A MEAL TO REMEMBER

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**TEXT: Exodus 12:14-36**

**INTRODUCTION**

Can you Remember the most Memorable meal of your life?

A meal which could be called **a Meal to Remember**

One of mine is the Boy Scout *"Order of the Arrow"* banquet

To become a member of the *Order of the Arrow,*

For two days you had to do all the work around camp

And then, at night, sleep on the ground by yourself in the woods away from the main camp

You could not talk at all during this period

If you did, you got a notch on a stick you wore around your neck

Three notches and you were out

For five meals, you were fed water and little, if nothing

The Leaders and other scouts who were already members ate wonderful meals in front of you while the candidates for membership nibbled on their nothing

When the two-day testing period was over, however, …

They served a supper to remember

It was a feast and we could eat all we wanted

We were so hungry and when they brought out the roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, hot rolls, and desserts, we were in Heaven

It was **a Meal to Remember**

(Let's pray now and go to Hoover’s, Amen!)

As we come to **Exodus 12**

God's people were instructed to observe the Passover meal

God tells them to do this every year to remember what God had done that night

This meal was to be **A Meal to Remember**

Let’s stand to read **vs. 14-36** and then pray

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “DAY OF REMEMBERANCE” – vs. 14-28**

God's Deliverance of Israel from Egypt was not to be Forgotten

They were to remember this day of Deliverance and celebrate it every year with a Meal

… Remembering what God had done for them

They were to explain to their children the meaning of this Meal **– v. 26**

Let me ask, do you remember the day that you were saved and trusted Christ as your Saviour?

We need to often Tell our Children about our salvation

First, let’s look as …

**A. God Instructs Moses – vs. 14-20**

In **vs. 1-14** we findGod instructing Moses and Aaronspecifically about how to choose, and prepare the Passover Lamb

Now in **vs. 15-20** we find God instructing Moses about the second part of the Passover …

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

The Passover began on the tenth of the First Month; when they would take a lamb from their flock

And on the 14th they ate the Passover Lamb, and sprinkled the Blood on the Doorpost of their homes

This then was the first day (14th) of Unleavened Bread; and for the next seven days, they ate only unleavened bread

All of this was an Illustration developed by God for a specific purpose

So, lets look at …

**B. The Illustration**

God tells Moses, and in turn Moses teaches Israel that the Passover was to be a Perpetual Remembrance

**v. 14 – *“And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever”***

**end of v. 17 – *“… therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever”***

**vs. 24, 25 – *“And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons for ever” “And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as He hath promised, that ye shall keep this service”***

So, I think we can see that God wanted Israel to Remember the Passover

**It was to be a Meal to Remember**

But, at the same time, I believe God was trying to show Israel much more

**C. The Truth Behind the Passover**

Today the *Seder* (as it is called) is the traditional Meal that Jews partake of as part of Passover

The annual Passover commemoration is celebrated by nearly the entire Jewish community, bonding families and communities to their Jewish roots

Each year Jewish people, religious and nonreligious, celebrate the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob by gathering and experiencing the Passover Seder

The Hebrew word *Seder* means *“order”*

The Passover meal has a specific order in which food is eaten, prayers are recited, and songs are sung

Each item on the Passover plate has a specific historical meaning related to the Exodus of the Jews and their freedom from slavery

Yet, at the same time God had a greater purpose in all this

In **I Corinthians 5:7**, Jesus Christ is identified as our Passover

***“Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:”***

So, what is the New Testament connection to the Old Testament Feast of Passover?

In the Seder, there are several strong symbols of Christ

**1.** One is the shank bone of the Lamb they eat,

Which reminds the participants of the feast of God’s deliverance or salvation from Egypt

Today, for many reasons, the Jews don’t roast a whole lamb

Before the 10th Plague began, God instructed the Israelites to ***“strike”*** their doorposts and lintels with the blood of a spotless lamb (**v. 5**)

So that the Lord would ***“pass over”*** their homes and save their lives

This is a symbol of the salvation of Israel from Egypt, but it is also a picture of Jesus who was and is the ***“Lamb of God”***

**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”***

His sacrifice will save the lives of all who believe

**I Peter 1:19 – *“But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”***

The instructions given Moses specified that the Lamb’s bones could not be broken – **v. 46**

***“In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof”***

That’s one of the reason why it was Roasted – **v. 9**

This was a foreshadowing of Christ’s Death

**John 19:33 – *“But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not His legs:”***

**Psalm 34:20 –*“He keepeth all His bones: not one of them is broken”***

**John 19:36 – *“For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of Him shall not be broken”***

**2.** Another symbol of Christ on the Seder plate is the matzoh **– vs. 14-20**

Matzoh is the Unleavened Bread

As the Jewish people left Egypt, they were in great haste and therefore had no time to allow their bread to rise – **vs. 11, 33**

