

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BIBLE FOR ALL

(BFA)

SMALL GROUPS

BIBLE STUDY MATERIAL

Introduction

This series of studies on the book of Exodus focuses on the theme of **Knowing God**. God makes Himself known through the redemption of His chosen people Israel. The purpose of this study is to align ourselves to the vision of disciple-making in the five-year vision for ORPC. This series of studies will last till the end of June covering the first twenty chapters on the Book of Exodus.

Studies

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05 May 2019

Exodus 12:1-28

The Redemptive Act: Passover

CONTEXT

We come to the climactic finale of God's plagues against the Egyptians, in which the death of every firstborn in Egypt moves Pharaoh to release the Israelites from bondage. As God brings judgment against Egypt, He gives Moses instructions for the Passover sacrifice so that the plagues of death "passes over" the Israelite households. To commemorate this saving event, God instructs the Israelites to keep the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread annually.

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. This section starts off by rearranging Israel's calendar around their deliverance from Egypt (v1-2), what did God instruct Israel to do and what might be the significance of this change? What benefits would this have for future generations of Israelites?

2. Verses 3-13 contain a series of instructions for Israel to follow in preparing the Passover lamb. Why do you think God did not simply pass over the Israelite houses automatically? What do the instructions for preparing the Passover lamb reveal about the way God extends salvation to His people?

3. Verses 14-20 provide instructions for the annual Festival of Unleavened Bread. Why were the Israelites were not permitted to use leaven in their bread? How was the Passover meal to be eaten? What was the purpose of doing this?

4. The purpose of these celebrations is clearly directed at those who did not participate in the Exodus itself. What greater purpose does God have beyond simply delivering slaves from Egypt? Why was it important for Israel to remember the Exodus?

5. How would you summarize the main idea of this text? Why do you think the Holy Spirit gives us this text?

APPLICATION

6. What are some ways in which we in the church remember and re-enact our past? How can we ensure that our rituals serve a purpose for our future generations?

7. The most obvious point of application of the Passover is instituted by Christ himself and concerns the church as a whole: the regular celebration of the Lord's supper by Christians all over the world. Discuss what we are celebrating and remembering each time we partake of the Lord's supper.

8. What truths revealed in this text seem especially significant to you? How would you respond? How can the group pray for you in responding to what God is saying through the text?

12 May 2019

Exodus 12:33-51

God Speaks Through The Exodus

CONTEXT

The interweaving of the Exodus narrative and the regulations for the Passover meal and the Festival of the Unleavened Bread underscores how the rituals and the departure itself are closely bound. Here we see that that is total capitulation on Pharaoh's part as both Pharaoh and the people of Egypt urge the Israelites to leave at once, without a moment to lose.

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. How does this passage describe the haste in which the Israelites left Egypt? Despite the haste, how does the passage show that the Israelites left with dignity as God's people and not as a people fleeing for their lives? How many people were travelling from Egypt and who did these include?
2. It was emphasized that the people of Israel lived in Egypt for 430 years before the Exodus. Why do you think this was emphasized? What does it tell us about God?
3. What was God doing throughout the night? What are the people to do on the night when they observe the Passover for generations to come and why are they to do this?
4. What are the additional regulations concerning the Passover which are given here? What do these regulations tell us about the identity of those who are to eat the Passover meal? How can non-Israelites participate?
5. What is emphasized here about the way that the Passover meal is to be eaten and celebrated? Is Passover meal meant to be an individual, household, or community affair?
6. What are some similarities between the Passover sacrifice and Jesus' sacrifice? For clarification read John 19:36 (comparing Ex 12:46 and Psalm 34:20) and 1 Peter 1:18-19. How does Jesus ultimately fulfil the Passover?

7. How would you summarize the main idea of this text? Why do you think the Holy Spirit gave us this text?

APPLICATION

8. Circumcision for the Israelites was a physical sign of the covenant which marked them as one of God's people (v48) so that they could (and must) participate in the Passover meal as part of the community of Israel (v47). What marks you as one of God's people and how are you a part of the community of faith today?
9. What do you think God wants you to know through the text? How can the group pray for you in responding to what God is saying through the text?

19 May 2019

Exodus 13:1-16

Consecrate Ourselves

CONTEXT

After the reiteration and expansion of the Passover regulations in Ex 12:43-49, this passage reiterates and expands on the regulations concerning the Festival of Unleavened Bread (v3-10) and the future consecration of the firstborn (v11-16). However redundant such repetition may seem to us, these regulations form the heart of the Exodus story. This passage specifies that the new first month is the month of Aviv, corresponding to our late March and early April. Verse 5 confirms that these more detailed regulations for future generations, when God brings the Israelites into the land of the Canaanites. The Israelites would not enter the land for another 40 years, and when they do, only Joshua and Caleb are left from those who witnessed the Exodus.

