

Exodus 12 – Christ Our Passover– Sermon Outline

Intro: Both Israel of old and Israel of today were saved through Christ the Passover Lamb.

Need: See what Passover was, is, and what it always means and requires of God's covenant people.

Theme: Christ is our Passover who brings us:

1. New beginnings and new life in service to the Lord, not sin (1-20)
2. Deliverance from our enemies through their divine destruction. (21-42)
3. Privileges and protections that are not granted to pagans. (43-51)

I. New beginnings and new life in service to the Lord, not sin (1-20)

A. The Lord appoints the Passover as the beginning of months (Abib, March/April, when Christ is also crucified) for God's people, as we today celebrate the Lord's Day on Sunday/Christ's resurrection.

1. This was not a calendar reset as much as religious/ceremonial pre-eminence of importance.
2. It is their celebration of salvation through Christ the spotless lamb, through foreshadowing.
3. V. 4, They would join as families for the golden number of people that could eat the whole animal.
4. The sacrifice is a male yearling, symbolizing the vigor and perfection of Christ in His spotless sacrifice in the prime of life, and that we as living sacrifices in Christ are to live righteously.
5. V. 7, Blood & doors are key throughout Scripture. God shuts the ark door so only Noah/his household are saved; Rahab and her house are saved with the scarlet thread out the window, Jo. 2:18.
6. **APP.**: The household principle remains. Inside of Christ/the Church, covered by His blood there is protection/provision, and one is set apart for a new life and service to the Lord, not sin.
7. Yes, some fall away, even children of believers, but what a blessing to be born on the inside, under the blood of Christ, inside the church/household of faith, and not on the outside of Passover.

B. V. 8, New beginnings/life does not forget the death/sin from which we were delivered.

1. See Deut. 16, unleavened bread symbolizes hasty leaving and departing, bitter herbs that sorrow was mingled with their status as slaves, but also they are to be unleavened, spotless to the Lord.
2. I Cor. 5:6-8, Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us, and so we now keep the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, not malice, more in point 3 on I Cor. 5/fellowship.
3. V. 9, even the head is roasted, showing the whole sacrifice is needed, just as all of Christ is needed for our salvation. V. 11-12, Israel is dressed to depart because God will deliver them at midnight.
4. **App.**: Again, we see in the N.T. the call to always be ready for God's judgment to strike, and for His deliverance to come for His people who are watching and waiting, not in passivity, but holy living.

C. V. 12-14, God is killing the firstborn of man and animal, and judging Egypt and its pagan gods.

1. What delivers Israel, and us, is the blood of Christ, pictured in the animal blood on their doorposts.
2. This serves as a memorial down through the generations of Israelites, to be taught to their children.
3. The hasty departure and unleavened bread is to show a readiness to serve the Lord and do what is necessary to receive His deliverance. Lot's wife looked back at Sodom's destruction, and perished.
4. The Israelites will soon grumble about lack of food and provision, and long for bondage in Egypt.
5. We too, can sometimes long for our old, sinful ways and life, b/c it was easier in some regards.
6. But it is wicked, and is not easier in the long run. In the end, perfect joy with the Lord is ours forever.
7. Like Israel, we must be ready to part with all paganism, all sinful practices, for us and our children.

