**Exiting Egypt, Looking Toward Jesus**

**Introduction**

The Exodus is the greatest display of God’s power and love in the OT. God brings his people out of slavery, defeats their enemy at the water, and begins to lead them into the promised land. A new yearly feast is established (Passover) followed by a weeklong celebration (Feast of Unleavened Bread) to remember the day of God’s deliverance.

**Brief Summary of Exodus 1-14**

* Israel has been enslaved for a number of years
* Their slavery was bitter (Ex 2:23-25)
* God raised up Moses and Aaron to deliver them from their bondage
* God sends nine (9) plagues, but Pharaoh refuses to let Israel go
* Finally with the 10th plague (the death of the first born) Israel is set free and the Passover is celebrated to remember the day that God released them from their horrible bondage
* Exodus 12-14 detail Israel leaving Egypt, instructions for the Passover, the dedication of the firstborn, and how Egypt is defeated at the Red Sea

As great as these events were, they are only a shadow pointing toward the salvation that we have in Christ. Let’s look at Exodus 12-14 and see how the events of the Exodus look forward to our own salvation.

**1. Blood**

The 10th and final plague God sent on the Egypt is the death of the first born. Starting with the 4th plague God made a separation between Israel and Egypt (Ex 8:22-23). Israel was to take an unblemished one year old lamb to celebrate Passover (Ex 12:5). Israel would be spared if they took some of the blood of the lamb they were preparing for Passover and put the blood on the door posts. Then God would save/protect them from the destroying angel (Ex 12:7, 22-23). Israel obeys and the angel passes over them. ***They are saved by the blood of the lamb.*** So are we!

* Jn 1:29: The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world
* 1 Cor 5:7: Jesus our Passover lamb
* 1 Pet 1:19: Redeemed by blood of unblemished lamb
* 1 Jn 1:7: Blood of Jesus that cleanses us from our sin
* Rev 1:5: Released us from sins by His blood

**2. Water**

But Israel’s salvation had not yet occurred, because Pharaoh wanted to bring Israel back as slaves again. He pursued them to the Red Sea with his best forces (Ex 14:7). When Israel saw their enemy pursuing them, they despaired and asked how they could be saved. They were instructed to stand still and see the salvation of God (Ex 14:13). Then God allowed Israel to pass through the sea on dry ground. When the Egyptians followed, they were crushed beneath the waves. ***Israel was saved when they were brought safely through water.*** Israel was saved by the blood of the lamb and water.

Israel’s path God made the sea seems to look forward to baptism!

* 1 Peter 3:21: Baptism now saves you
* Rev 7:14: Robes are washed in the blood of Jesus

**3. Blood and Water**

Israel’s salvation resulted from the blood of the Lamb and from going through the water. Jesus was killed during the Passover. He was pierced with a spear to ensure that he was dead. The result was that from his side flowed blood and water (Jn 19:34) indicating He was dead. When John sees this the first thing that comes to mind is that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Passover Lamb. ***God used blood and water to bring about salvation for Israel and establish a covenant with them. He uses the same elements to bring about a better covenant enacted on better promises.***

**4. Enemies defeated**

Pharaoh pursues Israel to re-enslave them. When Israel crosses the sea, the Egyptians charge in after them. The Egyptians realized that God was fighting for Israel (Ex 14:25). All the Egyptians were defeated (Ex 14:28). In giving Israel victory, he defeated their greatest enemy.

At baptism, not only is the Christian cleansed but the devil is defeated. John Chrysostom, an early church father living at the end of the fourth century (AD 347-407; he was archbishop of Constantinople from AD 398-403), reminds us that when one enters the baptistery one renounces Satan. Israel’s enemies were defeated by being drowned in water. So too, our enemy, Satan, is crushed under the waters of baptism.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Jesus is accused of casting out demons by the power of the devil. However, states he did not come to help but bind the devil and plunder his house (Mark 3:27). Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 Jn 3:7-8) by turning people from darkness to light. Jesus came to defeat our powerful enemy the devil (Rev. 12:7-9). In baptism, our Lord crushes our great enemy the devil.

But we need a reminder. Pharaoh does not part with the Israelites very easily. After all that has happened in Exodus 5-13, Pharaoh asks why did we let them go (Ex 14:5)? Despite all that was lost Pharaoh wanted to keep Israel as slaves.

