

The Rescue: Remembering the Passover

(Exodus 12:1-32)

Summit Church

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What's up Summit Church, I'm excited as we continue in our Whole Story Series. It is so amazing to see how the good news impacts us ALL throughout the bible, especially throughout the in the Old Testament.

Well, today we will veer in on an account in the book of Exodus where God's people are suffering. I don't know a single person who likes suffering. In fact, listen to this story of my family.

Story : My kids several years ago got in some sort of trouble, my wife and I get home from a date and we said, all 4 of yall, line up – how many do you want? (we weren't going to do anything that day, but just wanted to see what they were going to say)...Oldest – 3, next...2...next...1...now my youngest daughter is the craftiest of all the green kids (about 4 or 5 years old)...cleverly said...0 – “*Well it's a number.*” Of

course my wife and I fell out laughing – and her siblings...**point is - NO ONE wants to suffer**, whether you brought it on yourself or if someone else is inflicting it.

The good news is that God always has a plan for us in the midst of our **suffering** and our **sin** Let's look at his plan for us in Exodus.

This part of the Whole Story is about a RESCUE mission that begins on the night of a prolific event in Exodus 12 called the **Passover**.

But before we get to the Passover, I want to catch you up and make up some observations along the way.

So in Exodus 1 - An evil, dark-hearted Pharaoh has enslaved God's people and treated them harshly based on his fears.

Unlike Joseph (from last week's message), whose leadership blessed Egypt & with wisdom during

famine, this Pharaoh doesn't view God's people as an instrument of salvation for all people.

This Pharaoh is so sadistic & callous that he orders that all Hebrew born males at the time to be executed, meanwhile baby Moses graciously avoids being killed and is raised by the daughter of very person who wanted him dead - an amazing story in Exodus 2.

When Moses was about 40, he took justice into his hands and killed an Egyptian slave master...when it became public knowledge he fled from Egypt to Midian for another 40 years.

So at 80 years old - God calls Moses back to Egypt for his rescue mission, Moses tries to avoid the call with tons of excuses, and God is like - "*Moses, please - this is about me, not your inadequacies, it's about my promise I made before you were even thought of!*"ⁱ

(Listen...I don't care how far gone you think you are from God- he is still pursuing you!!! - God wants you back, back in relationship with him, back on mission

through him. Moses was 80 yall, it's never to late to submit to our King.)

So Moses returns to Egypt with a simple message, but this message is exactly what we need today church.

Listen...

Exodus 5:1-2

[1] Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'"

Notice, God wants to deliver his people **FROM** the bondage of slavery - but their **freedom** didn't end there - it was that they may...**WORSHIP** him.

Freedom should always lead us to worship.

Write this down.

God desires not just to free us FROM SOMETHING, he desires to free us TO SOMEONE.

God's ultimate answer to all the brokenness, the pain, the suffering, the disappointment, our sins, and whatever has us bound - IS HIMSELF – to worship him!¹

A lot of people have reduced Christianity to *a get out of hell free card* – but it is so much richer!

It's one thing to seek SALVATION from things that have bound you, but don't miss out on seeking the SAVIOR – a person - Jesus...who desperately desires to be in relationship with you.

It's not that God desires to leave you in your brokenness here on this planet, but the best way to be equipped during your journey here and after is to be in relationship with Jesus!

¹ Some parts adopted from J.D. Greear's message: "Price of Freedom" 2008.

...let's get back to our story. God tells Moses and to relay this PLAN to his people...but pay close attention their OBJECTION to his plan.

Exodus 6: 6-9

[6] Say therefore to the people of Israel, '**I am the LORD**, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. [7] I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall **know** that I am the LORD **your** God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. [8] I will bring you into the land that I **swore** to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.'"
[9] Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

Can I speak to some of you today whose spirit is broken and the harshness of what surrounds you has drowned out the Spirit of God, his Word, and the people he has placed in your life to convey his plan.

I understand how our hardship can impact us, because we felt like all “not heaven” broke loose against us in 2015 and 2016 has already been special:

- **Instead of believing God’s Dominion we, easily his sovereignty – his rule, his control, his awareness of our situation**
- **Instead of drawing closer to him, we begin deny his presence & relevance in our life– we slowly stop reading his Word (his love letter to us) - we stop praying or we view time with God as burden or waste of time**
- **Instead of trusting what he has already promised** (I know about Abraham...but this Pharaoh killed my child....God you raise this child up.....), **we ignore his promises – yeah we**

know about what you promised...blah blah blah – but what does that promise have to do with my situation (we treat his promise.. like junk mail) – it has my name on it – but I don’t believe– so we toss it!

- *But he starts with (vs.6) **I am the Lord**– Stop Right there...Do you believe that Summit Church? Do you believe he is Lord over what is trying to destroy you?*
- *And God (vs. 7)– says - You shall **know** that I am the Lord **your** God - he desperately desires for us to KNOW him and he says **your God** – because it’s that personal to Him – he is pursuing us!*
- *God says in vs. 8 I will bring you in the land I **SWORE** – One of the characteristics I absolutely love about my Heavenly Father is that he CAN’T LIE - he is a promise keeper – if your PROBLEM, get in the way or his PROMISE, GUESS WHAT HAS TO GO?*

Church! We don't have a God who is inactive and negligent, and we don't serve a God who is afraid to do the impossible in our lives. SO get to **Know** him, continue to **Trust** him, and **Stand** on his promises!