8. The clean break from sin for the newborn Christian is hard. It is a new life/beginning, and it may be a humble beginning, lowly, difficult, like Israel in the wilderness. But it is in service to Christ, not sin.
 9. And in that is true freedom, true joy, even when you have little, even when there is pain and affliction.
- D. 15-20, Failing to keep the feast, for Israel and us, results in being cut off from Christ/God's people.
1. This new life must be characterized by reverence, remembrance for what God through Christ has done for us, and was doing/would do for Israel. No unleavened bread reminded Israel of new life.
 2. The 7 day feast of unleavened bread is bracketed with holy convocations/gatherings of God's people.
 3. Poole notes the first day is when God struck down the firstborn, and the 7th day is when Pharaoh's Army/Egypt/death and sin was defeated in the sea/ultimately in the lake of fire/hell.
 4. We live between the two comings of Christ, we have a new life/beginning in him, but bitter herbs and unsavory unleavened bread are still part of our life. Yet we must be pure, unleavened with sin, no matter how hard, starving the sinful flesh of its pleasures for sinful leaven, until Christ returns.
 5. We have new life begun, but not yet brought to glory. Likewise, our deliverance has begun in Christ, but is not yet consummated, just as Israel at the death of the firstborn had deliverance from Egypt begun, but not completed until passing through the baptismal waters and Pharaoh's army drowned.
- E. 17, Israel is said to be delivered by God, brought out as armies from Egypt.
1. We read in Ex. 13 they were armed for battle, and in battle formations/ordering, but the battle is of the Lord, not man. They did not raise a sword, but trusted God, and by faith, doing what He commanded, took Christ's blood figuratively, and by that blood they were brought into new life.
 2. Christ blood brings us new life, but only first by delivering us from death, through His death.

II. Deliverance from our enemies through their divine destruction. (21-40)

- A. 21-28, God's deliverance must be passed down to our children in each generation.
1. There is no deliverance long term if our children are lost. When Israel returned to idolatry, God departed from them and returned them to the idolatrous nations they lusted after.
 2. V. 27, the Passover is a sacrifice, pointing to Christ's, in which His people, covered by Christ's death/blood, are judged through that sacrifice, through Christ, and are not struck down and cast into hell as the Egyptians were. *Note v. 27 says the Lord "delivered our households" not mere individuals.*
 3. Poole notes Passover was both a sacrifice and a sacrament for Israel. For us it is a memorial of that once for all sacrifice of Christ, so it is only a sacrament, means of grace, but not a re-sacrificing.
 4. I Cor. 11 tells us that we proclaim the Lord's death until He returns/comes again. We take of the bread and wine symbolizing Christ's body and blood, even as Israel ate of the Passover Lamb.
 5. Only through Christ, His blood covering us, His dwelling in us, are we delivered from His destruction.
 6. 28, we see that Israel here is obedient and does precisely as they are commanded for Passover.
- B. QUESTION: Should we give all covenant children, including babies not professing faith, Communion?
1. No, as v. 26 hints at, our children should first ask, and be able to answer, "what do you mean by this service?" Notice, they do not say what do WE mean by this service, but what their parents mean.
 2. The children may have eaten the meal, but not as a sacrament. It was a family meal in the home, but only here. Later, in Deut. 16, we see they can only sacrifice and partake at the temple, where God's presence is, and only the men are required to go there, representing their whole families.

