

Moses – part 12

Israel celebrates their freedom from Egypt
by Victor Torres

The story of Moses shows us many things about God, but the one thing that stands out is how God controlled the Pharaoh of Egypt. After numerous, no doubt traumatic events, God finally caused the Pharaoh to give in and let go of the Israelites. The death of his firstborn son is just the cause that God used to break Pharaoh's stubbornness. God could have hardened his heart one more time and unleashed another plague, but that is not what He planned.

Exo 12:29 (CEV) At midnight the LORD killed the first-born son of every Egyptian family, from the son of the king to the son of every prisoner in jail. He also killed the first-born male of every animal that belonged to the Egyptians.

Exo 12:30 That night the king, his officials, and everyone else in Egypt got up and started crying bitterly. In every Egyptian home, someone was dead.

Exo 12:31 During the night the king sent for Moses and Aaron and told them, "Get your people out of my country and leave us alone! Go and worship the LORD, as you have asked.

Exo 12:32 Take your sheep, goats, and cattle, and get out. But ask your God to be kind to me."

Exo 12:33 The Egyptians did everything they could to get the Israelites to leave their country fast. They said, "Please hurry and leave. If you don't, we will all be dead."

God did this final blow at midnight. Midnight is the symbol of our darkest hours. It is the lowest point in our life if we are living as the old man. But what we don't realize at that time is that we will one day look back at this time and praise God for destroying the old man. We will one day realize that the death of the old man is a necessary step toward the birth of the new man.

Exo 12:34 (CEV) So the Israelites quickly made some bread dough and put it in pans. But they did not mix any yeast in the dough to make it rise. They wrapped cloth around the pans and carried them on their shoulders.

The Lord told the Israelites to celebrate a festival by eating bread without yeast, or unleavened bread. Yeast is a symbol of lies, and even a small lie will pollute our whole mind and will cause us to sin. Christ used the same symbol, yeast, when He warned His followers against the lies of the religious and non-religious leaders of this world.

Mat 16:6 (CEV) Jesus then warned them, "Watch out! Guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

Mat 16:7 The disciples talked this over and said to each other, "He must be saying this because we didn't bring along any bread."

Mat 16:8 Jesus knew what they were thinking and said: You surely don't have much faith! Why are you talking about not having any bread?

Mat 16:9 Don't you understand? Have you forgotten about the five thousand people and all those baskets of leftovers from just five loaves of bread?

Mat 16:10 And what about the four thousand people and all those baskets of leftovers from only seven loaves of bread?

Mat 16:11 Don't you know by now that I am not talking to you about bread? Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees!

Mat 16:12 Finally, the disciples understood that Jesus wasn't talking about the yeast used to make bread, **but about the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.**

If we are part of the body of Christ, we must be vigilant not to let these false teachings come into the body. It usually starts with one or a few members believing a lie and this little lie, if we are not careful, will spread to contaminate the whole body. Just like a pinch of yeast can make a big lump of dough to rise.

Exo 12:35 (CEV) The Israelites had already done what Moses had told them to do. They had gone to their Egyptian neighbors and asked for gold and silver and for clothes.

Exo 12:36 The LORD had made the Egyptians friendly toward the people of Israel, and they gave them whatever they asked for. In this way they carried away the wealth of the Egyptians when they left Egypt.

Do you realize how incredible this is? Here's the Egyptians, thoroughly devastated by God because of Israel, and now they are made friendly towards the very people favored by the God who destroyed their living and killed their firstborn. That's how powerful God is. We are clay, He is the Potter. He can whip us up into any shape He wants us to be.

Exo 12:37 (CEV) The Israelites walked from the city of Rameses to the city of Succoth. There were about six hundred thousand of them, not counting women and children.

Exo 12:38 Many other people went with them as well, and there were also a lot of sheep, goats, and cattle.

These many other people who went with Israel will be a bad influence to them as Israel go through their trials in the desert. These people are an example of being careful of whom we associate.

Exo 12:39 (CEV) They left Egypt in such a hurry that they did not have time to prepare any food except the bread dough made without yeast. So they baked it and made thin bread.

Exo 12:40 – 41 The LORD's people left Egypt exactly four hundred thirty years after they had arrived.

Exo 12:42 On that night the LORD kept watch for them, and on this same night each year Israel will always keep watch in honor of the LORD.