So we get to the point in this narrative where God reveals his plan for doubting Israel Judgment & Salvation, through the 10 plagues in Chapters 7-12.

- Blood in the Nile
- Frogs everywhere
- Gnats
- Flies (gnats 2.0)
- Death of Cattle (livestock is not live anymore)
- Boils broke out
- Hail (it's so devastating that Pharaoh says he sinned – but it was temporal)
- Locusts consumed all that the hail didn't destroy
- Darkness –for 3 entire days

Earlier in this chapter 12, God gave instructions for his PLAN of RESCUE to his people - Find an unblemished substitutionary lamb (that is one with no defects)... they were to **EAT IT** and **PLACE** its blood over their doorframe as a sign.

Let's read in (Exodus 12:12-13)

[12] For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. [13] The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

This 10th Plague is not just an indictment on Egyptians; it's for the Israelites as well. The 10th Plague has consequences for Oppressor & the Oppressed. Here is something, we all must remember.

The destroyer (death) is coming for all of us. We all have sinned and fallen short.ⁱⁱ We were all by nature – objects of God’s wrath – deserving his just wrath – this is what makes him a Good Judge, he will not let guilty people get off free.

R.C. Sproul says it like this - *A God who doesn't righteously and angrily punish sin is an idol of our making, not the God of the bible.*

Even though Israel was protected in the first 9 plagues, (and they have been wrongly oppressed—their guilt is obvious) - an innocent, unblemished lamb HAS TO DIE FOR THEIR SIN. **For sin, no matter how great or how small - someone has to pay!**

That someone for us was Jesus, in our place. Innocent, unblemished, our substitute. The lamb in Exodus 12 gave temporary salvation, but Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of this worldⁱⁱⁱ – gives us eternal salvation – **that's the good news!**

Notice, in vs. 13 – make no mistake, it was the BLOOD that God saw, not the people (**not our money,**

not our wealth, not our education, not our morals, nothing but the blood.) That's why identity outside of Christ is not just unwise, it's fatal. What does God see in your over the doorpost of your heart? You or His son's blood?

At midnight (late in the midnight hour, God turned the Israelites situation around) God struck down all the firstborn in Egypt – both human and animals – there was not a house in Egypt without someone dead, unless the BLOOD was at the door. It was then, Pharaoh finally let God's people go from their bondage.

God wasn't just rescuing them from some bad thing, Now he freed them to come and worship him.

So, let's spend our final few minutes unpacking what God was accomplishing through the Passover, his Rescue mission. Here are TWO things that God saves us from and then to.

1. God rescues us *from Slavery to Freedom.*

- The Israelites were conscious of their physical bondage, but they were aloof to an even deeper slavery that God would deal with later in the wilderness– the slavery of sin.
- Israel thought their greatest problem was Egypt, but God knew their greatest problem was in their hearts. The Israelites were suppose to spend 40 days in the wilderness and it slowly turned into 40 years – **What took one day to free them FROM physical slavery - took a entire generation to free them from idolatry.** (Leviticus in our bible reading plan – God’s attempt to bring his people in his presence)
- None of us here are slaves in the literal sense, but we all wrestle with idols that desire to control us...be our masters.
- II Peter 2:19-20 states that *whatever controls a man, he is a slave to.* How do you know if you are a slave? You don’t

have control – it controls you. That’s why idols make lousy masters.

- That video game started off as fun, but now you center your entire day/night around it...some have lost marriages over it – no self-control...what a selfish master.
- You were hurt by someone– now your tone, your worldview, treatment of others in relationships is shaped & molded by your slave master of Unforgiveness.

God wants to Empower you through his Word & his Spirit to master what is mastering you. Don’t forget that God told Cain, BEFORE he murdered his brother Abel---*Sin is crouching at your door...but you must RULE over it.* Let’s be slaves to righteousness^{iv}, not slaves to our sin.

Jesus is not just trying to move us from being BAD to GOOD, or SINFUL to SINLESS.

He is taking DEAD people and miraculously making them ALIVE...He is taking SINFUL people and gifting them RIGHTEOUSNESS. He is snatching people from the evil one, and bringing them into the FAMILY OF GOD!

He is freeing Slaves to Freedom:

Galatians 5: 1 – *“For Freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.”*

Our freedom is not to do whatever WE want, Our Freedom positions us do whatever HE wants. (If you were baptized at this church – you need to say Amen..2 questions.)

Jesus saves us FROM our sin, and frees us joyfully serve God and others.

The second and final insight we gain from the Passover is this....

2. God rescues us *from Despair to Hope.*

Despair is the complete loss or absence of hope. Jesus wants to move us from Hopelessness to Hopefulness, but our hardships are constantly screaming to us - Your suffering is meaningless! without purpose, therefore – why hope?