3. So it is not excommunicating our covenant children to teach them what communion means, and only then give them the sacramental meal. Further, infants/babies could not have eaten lamb, bitter herbs, etc. So there was always some covenant children who were not eating even the Passover meal then.
 4. The children were spared, not by eating of the Passover lamb, but by having its blood on the doorposts of their house, administered by the father. Baptism, Christ's blood applied, signifies covenant inclusion particularly. The Lord's Supper symbolizes faithful reception of Christ's salvation.
 5. **App.:** But the duties of parents are great, in baptizing their children, teaching them all the Lord has commanded, and preparing them to come, by faith, to the Lord's Table, for new life/deliverance.
- C. 29-32, The firstborn of man and animal are killed in Egypt. Perhaps firstborn of parents, male & female.
1. God has already said that Israel is His firstborn, and they must be set free to worship Him. Pharaoh scoffs and refuses, then God sends plagues, but initially through Moses/Aaron already warned that He would strike down all the firstborn in Egypt. But Pharaoh would not listen, he was hardened.
 2. God's judgment is a great upheaval, unsettling, and hasty. It may be slow in coming, but swift in execution. In Ex. 8-10 we see Pharaoh trying to negotiate, not letting the children go at first, then wanting to keep the cattle, but Moses, commanded by God, refuses to negotiate.
 3. It all belongs to the Lord, believers and their children, and the animals are necessary for sacrifices.
 4. Ex. 4:21-23, God says Israel is His firstborn Son, so if Pharaoh does not let the firstborn go, eye for an eye, the Lord Jehovah will strike down Pharaoh's firstborn son.
 5. Of course, Christ is the only begotten Son of God, who will ultimately be struck down by God Himself for Israel, the firstborn in Christ the Son, who is the firstfruits of the resurrection, our Passover Lamb.
 6. V. 32, Pharaoh even asks for blessing for himself, not because he is repentant, but he cannot help but recognize the Lord's power and superiority over Pharaoh, and all the false gods/demons.
 7. Each plague was an attack on Egypt's gods, and showed God as the one true God over all things.
- D. Israel passed through death, literally the judgment of the death angel, by the Passover lamb, picturing Christ's coming blood atonement. They were savingly united to that sacrifice, thus they ate it.
1. The blood set them free, so that they would be delivered from death/bondage in Egypt.
 2. The goal was to worship God, offer sacrifices, keep His 10 commandments, which God gives to Moses and prefaces it with "*I am the LORD your God who delivered you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage*". ***This is the same goal/redemption and purpose which we have today!***
- E. V. 33-36, In this deliverance, God's people receive the spoils of war, as the victors through Christ.
1. God not only promised Moses in Ex. 3:21 they would go out with great spoils, but Abraham himself, all the way back in Genesis 15:12-14. After 400 years, "*they shall come out with great possessions.*"
 2. We like Israel, or impatient Abram and Sarai, can try to receive all God's promised blessings prematurely, when He has not yet promised to dispense them. It may not come in our lifetimes.
 3. That's okay, God makes promises to you and your children, and may fulfill them to your great-great-great-greats some hundreds or even thousands of years from now. So trust the Lord, and obey!
- F. V. 37-40, When God's deliverance comes, it is swift, unexpected, and only those ready are delivered.
1. V. 38, the mixed multitude points on one hand to other nations receiving the Lord, but also their unbelief, as Num. 11:4 shows this mixed multitude going astray, as even most of Israel will do.
 2. But obedient Israel has their unleavened bread to sustain them, as even God provides manna I the wilderness, and today we have the True Bread from heaven, Christ, to sustain us in our sojourning.

3. V. 40, the 430 years is likely from God's promise to Abraham in Gen. 12 until the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai, per Matthew Poole. This is the length of the sojourn, not the length of time only in Egypt.
4. This reminds us that we are one Church, one body of Christ, one people of God, one bride, united with the Church living on earth below, and those in heaven above. Christ's deliverance is for us.
5. When Christ returns, we do not know, but those who have kept the feast of Passover by being pure, unleavened bread, clinging to Christ our Passover, will be ready, and will be delivered unstained by this wicked world and its sinful leaven.
6. The destruction/judgment according to works at the end of time will surely come, in time, in haste, without warning, and those found in Christ alone will be delivered. Prepare by living for the Lord now!

