safari seeks the Lord Jesus Christ on every page of Scripture - so we're going to attempt to see Him very clearly now....

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

3 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:

4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour 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.

5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

6 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.

7 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.

~ The first step in the deliverance of Israel is not made by Moses; the first step of deliverance is by the blood of the Passover Lamb. The Gospel never changes. God will deliver them by blood and by power. Redemption is performed by blood and by power. That means the power of God! We're talking about the blood that was shed by the Lord Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for your sins and for mine. We're talking about the power of the Holy Spirit to make this real and meaningful in our lives; and then making it effectual in our sinful hearts - washing them clean. It is not by might nor by our own power - but by the Holy Spirit of God that we are redeemed and brought out of the slavery of sin. Redemption is not the work of the Holy Spirit for us; but it is the work of the Holy Spirit IN us and through us.

So, what we have coming up here is the birthday of the nation Israel as we know it. They entered the land of Egypt as a small family, but they are going to leave, overnight, as a great nation; just as God has promised. God does not place the emphasis on the individual or on the nation – but on the families that comprise the nation. Families are the building block of any nation. Any nation is only as strong as its families. This is where the real countdown for the Exodus begins. God is going to deliver a nation and He will do it through families; and God will deliver families through individuals. The lamb was never too little for the household, you may have noticed; no, friends, the Lamb is adequate and more than sufficient. God says every man will be accounted of for partaking in the feast; but He still has to see the blood first.

Many individuals could come together in one house and divide the lamb up amongst the people that were there, too. This is a very personal and private matter between you and the Lord. Redemption is for the nation, but it centers in the family. It must be partaken of individually by each separate member on their own volition. Each member of the family must exhibit his

own faith in this transaction with the Lamb of God. If one didn't bother, then one wouldn't make it through the night, as they say. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, you, and all your family; any family member who believes, that is. The picture we have here is redemption and it says "... each man according to his eating" shall make your life count for the lamb. Each person participates individually to come under the blessing of the Lord; but you must FIRST have the blood over your doorpost.

This will be a frightful night to endure. The land of Goshen where the children of Israel lived was spared from the last three plagues, you will recall. God's people were delivered from judgment - but they weren't redeemed. They must now be redeemed by exhibiting their faith in the blood with this feast. If you had walked by the house of an Israelite, you would have noticed the blood and you would have supernaturally sensed something strange happening inside. The two weeks leading up to this awful event must have been strange days, indeed. There were thousands of lambs slain that night in thousands of homes. That lamb spoke of the Lamb of Christ. Christ, our Passover, and He is now offered for our redemption.

The blood on the doorposts also answers another nagging question: what about the children of believers at the time of the rapture? God isn't going to be leaving children behind who have not reached the age of accountability when their parents are taken to Heaven; He just doesn't do things like that. The little ones don't know what's going on at the time in which we are studying - and God doesn't leave them behind when He takes Israel out of the land of Egypt! There is an age of accountability, my beloved, and the blood of the Lamb has covered them all. See, every child was covered by the blood IF the parents put the blood on the door post. That's a pretty big IF....

8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

~ Each one of these three foods had a direct correlation to everything they did in their lives. God touched every aspect of their family fellowship and existence with this representation of the food groups. In our highly

organized modern Christian lives and church program divisions we lose the meaning of what we are to be doing completely. Moses didn't divide them up by junior high and volleyball club and community outreach members; no, Moses divided them up by their families. Our church today is, actually, guilty of dividing families. Families should always be kept together in the church. Call me old fashioned; I probably am. I'm still very compassionate when I see a mother and her little sleeping baby. Paul put people to sleep with his preaching, so I probably do pretty well in my reports! Most people cannot and will not read these lessons. We have gotten everything wrong from our social clubs to our churches where we divide the families up - and, frankly, people today aren't interested in doing things God's way. Well, if you believe the Bible is the Word of God, He says right here we are to do things together....

9 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.

10 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.

11 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.

12 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.

13 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.

~ Fire speaks of the judgment of sin. Unleavened bread speaks of Christ and that we are to feed off of the bread of the Living God. Bitter herbs have varied applicable meanings for each of us. When we come to Christ we must be prepared for expulsion from the world's system. Just as Pharaoh throws them out - so will the world throw YOU out. I have been accused of

trying to sell seats on my Spiritual Safari tour; to which I reply this isn't always a sweet trip. Sometimes it cuts very deep, and the medicine is as bitter and as strong as I can possibly formulate it. People don't pay for the teaching of sound doctrine, friends. Man today will only support false doctrine; but I digress - so, let's move along.

Our safari has come to Christ, so we must realize that He died for our sins. THAT is the place we begin with God in redemption – as with this raw nerve in verse nine. We trust in Him and Him alone. I'm not sure the church believes that anymore; which means they never did. We are not to be involved in the world any longer, living a sinful life, if we are genuinely redeemed and converted. If you're in the alcohol business, for example, then go sell it and get out of that business. Candidly, you can voluntarily get out of that type of business or God is going to get you out of Egypt His way - which won't seem good to you. One way or the other - you'll be departing Egypt.

So, we leave off from this report with God saying He will execute judgment in His Spiritual Safari. We have seen God deal succinctly with each element of idolatry in Egypt. Their gods demanded the firstborn of the Egyptians. God now says He is taking for Himself what the gods of Egypt demand. This leaves the Egyptian with nothing to offer at all to his god. Any Egyptian could have obeyed this command and participated in the Passover; and they would not have had their firstborn taken in death. See, everyone in the land at this time was doing the best they knew how with what they had. They just wanted to pay their honest debts. Most of the children of Israel were very comfortable being slaves and thought nothing of their bondage.

Either way, God tells them to have faith and put the blood on the posts. God tells these people that they will be saved from this death if they believe Him and do what He has commanded them to do through His servant Moses. There was really no reason not to have a nice lamb chop dinner and put the blood on the post. Let's remember that no one was saved by the eating ceremony, though - nor by circumcision. They weren't saved by their church membership. The death angel was not making a neighborhood activity survey. He either saw the blood or he didn't. They weren't told to wait up and leave cookies and a note telling the death angel

how good they had been. They weren't asked for a list of how many orphans they had fed. They weren't saved by their thoughts, feelings or intentions, either. God says, "when I see the BLOOD – then I will pass over"
~

^^^