



Exodus

Freed to Worship

Exodus 12:37-51

October 2, 2016

Message #20 of 50 – SN029



CALVARY CHAPEL
FRENCH VALLEY

Sunday Evening Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Exodus: Freed to Worship

Exodus 12:37-51

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Exodus 12**
- We are continuing our study: **Freed to Worship**
- Tonight we continue to look at the beginning of the exodus of the people of Israel out of Egypt
- We left off at verse 36
- The Passover has been instituted and eaten for the first time
- Each family sacrificed a lamb to the Lord and spread its blood on the doorposts and lintel
- During the night, the Lord passed through the land of Egypt and killed the firstborn sons of every family in the land
- Except where He saw the blood of the lamb
- Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and told them to take the people of Israel and leave
- The Lord had given favor for the Hebrews with the people of Egypt, and the Egyptians gave them whatever they asked for as they were leaving
- Let's get into tonight's text

Teaching

- **Exodus: Freed to Worship**
- **Exodus 12:37**
- It is about 20 miles from Rameses to Succoth – still in Egypt
- 600K men – some challenge this number
- Suggest that the word translated thousands might mean families
- The Hebrew word is used hundreds of times in the OT – always translated thousands
- Later a census is done and a more accurate count is made **Numbers 1:45-46**

So all who were numbered of the children of Israel, by their fathers' houses, from twenty years old and above, all who *were able to go to war in Israel*—⁴⁶ all who were numbered were six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty.

- As always, a literal translation is to be believed unless stated otherwise
- If you assume an equal number of women, that would bring the population to about 1.2 million
- And then if you use a conservative number of two children per couple, the population is about 2.4 million and could easily be as many as 3 million
- This is the fulfillment of the promise God had made to Abram when he called him out of his father's country **Genesis 12:1-3**

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you.² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.³ I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- This is radical if you remember that it was about seventy people who went into Egypt
- God flourished them and blessed them and multiplied them
- This is just as He had promised them
- We see this same reality in the church that Jesus created
- With a relatively small number of people, God caused it to flourish and spread and grow
- Now it contains hundreds of millions of men, women, and children
- Not everyone that came out of Egypt were Hebrews
- **Exodus 12:38**
- We don't have a lot of information about this 'mixed multitude'
- The word 'mixed' tells us that they were of a variety of races and nations
- Very likely some of them were Egyptians – possible some of them married Hebrews – Joseph had an Egyptian wife
- Could be others who feared the God of the Hebrews
- Others could have been slaves seeking to escape their enslavement to the Egyptians – took advantage of the opportunity to flee
- For the most part these would have been unbelievers
- They show up again in **Numbers 11:4-6**

Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat?"

⁵We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons,

the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶ but now our whole being *is* dried up; *there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!*”

- This also is a picture of the church
- In every church there are the believers, and the ‘mixed multitude’

Warren Wiersbe

This ‘mixed multitude’ represents those in this world who outwardly identify with God’s people but inwardly are not truly children of God.

- They might be unbelievers married to Christians
- Or they could be people who simply like the idea of the church, the fellowship and communion – something to feel connected to
- We also know from several New Testament books that there are people in the church seeking a draw a following or to take advantage of the flock
- Many of these people may give the appearance of being God’s people
- Jesus gave us the parable of the tares among the wheat to tell us how to relate to them
- After discovering the tares among the wheat the servants asked if they should be pulled out **Matthew 13:29-30**

But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’

- For us that means that we shouldn’t be evaluating whether someone is a tare, a weed in God’s field – we’ll let Jesus take care of that **Matthew 7:21-23**

Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

- Jesus knows who are His and who is not His
- God allows this ‘mixed multitude’ to accompany the Hebrews out of Egypt
- That means they will partake in all that the Lord does to protect and provide for the Hebrews
- **Exodus 12:39**
- This is the dough they had prepared the day before, without yeast as the Lord had directed

- **Exodus 12:40-41**

- The children of Israel were in Egypt for 430 years
- That's raises the question of putting a date to the Exodus
- This is a topic of great debate and a source of skepticism for many in the secular world
- The traditional date of the Exodus is 1446
- This is based off of **1 Kings 6:1**

And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

- Solomon is believed to have begun to reign in Israel in 970BC
- In the fourth year of his reign he began to build the temple of the Lord, which would be 966BC
- It states that was that was 480 years after the children of Israel had come out of Egypt, or 1446BC
- Other dates have been put out, most commonly a date about two hundred years later
- I read yesterday of a man who places the dates 1,000 years earlier based on what he believes archaeology indicates
- Personally, I am going to stick with what the Bible says
- Usually, science and archaeology catches up to the Bible eventually
- Besides, I am not certain what knowing the exact date something happened does to the reality that it happened
- The Bible says that God delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt with great signs and miracles
- I believe that, and knowing the exact date only makes for interesting information
- **Exodus 12:42**
- While it was reason to celebrate, the Lord says it is to be a solemn observance
- First that implies they are to take seriously the observance of the Passover
- It shouldn't be an afterthought or taken lightly
- They were not to treat it like we treat Presidents Day