From then on, Passover was followed by the week-long Feast of Unleavened Bread

**Deuteronomy 16:3 – *“Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life”***

There are some fascinating things about the *matzoh* that provide a remarkable picture of the Messiah

-- First, the Matzoh is placed in a Bag with 3 compartments

This Bag is called the *Echad* – which means *one* in Hebrew

One piece of matzoh is placed into each chamber of the bag

The matzoh placed in the first chamber is never touched, never used, never seen during the Seder

The second matzoh in the bag is broken in half at the beginning of the Seder;

Half of the broken matzoh is placed back in the

Echad,

And the other half, called the *Afikomen*, is placed in a linen cloth

The third matzoh in the bag is used to eat the elements on the Seder plate

The word *echad* is used in **Genesis 2:24**

***“Therefore shall a man leave his father and …***

***… his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh”***

The word also appears in **Numbers 13:23** when the spies returned from Canaan with the cluster of grapes

***“And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff;…”***

In both cases, the word *echad* refers to a complex unity of one

Many Jews consider the three *matzohs* to represent Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

But they cannot explain why they break “Isaac” in half or why they place half of the middle *matzoh* back in the *echad* and keep the other half out, wrapped in a cloth

The meaning of the Seder’s ritual of the *matzoh* is only understood with clues from the New Testament

-- The Trinity is pictured in the *matzoh*

The first *matzoh* that remains in the bag throughout the Seder represents *Ha Av*,

Or the Father whom no man sees

The third *matzoh* represents the *Ruach Ha Kodesh*,

Or the Holy Spirit who dwells within us

And the second *matzoh*, the broken one, represents *Ha Ben*, the Son

Unbeknownst to the Jew …

The reason the middle *matzoh* is broken is to picture the broken body of Christ

**I Corinthians 11:24 – *“And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me”***

The half put back in the *echad* represents Jesus’ divine nature;

The other half, wrapped in a linen cloth and separated from the *echad* represents Jesus’ humanity

The linen cloth that wraps half of the second piece of *matzoh* suggests Jesus’ burial cloth

During the Seder, this linen cloth with the Afikomen inside is hidden, and after the dinner the children look for it

Once the Afikomen is found, it is held as a ransom

-- Again, we see that these rituals point to

Christ

He was fully God yet fully human; He was broken for us; He was buried, sought for, and resurrected;

And His life was given a ransom for many

**Mark 10:45 – *“For even the Son of man came not***

***to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many”***

Jesus is the completion of the New Covenant of **Jeremiah 31:31**

***“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:”***

And the Passover Seder rituals bear that out

-- Also, the *matzoh* used for the Passover Seder must be prepared a certain way (Use Example)

Of course, it must be unleavened

Leaven is often equated with sin in the Scriptures, and Jesus is sinless

Second, the *matzoh* is striped

Jesus’ ***“stripes”*** (His wounds) are what heal us spiritually

**Isaiah 53:5 – *“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed”***

And, third, the *matzoh* is pierced

Jesus was nailed to the cross

**Psalm 22:16 – *“For dogs have compassed Me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed Me: they pierced My hands and My feet”***

**Zechariah 12:10-*“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn”***

The sad part is the Jew doesn’t understand why it is this way

**3.** The Other Elements of the Seder

Are traditional reminders of Israel’s enslavement to the Egyptians

They are …

-- Vegetable (*Karpas*)

This element, usually parsley, is dipped in salt water and eaten

The Parsleypictures the hyssop that was used to apply the blood of the Passover lamb to homes of the Israelites in Egypt

In the New Testament, hyssop was used to give the Lamb of God vinegar when Jesus said He thirsted in **John 19:29**

The salt water represents the tears shed during the bitter years of slavery and the Red Sea that God split during the exodus

-- Bitter Herbs (*Maror*)

The eating of ***“bitter herbs”*** is commanded in **v. 8**

In modern times, this is usually horseradish, one of the bitterest herbs

The Herbsreminds the Jews that they were unable

to offer sacrifice and worship God, and that was bitterer than the slavery of Egypt

-- Charoset (*haroseth*)

Charoset is a mixture of apples, nuts, wine, and spices

It represents the mortar the Israelites where forced to make while in Egypt

Of all the elements of the Seder, charoset alone is sweet, and this is a reminder of the hope of redemption