Story – On a lighter note – Have you ever tried to convince a hopeless teenager? One of my nephew’s years ago made a prolific statement to Why he thought baths were pointless– Yall, he was so serious about why he “*suffered*” from taking a purposeless bath– here was his thesis statement - “*I don’t understand why I need to take a bath, when Imma get right back dirty again?*” Son, you might not understand the meaning of water and soap right now, it might seem tedious and pointless – but trust me – KEEP WASHING, KEEP PUTTING ON DEODARANT (Wax on, rinse off), even if you feel clean or think you are clean – Don’t STOP - it will BLESS you and OTHERS around you...and all the parents & middle school teachers said...amen!

I spoken to many of you who are in the middle of suffering right now – You may feel alone, but YOU ARE NOT ALONE...and it seems meaningless, pointless, and that it has no purpose at all.

Story – Road Rage incident

You never know what people are going through, but I know they need HOPE.

He wants to bless you church, so you can bless those around you – be an instrument of salvation, EVEN through your suffering.

They need to know there is a God, that **WILL** hear there cry, that **WILL** bring them out, that **WILL** heal them, that **WILL** not falter on his promises. THERE IS HOPE!

- Our hope is in the resurrection! We have a hope that goes transcends human comprehension. We have hope that always

wins. Our Hope is a Person named Jesus. We have a savior that overcame our 2 greatest adversaries – SIN & DEATH.

Because you have such a great HOPE - God will not waste one ounce of your suffering!

Your suffering is not in Vain Church, it may feel meaningless, may seem pointless – but God has a purpose that is working together for your good!

You didn't just get **FIRE** insurance, you got **BLESSED** assurance! You didn't just get **PROTECTION**, you got a **PERSON**! You got more than a **RESCUE**, you got **FREEDOM**. You didn't just get **SALVATION**, you got a **Savior**! He is more than an idea, a moral standard to live up to, - He is a **Person** to behold, a **Savior** to embrace, a **God** who will never leave you or forsake you! A high priest...

Write this final observation about the Passover down.

Band vamps here.

The Passover Lamb is our Sign and also our Sustenance.

The Passover lamb was a sign of deliverance, but it also was a meal. That might sound crude, but watch this:

- The lamb's blood saved them, but it's body provided them with the nourishment they needed to make the journey into the wilderness.

Jesus is called the Lamb of God, and he also the Bread of Life.^v

He rescues us from our SINS to himself then SUSTAINS us as he SENDS us out!

Paul...Do you know why Paul said in Philippians that he could do all things through Christ that strengthens him?

Because he was beaten nearly to death, but didn't die, he was shipwrecked but didn't drown, he was hungry,

but didn't starve, he was homeless, but never forsaken – he was tormented by a messenger from Satan, yet God still sustained him! God gave him strength! And the same God of Paul is the God of the Summit Church!

No Matter how deep the **SIN**, no matter how deep the **SUFFERING** – he will **SUSTAIN** you because you are **SAFE** in the hands of the almighty **SAVIOR**.

Let's Pray.

Communion

We are getting to take the Lord's Supper together. We asked that you let the bread and the cup pass if you have not accepted the blood of the Lamb in your place.

It was said that during the Passover², that innocent unblemished lamb would live with the family for a few days before it was slaughtered.

Everyone realized WHY this little precious lamb would have to die, even the children would quickly understand – “This lamb died because of MY sin.”

When Jesus was crucified nearly 2,000 years ago, it was during the Passover – that was not a mistake or a

² <http://www.lifeway.com/Article/sermon-easter-passover-lamb-jesus>)

coincidence – it signified that he was truly the Lamb of God.

Let's take a few moments and reflect on his love for us, his commitment to us, Let's Behold the Lamb of God and in a moment, we will eat and drink together.

Band does chorus of “Now Behold the Lamb”

(After we Eat & Drink Together.)

In Exodus 12, there is more talk about remembering the Passover than the actual Passover itself – likewise Jesus told us to do this often in REMEMBRANCE of him – to proclaim his death until he comes again!

It was so monumental that God made the Passover the beginning of a new CALENDAR year – their entire year was centered around this event.

Let's stand and proclaim the one who gives us victory over sin and death – who is coming back – Jesus, the Lamb of God!

ⁱ Moses still doubts...so God demonstrates how serious he is. (*EXODUS 4 - It's hilarious scene - when God, asks, what's in your hand...a staff...throw it down...it turns into a snake, and Moses runs - so here I realized that I'm related to Moses and I totally get it - he lived in Midian 40 years (the country) – I grew up in Butner and after all those years WE are BOTH still afraid of snakes -and no - I still ain't going camping...unless while in the woods - God says, what's in your hand...a cell phone...throw it down...and it turns into house – then I would go.*) After Moses runs out of excuses. God sends his big brother Aaron along to help.

ⁱⁱ Romans 3:23

ⁱⁱⁱ John 1:29

^{iv} Romans 6:18

^{vv} John 6:35