

December 3, 2017 - Ex. 12:29-51 - Passover Continued
Torah Reading: Exodus 12:29-51 - Passover Continued
Psalm 50
Haftarah: Isaiah 21:11-17 + 24:13-15
2 Kings 19:35 – 20:7

Exodus 12:29 - "And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle."

Rashi - Pharaoh, too, was a firstborn, but he remained [alive] of the firstborn. Concerning him, He [God] says: "But, for this [reason] I have allowed you to stand, in order to show you My strength" (Exodus 9:16) at the Red Sea. — [from Mechilta]

If there was no firstborn, the oldest household member was called the firstborn, as it is said: "I, too, shall make him [David] a firstborn" (**Ps. 89:28**) (Tanchuma Buber 19). [Rashi explains there: I shall make him great.] Another explanation: Some Egyptian women were unfaithful to their husbands and bore children from bachelors. Thus they would have many firstborn; sometimes one woman would have five, each one the firstborn of his father (Mechilta 13:33).

Exodus 12:33 - "And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We be all dead men."

"We be all dead men" - The firstborn were representative of all Egypt.

And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians.

"lent" = *sha'al* - asked, demanded

"They spoiled the Egyptians" - they "emptied out" Egypt.

Exodus 12:38 - "And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle."

Rashi - "a great mixed multitude": A mixture of nations of proselytes. — [from Zohar, vol. 2, p. 45b]

Christ Our Passover

1 Corinthians 5:7 - "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us."

Exodus 12:46 - "In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof."

Zechariah 12:10 - "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."

Psalms 34:20 - "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all. He keeps all his bones, Not one of them is broken."

John 19:31-37 - "The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced."

Exodus 12:48 - "And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof."

vs. 48 - "then let him come near and keep it" ... "he shall be as one that is born in the land"

This anticipates the gospel, where any who take shelter under the blood, and are circumcised (baptized - Colossians 2:11-12) are welcome to "come near."

On the other hand, no stranger, hired servant or uncircumcised could partake of the Passover. No one "hired" because grace is given as a gift and not because of our works.

Ephesians 2:13, 19 - "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. ... Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God."

The effect would have been to regard even your slaves and the strangers as family.