- If you are one of the people fortunate enough to get that day off, I doubt you put much thought into how you will celebrate our presidents
- It is more likely you put more energy into shopping the sales that are going on than in remembering the presidents that holiday was created to recognize
- God wanted them to take this remembrance seriously
- And not just now, but throughout their generations
- Even today, the Jewish people celebrate the Passover
- They do not sacrifice a lamb, and some don't even eat lamb on the night of the Passover
- A traditional family would have a Seder, a Passover meal to remind them of what God did for the people of Israel 3,500 years ago
- We are planning to do a Seder in the Spring
- There is beautiful symbolism of what Jesus did for us in the Passover
- I would encourage you to participate
- And in case you are wondering we will not be sacrificing a lamb
- Our Lamb, Jesus, has already been sacrificed
- Back to our text – the Lord gives Moses and Aaron further instructions about the Passover
- **Exodus 12:43**
- The Passover was an exclusively Jewish celebration
- God had chosen the children of Israel and set them apart from all the other nations
- By making this a Jewish only celebration, it reminded them of their calling to be separated from the pagan nations around them
- It would also remind them of the covenant relationship that God has with the children of Israel
- In the same way the sacrament of Communion is only for believers
- We warn unbelievers not to partake, for they could be bringing judgment upon themselves
- But then the Lord tells Moses and Aaron something that is unusual to me
- **Exodus 12:44**
- ‘servant who is bought’ – sounds like a slave

- We know these are not Jews because they need to be circumcised
- All Jewish boys are circumcised on the eighth day
- So these are ‘servants’ who have been bought from other nations
- The Bible does not condemn slavery
- That doesn’t set well with our modern western mentality
- Buying a servant or slave in this time period was totally different from what we saw in this nation, and what we see in parts of the world where slavery still exists
- Buying a servant was an investment
- The price was often set based on the number of years of service they could provide
- And so it was in the best interest of a man to care for his servants
- And typically that was for life, though these hired servants were able to buy their freedom
- One of these servants would have to be circumcised if they wanted to participate in the Passover
- That is not as simple as being circumcised so they could eat lamb once a year
- To eat of the Passover was to associate with the children of Israel on a spiritual and practical basis
- Circumcision was the sign of the covenant God made with Abraham

Genesis 17:10-13

This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; ¹¹ and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. ¹² He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant. ¹³ He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

- Even from the very beginning God wanted to bring people from outside the children of Israel and graft them into the family of God
- A foreigner had no spiritual attachment to the God of Abraham
- And so they were excluded from the Passover feast
- These servants were to be more than just servants, they were invited to share in the covenant promises
- That is symbolized with the instructions to circumcise them

- **Exodus 12:45**

- A sojourner was someone who was just passing through – travelling from one place to the next
- This is referring to non-Jewish sojourners
- A ‘hired servant’ was different from a ‘servant bought for money’
- A hired servant was under contract to work for a specified period of time or on a specific project
- Once the work was completed they would depart to find another job
- Since they were transient foreigners, they were not allowed to partake in the Passover meal
- The next instruction is about where to eat it

- **Exodus 12:46**

- Each family was to have their own lamb
- Smaller families would join with other families
- And larger families might have more than one lamb
- One of the stipulations that was added later was that one lamb would feed up to ten people
- They were not to take any part of the meat outside
- It doesn’t say why that is, but may be so that it is not accidentally shared with people who are not to be eating
- They were also not to break any of the bones of the lamb
- That also is not explained, but there is a connection to that instruction and the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world **Psalm 34:19-20**

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.²⁰ He guards all his bones; not one of them is broken.

- This was one of the Messianic verses – meant it spoke about the coming Messiah of the Jews
- When Jesus was crucified, it was between two criminals
- Crucifixion was a terrible way to die
- It was not uncommon for victims to take several days to die
- But after only about six hours on the cross, Jesus died – He released his spirit and died
- In one of the gospels Pilate is surprised that Jesus had died so quickly and asks for confirmation from one of the soldiers

- Before that the Jews had come to Pilate to ask that the legs of the men on the cross be broken so that they would die more quickly so that they would not still be there on the Sabbath **John 19:32-36**

Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. ³⁶ For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, *“Not one of His bones shall be broken.”*

- John was an eyewitness to this event and adds his own commentary and connects Jesus to the Passover lamb

- **Exodus 12:47**

- This was a way of bringing the whole family of God together

- **Exodus 12:48-49**

- If a non-Jew wanted to participate in the Passover, all the males in his household had to be circumcised

- I see in this evidence that God had intended to save all of humanity
- Some see God as excluding people from His family and from the kingdom

- That has never been God’s heart **2 Peter 3:9**

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- God has always made a way for people to be right with Him
- The final and only way is through Christ
- The only ones who will be excluded are those who reject God’s offer of salvation through Jesus

- **Exodus 12:50**

- This is referring to the Passover preparations and then to the asking the Egyptians for silver and gold and other things
- God commanded and they obeyed
- Ultimately that is what is pleasing to God and it is the pathway to the best possible life **Deuteronomy 6:24-25**

And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as *it is* this day. ²⁵ Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us.’

- God is good, light, love, and His commands reflect His nature

- It is for our good that God gives us His commands, and it is through obedience to those commands that good is experienced in our lives
- If only this verse had always been truly about the children of Israel
- How different their history would have been
- The same thing can be said about most of our lives also
- **Exodus 12:51**
- On the last day of the 430th year God lead the children of Israel out of Egypt just as He had promised to Abraham
- With this the Exodus begins
- **Amen?!**
- **We are going to stop here for the night – will pick it up in 2 weeks!**
- **Next Sunday we will have a night of Praise and prayer**
- **We will be lifting up the upcoming election and our nation and other prayer requests**
- **Please plan on joining us**