

The Passover Actually Observed

Exodus 12:29–36

Note a couple of things previously mentioned. The plundering of the Egyptians was both punishment for the stolen wages of the slaves, and so that the emerging nation of Israel would have some wealth with which to do business and have at least the beginnings of an economic foundation. Secondly, I am skipping the passage that explains the details of the Passover and its permanent establishment as a yearly celebration for the Israelites, which can only be replaced by the fulfillment of the Old Covenant through the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ leading to a New Covenant.

The main points of verses 14–28

- The Feast of Unleavened Bread
- The purpose of blood on the doorposts
- Lessons for children to learn in the future

I. **Serious Business**

- A. When the Lord threatens anyone, He means it, and people ignore it at their peril.
- B. But with the threat there is always mercy for those who repent and seek the Lord.
- C. Pharaoh basically had 9 warnings and the exposure of the impotence of his phony gods.
- D. The King's servants early on recognized the futility of trying to match Yahweh.
- E. In the end Pharaoh et al had a rude awakening: from throne to prisoner to slave girl to cow.

II. **A Welcome Command** (Illustration: A soldier's most welcome command: "At ease!")

- A. The commandments of the Lord are not grievous. 1 John 5:3
- B. The world's commanders are supposed to take their orders from God.
- C. Pharaoh has done everything possible not to utter the command God wanted: "Up! Go!"
- D. The Lord has Pharaoh add one important thing to the simple command: **worship the Lord**.
- E. There is one Victor in this contest of wills, not Moses or Aaron, but Yahweh who never loses.

III. **Everybody in a Hurry**

- A. Pharaoh was in a hurry to be rid of Moses and Aaron (who represented the Word of God).
- B. The Egyptians were in a hurry to be rid of the plagues (the certainty of death).
- C. The Israelites (M. and A., too) were in hurry to be done with earthly slavery. (as sin is slavery)
- D. God was in a hurry as He always is at the moment of salvation. (Now the acceptable time)
- E. In your and my haste, let us take only what we need. (God will supply the rest.)

IV. **Skin for Skin**

Satan answered the LORD and said, "**Skin for skin!** Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. (from Job 2:4)

- A. The devil mocked Job before God because he couldn't conceive holding on to faith.
- B. Yet sovereign grace had the pompous Egyptians willing to give up their earthly treasures.
- C. A large part of the plunder would help furnish the Tabernacle and thus promote worship.
- D. A portion would test the greed and unbelief of the Israelites (at Horeb and Jericho)
- E. There is much they didn't take, but really it all belongs to God.