Jesus has come to free us from sin (Jn 8:34-36). But our enemy is powerful, and he is a lion wanting to devour us (1 Pet 5:8). Satan is not going to come at us once and then leave us alone. ***He is coming for us hard!*** We are going to have to resist him on a regular basis (James 4:7). Satan knows his time is short and he is going to throw everything at us (Rev 12:12). Pharaoh’s example reminds us that our enemy is always going to come after us. Take courage God will fight for us.

**5. Remembrance**

Not only does this section of scripture point forward to God’s salvation for us, but I think it looks forward to the Lord’s Supper. On a basic level, this is obvious because it was during the Passover that Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper. But let’s take a deeper look.

God wanted Israel to remember what He had done for them, so they instituted the yearly feast of Passover (Ex 12:14-21; 23:15). The calendar was altered to remember this day (Ex 12:2). The 1st Month, 14th day was always Passover. It was to be a teaching opportunity for their children to inform them of the mighty acts of the Lord (Ex 12:26-27).

Worship is often grounded in memory. God wants us to remember what He has done for us because often memory motivates actions. Think of someone in your life who has shown you kindness and love. If they are in trouble, we want to come to their aid because we remember how good they were to us.

* Example: Rahab (Josh 2:12-13)

There is a bad side to this as well because we can remember those who have wronged us and act in ungodly ways.

* Example: Joseph’s brothers fear he will remember their evil actions (Gen 50:15)

My point simply that memory often motivates us to act!

* Passover was a yearly reminder (Ex 12:14-21; Lev 23:5)
* Sabbath was weekly reminder of salvation (Dt 5:12-15)
* God’s salvation was so great He wanted their mind to focus on it weekly!

So, too, God has established a remembrance of His great sacrifice on the cross.[[2]](#footnote-2) On the night of the Passover, he takes the symbols that were used to point to the salvation of God in that great feast and institutes the Lord’s Supper (Mt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:17-20; 1 Cor 11:23-26). The Passover required the eating of the lamb and the bread and wine symbolize the Lamb of God (Jn 1:29; 1 Cor 5:7).[[3]](#footnote-3) The Lord’s Supper is not a yearly observance, but a weekly one (Acts 20:7). It is a teaching opportunity for our children to tell them of the great acts of Jesus!

We must take care ***not to take lightly*** the bread from heaven (Lord’s Supper). ***This is a remembrance of salvation that motivates us to live for the Lord.***

**6. Reward**

When God delivered Israel from Egypt His goal was to lead them from affliction to prosperity. The Promised Land was a land flowing with milk and honey (Ex 3:8, 17). It was a land rich in natural resources (Dt 8:7-10). God had a beautiful future planned for them.

When Israel departed from Egypt, Moses led them, by God’s direction, into the wilderness.[[4]](#footnote-4) God provided bread and water for the nation while in the wilderness until they came to the land of Canaan, a land of rest (Josh 11:23). The rest and future that is offered by Jesus far outweighs what He offered to Israel.

* Moses was a great leader
* Jesus is a greater leader (Heb 3:1-6)
* Manna was a great blessing (Num 16)
* Jesus is the true bread and water from heaven (Jn 4:14; 6:35)
* Moses and Joshua pointed to earthly land of rest (Josh 11:23)
* Jesus provides a greater, eternal rest (Heb 4:7-11)

**7. Joyous Worship**

Israel thought they were going to die by the Red Sea (Ex 14:11). But when God saved them, they respond by worshiping. They are so overcome by what God did (Ex 14:30) that they engaged in joyous worship (Ex 15:1-21).

We too were dead in our trespasses and sins (Eph 2:1-3), but God has saved us (Eph 2:4-10). Does our worship look like Exodus 15?

* Are we overjoyed to be present?
* Are we overwhelmed with what God has done for us?
* It is a joy to worship to one who saved us from death?

**Conclusion**

The salvation Jesus offers is greater than the Exodus. Jesus has made a way through His blood and the waters of baptism. He has given us a feast to remember His sacrifice and rewards that await us. If there are any who need to be baptized and crush Satan today, then please do not delay giving your life to Jesus.

1. John Chrysostom, First Instructions to Catechumens, paragraphs 2-3; see also John Chrysostom, Sermon to the Neophytes, paragraph 4, page 171. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. John Chrysostom, Homily 82 on Matthew 26, paragraph 1 states that Jesus is playing off the Passover as he establishes the Lord’s Supper. Just as Moses established an everlasting memorial when God preserved the first born so Jesus when he died for the world commanded the Lord’s Supper to be done in remembrance of Him. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Cyril of Alexandia, Commentary on John 6, p. 138. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. John Chrysostom, Sermon to the Neophytes, paragraph 4, page 172. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)