III. Privileges and protections that are not granted to pagans. (41-51)

- A. The covenant promises to Abraham are realized, in the first installment, in Israel's departure from Egypt/Death/Hell and sin and misery and destruction.
 1. It was all accomplished by the Lord, sending the plagues, calling Moses and Aaron, appointing the Passover sacrifice, and causing the Egyptians to drive out Israel with riches loaded on their backs!
 2. The Lord did this, yes, because He loves His people, but why does He love them? Not because they were worthy, or even objects of pity, for all are objects of wrath deserving God's wrath by nature.
 3. It was to show both God's mercy on those who did not deserve it, Israel/us, and His justice and power triumphing over the powers that be in this life, Pharaoh/Egypt/Satan & false gods/idols.
 4. The LORD says this throughout the book of Exodus, Paul affirms it in Romans 9, etc., for all of us.
- B. 42, How do we have this "solemn observance" as true Israel today, since it is to last "throughout their generations"? We could say O.C. Israel is gone, but no, we/Gentiles are grafted in with them.
 1. We are one people of God, not two, nor have we replaced Israel, but are true Israel with Jews.
 2. We keep this obviously through the Lord's Supper, instituted during Passover by Christ Himself.
 3. But also, Col. 2:11-23 shows that we have union with Christ, heart circumcision and Spirit baptism.
 4. 2:14 notes that all the ceremonial days and feasts and practices, the handwriting of requirements that were against us, were shadows that have been fulfilled, kept, in Christ, who is the substance of them!
 5. Col. 2:16-17, do not restrict your food and drink, or regard man-made holy days or extra sabbaths that man and not God has appointed. Christ has fulfilled them, and it is sin to return to the shadows!
 6. It indicates one does not rest in Christ's work alone, but things which have only the appearance of wisdom, false humility, etc., that do not overcome the lusts of the flesh, but only deceive.
 7. Contemporary churches have their slick music shows and high performance productions, but the early Church and Roman Catholic Church and others today have their high church liturgies, images and icons, smells and bells, and if not those, then the church/liturgical calendar full of false holy days.
 8. There is only one holy day in the new covenant, the Christian Sabbath, the Lord's Day.
 9. The sabbaths of the old testament that were in addition to the 4th commandment have been fulfilled in Christ, as Col. 2 tells us. But the Christian Sabbath is rooted in God's resting/Sabbath at Creation, and continues until the end of time and we enter into the full Sabbath rest in glory with the Lord.
 10. Grafted into Christ, we are now living sacrifices, our whole lives are to be unleavened for the Lord.
- C. 43-51, No one outside of Christ/Israel/the Church can partake of the Passover/Lord's Supper meal:
 1. They have not part in Christ's blood, and thus, no part in the meal remembering it/administering it.
 2. The Lord's Supper is both a memorial and an administering of Christ's sacrifice to His people only!

3. The command in I Cor. 11 is to eat in faith, discerning the Lord's body, in remembrance of Him.
 4. V. 46, the Passover Lamb was eaten in one house without its bones broken, just as Christ is only to be eaten in the Church house, and none of His bones at the cross were broken.
- D. 47-48, If others outside of God's covenant people want to partake of this holy ceremony, this life-giving feast, they may only do so by first being circumcised, and now today baptized.
1. However, note these verses say a man who wants to partake must not only be circumcised, but all the males in his house must be so first as well, then he can come near and keep it.
 2. This indicates that believers ought to baptize their children, then come near to partake of the Lord's Supper. There is something amiss if their children are not baptized and they partake of the meal.
 3. Even with Moses, this was an issue. In Ex. 4:24-26, right after the Lord said to Moses to tell Pharaoh that there is a battle of the firstborns, and Pharaoh's firstborn will die if he does not let Israel, God's firstborn go, we read that the Lord appears before Moses, seemingly out of nowhere, to kill him!
 4. Why? Because he had not circumcised his son with Zipporah. Likely because she didn't like this, as she cries about him becoming a "husband of blood" to her as she reluctantly circumcises their child.
 5. Moses is the leader of all Israel, yet he did not circumcise his own children? That'd be like a pastor, who knows better, a Presbyterian Pastor, baptizing other children, but refusing to do so for his own!
 6. This would make him and his uncircumcised son worthy of death, being cut off from God's people.
 7. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are not meaningless. Rightly used and received, they grant protection and provision through Christ and His Spirit. These are not for pagans, but are for our covenant children, so do not come them off/out of the covenant, but give them its sign and protect them!
 8. While we would not give our babies the bread and wine, we should early teach them of its meaning, and urge them to true faith and repentance in Christ, so that what was symbolized in their baptism and sealed to them is realized in their hearts, and in faith they can come to the Lord's Table.
- E. 50-51, Again, we see the Lord's deliverance, only for His chosen people, protecting them alone.
1. In this we also see something of the truth that **worship is warfare**. Israel obeyed the Lord, looked to Him in faith, at some level at least, and He delivered them, protected and provided for them.
 2. They are called armies, and we are armies to the Lord too, and should be dressed in spiritual armor.
 3. The armor of God in Eph. 6 is comprised of truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, shield of faith above all, helmet of salvation, and Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. Prayer suffuses through all.
 4. Israel, too, had to cling to truth, righteousness, the good news of peace through God's judgment and deliverance in the blood sacrifice of the coming Christ, all laid hold of by faith bringing salvation and the Spirit working through God's Word. They cried out to the Lord in prayer, and He delivered them.
 5. Eph. 6:10 tells us the whole armor of God wards against the devil and his wiles, that we wrestle not flesh and blood, not just Joe Biden and wicked rulers, but the Satanic influences upon/behind them.
 6. Pharaoh was the earthly ruler, but it was Satan and his demons/gods/idols working through him, even as our corrupt rulers and corrupt persons with sexual perversions, etc., are demonic today.
 7. Being unleavened in purity, in sincerity and truth, building up one another in faith, tears down wicked forces, especially where Satan centralizes power in earthly wicked rulers & corrupt churches/pastors.
 8. Behind every wicked ruler, whether of church or state, is Satan, and within every righteous ruler, whether church or state, is the Lord God Almighty.
- F. Privileges and Protections Illustrated in the New Covenant in Passover Terms:

