

THE PASSOVER (Exodus 11-13:16)

As God prepared for the tenth and final plague on Egypt, he invited his people to intentional and purposeful preparation... the Passover.

I think to fully appreciate this moment, we have to put it in context.

God could have worked this all out on his own, but **He invited the people to prepare expectantly** with Him for the final plague and their ultimate deliverance.

Plunder from the Egyptians

The removal of yeast from the home (sin)

A meal to be eaten in haste

The blood of a lamb on the doorframe

Bear Bryant, the legendary college football coach:

"It's not the will to win that matters, but the will to prepare to win that matters."

Everybody wants to win. This invitation to prepare to win, and the peoples' willingness to answer that invitation with action proved their readiness for deliverance

Made ready for the final plague, the people waited patiently, expectantly for God to move with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and He proved faithful.

At midnight, the LORD struck down all the firstborn of Egypt, even the livestock, but he passed over the homes of the Israelites marked by the blood of the lamb. With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, YHWH dealt the final blow and Pharaoh summoned Moses to let the people go.

As the Israelites left with the wealth of Egypt, the Lord commanded Moses to consecrate the firstborn, that is set apart and dedicate them. When from future generations the questions come, the answer is to be given: "With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt..."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How important is participation to you?

If you're not really invested in something, are you likely to care much about it?

When God had just one plague left to pour out on Egypt, he changed the game dramatically and invited his people to participate like never before.

Why do you think the Lord shared his plan with Moses before acting?

How was this preparing to win and win big?

Why do you think the Lord instructed Moses to have the people ask for silver and gold from their Egyptian neighbors?

How was this preparing to win and win big?

Why do you think the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart repeatedly after his stubborn refusal to listen to the LORD?

How was this preparing to win and win big?

Why do you think God commands His people to de-leaven their homes?

Why wouldn't God just use a Heaven-powered vacuum to instantly remove it all?

How was this preparing to win and win big?

In Exodus 12:28 we read that the Israelites did everything just as the Lord commanded. Wow.

Why do you think the people responded so amazingly?

What do worship and obedience have in common?

How is the Passover more than a great victory FOR God's people, and also a great victory IN God's people?

If the people can honor Him and obey Him, they might be ready to walk with Him.

How can we prepare today for eternal life with Him?

Pray for attentive and obedient hearts, so we can live forever in His presence.