Exo 12:43 The LORD gave Moses and Aaron the following instructions for celebrating Passover: No one except Israelites may eat the Passover meal.

Exo 12:44 Your slaves may eat the meal if they have been circumcised,

Exo 12:45 but no foreigners who work for you are allowed to have any.

Eating is a symbol of discussing spiritual matters. This law given to Israel is a shadow or symbol of God's instruction to His people today not to discuss spiritual matters to those outside the body. There will be occasions when people ask us about our faith, and we need to answer them as best as we can. If they are interested in continuing to discuss our faith, we can continue to discuss with them. But if they don't agree with the teachings in the body, we must drop the discussion. The members of the body of Christ are not supposed to argue about spiritual matters. It is the holy spirit of God that drags a person to Him, and it is solely up to God when He wants to do that.

Exo 12:46 (CEV) The entire meal must be eaten inside, and no one may leave the house during the celebration. No bones of the Passover lamb may be broken.

Exo 12:47 And all Israelites must take part in the meal.

"All Israelites must take part in the meal" means we must strive to join studies. If we can't join the live studies, we should read or listen to the recorded teachings. If we don't, we will spiritually starve and will sooner or later be separated from the body.

Exo 12:48 (CEV) If anyone who isn't an Israelite wants to celebrate Passover with you, every man and boy in that family must first be circumcised. Then they may join in the meal, just like native Israelites. No uncircumcised man or boy may eat the Passover meal!

Exo 12:49 This law applies both to native Israelites and to those foreigners who live among you.

Exo 12:50 The Israelites obeyed everything the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron to tell them.

Exo 12:51 And on that same day the LORD brought Israel's families and tribes out of Egypt.

To be 'circumcised' is to have a new heart – a heart that wants to serve the Lord and not one's own self. Allowing foreigners to join the passover if they are circumcised is a shadow of God's plan to save those who are outside His church. Everyone will be given a new heart.

Exo 13:1 (CEV) The LORD said to Moses,

Exo 13:2 "Dedicate to me the first-born son of every family and the first-born males of your flocks and herds. These belong to me."

Exo 13:3 – 4 Moses said to the people: Remember this day in the month of Abib. It is the day when the LORD's mighty power rescued you from Egypt, where you were slaves. Do not eat anything made with yeast.

Exo 13:5 The LORD promised your ancestors that he would bring you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites, and Jebusites. It is a land rich with milk and honey. Each year during the month of Abib, celebrate these events in the following way:

For 430 years, the Israelites were in Egypt, and for many of those years they were enslaved by the Egyptians. During these years of slavery, many of them must have had some doubts whether the Lord will fulfill His promise to bring them to the promised land, but here they are finally leaving Egypt.

Exo 13:6 (CEV) For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast, and on the seventh day you are to celebrate a festival in honor of the LORD.

Exo 13:7 During those seven days, you must not eat anything made with yeast or even have yeast anywhere near your homes.

Exo 13:8 Then on the seventh day you must explain to your children that you do this because the LORD brought you out of Egypt.

Exo 13:9 This celebration will be like wearing a sign on your hand or on your forehead, because then you will pass on to others the teaching of the LORD, whose mighty power brought you out of Egypt.

Exo 13:10 Celebrate this festival each year at the same time.

Exo 13:11 The LORD will give you the land of the Canaanites, just as he promised you and your ancestors.

Exo 13:12 From then on, you must give him every first-born son from your families and every first-born male from your animals, because these belong to him.

Exo 13:13 You can save the life of a first-born donkey by sacrificing a lamb; if you don't, you must break the donkey's neck. You must save every first-born son.

Exo 13:14 **In the future your children will ask what this ceremony means. Explain it to them by saying, "The LORD used his mighty power to rescue us from slavery in Egypt.**

Exo 13:15 The king stubbornly refused to set us free, so the LORD killed the first-born male of every animal and the first-born son of every Egyptian family. This is why we sacrifice to the LORD every first-born male of every animal and save every first-born son."

Exo 13:16 This ceremony will serve the same purpose as a sign on your hand or on your forehead to tell how the LORD's mighty power rescued us from Egypt.

Even God's first chosen people were instructed to pass on the teachings of the Lord to their kids. Be grateful to your parents who bring you to these studies and