1. In I Cor. 5, Church discipline and barring from the Lord's Table and fellowship with Christians is required for those living in sin who call themselves Christians.
 2. This is b/c unrighteousness in the church is unleavened wickedness, and the Church is to be pure and holy, unleavened, unmixed with sin. Purging out the old leaven, the wicked ones, makes us a new lump, renewed in Christ, separated from this world, having privileges unique to us through Him.
 3. I Cor. 5:8, "**let us keep the feast...with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**"
 4. A man was with his father's wife sexually, and Paul goes on to say not to eat, neither at the Lord's Table nor in personal meals at your own home, with someone in the Church, calling themselves a Christian, who is living this way, or who is covetous, an extortioner, idolater, a drunkard, etc.
 5. Paul concludes by saying "put away from yourselves the evil person" & earlier said "deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." So good news, your wayward friend or family member may yet be saved.
 6. But the bad news is the situation is dire. They must be excommunicated and not coddled, but separated from, to show that God has separated from them, that perhaps like the Prodigal Son these wayward souls may yet come to their senses and repent.
 7. But by separating them and barring them from the Lord's Supper, we are rightly showing that they have no salvation, they have no privileges and protections, and if/when God's judgment strikes, at their death and/or His return, they will be found without Christ's blood, and under His wrath.
 8. The only way they'll repent is if they see this, and they will not see this if the Church and family and friends lie to them and pretend that things are really okay as they live a wicked, godless life.
 9. That is not loving, it is pure hatred, it would be like Noah not preaching to get into the ark and saying it will be okay. Or like an Israelite telling the Egyptians they won't really need the blood of the Passover Lamb to be spared the death angel's judgment at Passover.
- G. For Israel to eat the leavened bread during the feast of unleavened bread, is akin to someone claiming to be a Christian today but living in the leaven of sin, whether false teaching or false living, or both.
1. We laugh at churches today, but really, they are damning souls and it's not a laughing matter.
 2. False Pastors/preachers who lie and soothe your conscience or teach a name and claim it Gospel, or have you chasing false visions and dreams, will deceive and damn you, along with its "fun" music.
 3. They are the sweet little lies of the devil, not the lovingkindness of God which leads to repentance.
 4. The call must be to come out from such false churches, from false living, from false assurances of peace and salvation, when the blood of Christ is not really covering you.
 5. Come into true churches, and raise your children for the Lord, trusting Him and keeping His law.
 6. Christ truly is our Passover, and we must truly partake of Him, by a true and living faith, to receive His promised salvation, from the penalty of sin, hell, from the power of sin/lusts of the flesh, and one day from the presence of sin altogether, when Christ returns and makes all things new.
 7. **Let us pray.**