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Who and what are to be consecrated to God? (v2) What does it mean to be consecrated to God?
2. How are the Israelites' livestock to be redeemed? (v13) What will happen to the firstborn lambs which are not redeemed? How are the Israelites' firstborn sons to be redeemed? (Ex12:1-7)
3. For the Israelites, what would sacrificing to God the first male offspring of certain animals and providing a sacrificial substitution for their firstborn sons and certain other animals remind them of? What does such a substitution point forward to?
4. How can we understand this ritual in light of the tenth plague? (Read Ex 4:21-23 together with Ex 12:29-30)
5. How would you summarize the main idea of this text? What is the Holy Spirit saying to us through this passage?

26 May 2019

Exodus 13:17-14:31

The Protective God

CONTEXT

Finally, the Israelites leave Egypt! This passage brings us to the end of Egyptian rule over Israel and to the climax which the first fourteen chapters have been leading us. This section resumes the narrative of the departure from Egypt after the liturgical “interlude” of Ex 12:1-13:16.

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Where did God lead the Israelites after they leave Egypt? What are the visible signs of God’s presence and leading described in this passage and how does God lead His people in ways that are not visible?
2. Why did God bring the Israelites on an indirect route through the desert toward the Red Sea that made it seem like the Israelites were wandering around in confusion?
3. Why did Pharaoh pursue the Israelites and what powerful forces did he amass to pursue the Israelites? What does the passage say about the Israelites’ attitude before and after they saw Pharaoh and his army approaching? (Ex 13:18, 14:8, 10-12)
4. Since God had known of the way the Israelites would react in response to war and battle (Ex 13:17), what is His purpose in bringing the Israelites to the Red Sea and bringing Pharaoh in pursuit? What does God want His people to learn? Consider Moses’ attitude and words in Ex 14:13-14 and Joseph’s confidence in God which we are reminded of in Ex 13:19.
5. What did the Israelites learn through the events described in this passage? What does it say about God’s character that He took into account the Israelites’ fears and delivered them despite their disbelief (Ex 14:11-12)?

6. What part did Moses play throughout this “battle”? How did the Israelites respond at the end of this narrative?

7. How would you summarize the main idea of this text? What does this passage tell you about God and about who He is?

APPLICATION

8. How can we understand the meaning of the Exodus for Christians today in light of our relationship to Christ? Consider passages like John 5:24, Luke 9:28-31 where the word translated “departure” is the Greek word *exodus*, Romans 6:6-14.

9. In what way have we passed through a sea of sorts, a spiritual Exodus, and how have we begun a new life with a new mode of existence in a new land? How are we to live in this land?

10. What do you think God wants you to know through the text? How can the group pray for you in responding to what God is saying through the text?

Daily Prayer Guide

Sunday: The Church

Church members & families
Visitors
Pastor & church leaders
Sunday School teachers
Worship leaders
Small group leaders
Other churches
Outreach efforts

Monday: The Workplace

Supervisor
Co-workers
Subordinates
Customers & suppliers
Difficult situations
Work attitude
Work performance

Tuesday: Acquaintances

Mentors & mentorees
Accountability partners
Friends
Neighbours
Merchants
Public servants
Teachers & other school Workers
Children's friends & their families

Wednesday: My Country

Public officials - executive, legislative,
& judicial
Armed forces
Public morality
The media
The economy

Thursday: The World

International peace & understanding
Missions and missionaries
Persecuted churches
Hunger, sickness, & disaster relief

Friday: My Spiritual Growth

Maturity
Understanding
Faith
Love toward God
Love toward others
Servanthood

Saturday: My Family

Spouse
Children
Grandchildren
Parents
Brothers & sisters
Extended family
Unsaved loved ones

*"Call to me and I will answer you and
tell you great and unsearchable things
you do not know."-Jeremiah 33:3*

Little Steps To Great Learning!

Preparation:

- Attempt all questions in the relevant Bible study before your group meeting.
- Expect spiritual growth by thoughtfully working on the Bible study questions (and the suggested reading, if any) throughout the week.
- Seek the Holy Spirit's insight and guidance by praying daily in reflection of what you have learned through the Bible study.

Group Time:

- On the following Sunday, take notes during sermon to assist in focusing your thoughts.
- Be punctual for your group meeting.
- Share the insight gained through the sermon with your group.
- Be frank in sharing your response to the questions in the discipleship pointers.
- Encourage others by attesting to God's goodness and reality by sharing to the group (and others) how the Word has changed your thinking and action in response to your study in the past week.
- Using the front sheet, summarise how the lessons have helped you to understand God's revelation in the Bible through Jesus Christ, and your response to the revelation.

THE BIBLE is to be...

Read through...

Reflected in...

Lived out...

Given away...