

THE PENTATEUCH II: EXODUS

WEEK 3

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OUTLINE

THE PASSOVER

Immediate Context

Typology

WILDERNESS-EXODUS EDITION

Gratitude and Anxiety

Miscellaneous Episodes

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THE TENTH PLAGUE

The Passover episode must be first understood in its context: final, most dramatic of the plagues.

Some have claimed that this was some bad human plague and probably affected all individuals. Against this:

- ▶ Doubtless a response to Pharaoh's murder of Hebrew boys
- ▶ The first born is "first sign of the father's strength" (Gen 49:3; Deuteronomy 21:17)
- ▶ Cf. Consecration of first-born males (Exodus 13)

RITUAL, EXPERIENCE AND MEMORY

The Passover Celebration, next to circumcision, is one of the earliest rituals commanded by God. This ritual is for remembering (Cf. Atonement rituals):

Exodus 12:26,27- And when your children say to you, 'What does this rite mean to you?' you shall say, 'It is a passover sacrifice to the LORD who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.'

Why the emphasis here on children? (See also 13:8)

Noteworthy that Exodus 12:1-23 is legal/ritual injunction. The Feast of Unleavened bread is not based on original ritual, but memory of the event (Cf. past tense of 12:17 and 12:34).

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CHRIST, OUR PASSOVER LAMB

What are some ways that Jesus typologically fulfills the Passover?

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What are some ways that Jesus typologically fulfills the Passover?

- ▶ Substitutionary Atonement-“When He [LORD] sees the blood on the lintel and on the two door posts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come into your house to smite you.”
 - ▶ John 1:29-“lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”
 - ▶ 1 Cor 5:7-Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, *just as you are in fact unleavened*. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.
- ▶ Jesus was crucified on Passover (John 19:14)
- ▶ Break no bone (12:46; Psalm 34:19,20; John 19:34)
- ▶ Jesus and Lord’s Supper!

LIBERATION AND EXODUS

Outright connection to exodus from sin is not mentioned in NT. Nevertheless, we are encouraged to connect them given the proximity to passover and NT language of redemption:

- ▶ 1 Peter 1:18,19—knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ
- ▶ John 8:34-36—Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. . .” (Galatians 4:4-5)
- ▶ Titus 2:13b,14—our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

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THE RE(E)D SEA

The Hebrew phrase translated 'red sea' is actually, *Yam suph*, which means literally Reed Sea. This translation is inherited from the LXX, which translated *yam suph* as *eruthrá thálassē*. English Bibles inherited this translation.

What we know:

- ▶ Large enough that circumnavigating it would be fruitless
- ▶ Large enough water to create walls
- ▶ Large enough able to drown an army
- ▶ Along the border of Egypt and Sinai Peninsula

THE RE(E)D SEA

Reasons to doubt the Red Sea proper:

- ▶ Israelite starting point: most likely, North Eastern Egypt.
- ▶ We know they headed *somewhat* south, or at least indirect (13:17). The path to the actual Red Sea is *very* long and mostly southern.
- ▶ Millions crossing the red sea proper would probably take at least a few days. This episode seems to start and end in a night (Cf. 14:24).

Most people propose one from among the marshy lakes along the route of the modern Suez canal: Ballah Lakes, Lake Timsah, Bitter Lakes.

THE RE(E)D SEA

First post-exodus grumbling:

Exodus 14:10, 13,14—As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up and there were the Egyptians marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. . . Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid . . . The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still [silent].”

This is the first of many quarrels between Israel and God, almost always centered around their lack of faith.

On the positive side, Pharaoh himself is judged for his evil in this final showdown.

THE GRUMBLINGS

In almost all of the following cases, the people compared their current circumstances to Egypt (where they were slaves!)

MARAH So, the people grumbled against Moses (15:24)

MANNA In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. (16:2)

MERIBAH But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. (17:3)

It's worth note that God is extremely patient with them through this ordeal. This begins to change later.

What are some examples of grumbling for us?

GRATITUDE

In all of these cases, there are genuine needs: they're in a desert without food or water. What are some things God has done for them?

GRATITUDE

What are some things God has done for them?

- ▶ Fulfilled his promise to actually make them a nation at all
- ▶ Rescued them from slavery
- ▶ Showed them his extraordinary command of nature
- ▶ Told them how to avoid the judgment through passover
- ▶ Each wilderness episode (except first) was preceded by a previous fulfilled request

Thanksgiving is the best medicine against anxiety (Cf. Phil 4:6,7) To rehearse all the times God has come through is a good reminder of God's goodness and ability to respond to our condition

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Observe 13:17-“The people might change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt.” What’s different?

- ▶ Probably not the whole community(17:9-‘some of our men’)
- ▶ Journeying through Philistia would probably involve considerable casualties; here Amalekites “came and fought”
- ▶ God’s calls are proportionate to what he’s revealed to an individual (or group). This is after a few rounds of God demonstrating his power.

JETHRO'S VISIT

Here's an awesome example of leadership strategy: delegation!
What advantages does delegation provide?

JETHRO'S VISIT

What advantages does delegation provide?

- ▶ Top (or higher) leadership is not exhausted by unnecessary detail
- ▶ More people can serve
- ▶ More people are served

Our whole church operates under this paradigm, in a sense. Every-member-ministry and discipleship are delegation taken to the limit (in a good way!)

JETHRO'S VISIT

In some ways, the account is surprising. Major administrative structures are being put into place among the covenant community without any word from God. Why is Jethro, at best on the fringes of the covenant people, allowed to play such an extraordinary role as counselor and confidant of Moses?

The questions answer themselves. God may use the means of “common grace” to instruct and enrich his people. The sovereign goodness and provision of God are displayed as much in bringing Jethro on the scene at this propitious moment as in the parting of the waters of the Red Sea. (Carson, 92)

WILDERNESS CONCLUSIONS

What about God's character have the Israelites learned though these episodes? (Recall that the Israelites are still learning who the LORD is.)

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