-- Hard-boiled or Roasted Egg (*Baytzah*)

Traditionally, hard-boiled eggs were eaten by mourners, and the egg is eaten during the Seder to remind participants that they are always in mourning for the loss of their temple

The fact that the egg is roasted evokes the roasting of the sacrifice on the altar of the

Temple

-- Wine

There are also four cups of wine used at various points during the Seder

Each of these glasses of wine has a name

The first glass is the “cup of sanctification”

The second is the “cup of judgment”

The third is the “cup of redemption”

And the fourth is the “cup of praise”

At the Last Supper, Jesus took the first cup and promised His disciples that the next time He drank the fruit of the vine with them it would be in the kingdom

**Luke 22:17 – *“And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves:”***

Later in the Seder, Jesus took the third cup

The cup of redemption, and used that cup as a symbol of the New Covenant in His blood

**Luke 22:20 – *“Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you”***

Thus, Jesus fulfilled the Passover symbolism and infused the whole feast with a new meaning

Back in **Exodus 6:6**, we saw God promise His people that He would save them from the slavery

***“Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:”***

The phrase ***“with a stretched out arm”*** is repeated throughout the Old Testament in connection with

the Passover remembrances

**Deuteronomy 4:34; 7:19; 9:29; 26:8; 2 Kings 17:36; Psalm 136:12; Jeremiah 32:21**

Can it be coincidence that, in the New Testament,

.. the Messiah had both of His arms outstretched as He freed us from sin and brought us salvation?

As I close this thought, let me just say, I don’t know how all these traditions got started

Because the details of the Meal to Remember is not given us in the Scriptures

**THE “DAY OF REMEMBERANCE”**

**II. THE “DEATH OF THE FIRSTBORN” – vs. 29, 30**

Evidently, the command by God was given to Moses early

in the month of Abib

Though not directly noted, Israel apparently did as was directed – **vs. 3-6**

That is, observing their selected Passover Lambs from the tenth day until the fourteenth

At midnight on the fourteenth (perhaps leading into the fifteenth day),

The Bible tells us that - ***“the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt”***

It was categorical (That is …) – **v. 29 b**

Not one firstborn was spared, from the heir of Pharaoh to the lowliest prisoner to even the first born of the livestock

The Egyptians from Pharaoh on down were roused from

their beds in the middle of that night – **v. 30**

… As word spread like fire of the deaths of the firstborn

Of note is that ***“there was not a house where there was not one dead”***

It’s one thing when an elderly person dies

It’s a whole other thing when a child, especially one’s firstborn dies

Word rapidly spread across the land that every firstborn in Egypt was dead

Israel did exactly as they were commanded – **v. 22 b**

***“and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning”***

God's people did what was right

They may have been made fun-of and mocked, but who had the last laugh?

Beloved, our responsibility is to obey the Lord and tell others about Christ

Some will listen and be saved and some will think you are strange or weird

**Acts 17:32 – *“And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter”***

**Acts 28:24 – *“And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not”***

**THE “DAY OF REMEMBERANCE”**

**THE “DEATH OF THE FIRSTBORN”**

**III. THE “DEPARTURE” – vs. 31-36**

**A. The ‘Departing’ - vs. 31-33**

Now, it wasn’t long before Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and ordered them, along with Israel, to leave

**vs. 31, 32** – ***“And he (Pharaoh) called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as ye have said” “Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also”***

It’s funny, because He even requested for them to bless him in departing (fear had set in)

**v. 33** – Notice also, that All of Egypt was in a hurry to get rid of them

They were afraid that they were going to die as well!

God had not only gotten their attention, He had been glorified in the eyes of His people

**Proverbs 1:22-33 …**

**B. The ‘Dough’ - vs. 34-36**

Not only was there dough in their ***“kneadingtroughs”***

But there would be soon, dough in their pockets!

**v. 34** - Israel therefore took their dough

(for bread-their food)

Their ***“kneadingtroughs”*** were already bound up in their clothing upon their shoulders as God had directed Moses – **v. 11**

**v. 35** - Moreover, they ***“borrowed”***(literally, ‘asked’)

… the Egyptians for gold and silver as well as additional clothing

I think the Egyptians were more than happy to give them anything they wished

God had given them sympathy for, as well as a fear of them

The Egyptians therefore gave Israel whatever they asked

In so doing, they spoiled Egypt

Exactly as God predicted would happen

**Exodus 3:22 – *“But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians”***

Though they may not have at that moment understood,

God was providing them with the gold and silver and

other materials …

… they soon would use for the construction of the Tabernacle and its utensils

**CONCLUSION**