

Summary Handout

Bondage, Passover, and Exodus

Lesson
13
Summary

Exodus 1; The children of Israel multiply—They are placed in bondage by Egyptians—Pharaoh seeks to destroy sons born to Hebrew women.

Exodus 2; Moses is born to Levite parents; raised by Pharaoh's daughter; in defense of an Israelite he slays an Egyptian; flees to Midian; and marries Zipporah—Israel in bondage cries to the Lord.

Exodus 3; The Lord appears to Moses at the burning bush—Moses called to deliver Israel from bondage—The Lord identifies himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and as the Great I AM—He promises to smite Egypt and bring his people out with great wealth.

Exodus 5; Moses and Aaron ask Pharaoh to free Israel—Pharaoh responds: Who is the Lord?—He places greater burdens upon the children of Israel.

Exodus 6; The Lord identifies himself as Jehovah—Genealogy of Reuben, Simeon, and Levi set forth.

Exodus 11; Departing Israel authorized to ask for jewels and gold from their neighbours—The Lord promises to slay the firstborn in every Egyptian home—He puts a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.

Exodus 12; The Lord institutes the Passover, and the feast of unleavened bread—Lambs slain are without blemish—Israel saved by their blood—Firstborn of all Egyptians slain—Israel thrust out of Egypt after 430 years—No bones of paschal lambs shall be broken.

Exodus 13; Firstborn of man and of beasts to be sanctified unto the Lord—Feast of unleavened bread to be kept in land of Canaan—Moses takes Joseph's bones out of Egypt—The Lord attends Israel in a pillar of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Exodus 14; Israel goes out of Egypt—They pass through the Red Sea on dry ground—The Lord overthrows the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

Supplemental Holy Land and Jewish insights:

Extermination Order—Deliverer: The account of baby Moses being saved during an extermination order by the Pharaoh parallels the account of the baby Jesus being saved during an extermination order by King Herod. Moses becomes a “type” of the deliverer. He was raised to deliver Israel from bondage. Jesus of Nazareth raised all people from the bondage of physical and spiritual death. He is the real deliverer.

Passover Starts as a Sabbath: The seven-day deliverance feast of Passover is called the “Seder.” Celebrated on the first full moon after the first day of spring, the first day is a “high day” and is treated as a Sabbath. That “high-day Sabbath” can be on any day of the week. The day before Passover is the preparation day when all leavened products are removed from the home. It is even the custom in Israel for the Chief Rabbi to “sell” all the grain and leavened products to an Arab so that Israelis don’t own anything that has or might “rise.” Passover is to remember “rising” quickly and being delivered from Egyptian slavery. It is a symbol of a future “rising” or deliverance that would be even greater than the first Passover.

Jesus Was Born on Passover: According to the biblical calendar, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized on April 6, 1830. It was Passover that year! “. . . being one thousand eight hundred and thirty years since the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the flesh . . .” (*Doctrine & Covenants 20:1*) The Deliverer was born at the season celebrating the deliverance of Israel from Egypt and celebrating an expectation of an even greater deliverance. The two deliverances are linked by a journey of time through two millennia.

Elijah Expected: “The Sabbath before Passover is known as Shabbat ha-Gadol . . . a special *haftarah*, (reading from the Prophets) taken from the Book of Malachi and referring to the day on which Elijah the Prophet will reappear as forerunner of the great day of the Lord, is read.” (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*) At the Passover meal, a

door is opened for Elijah, a seat is reserved for him and songs are sung in expectation of Elijah. During Passover, on April 3, 1836, while millions of Jews were going through the festive ritual of anticipating Elijah, he came to Joseph Smith the prophet in Kirtland, Ohio. "After this vision had closed, another great and glorious vision burst upon us; for Elijah the prophet, who was taken to heaven without tasting death, stood before us, and said . . . the keys of this dispensation are committed into your hands; and by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors." (*Doctrine & Covenants 110:13-16*)

Plague Parallels: The Passover story includes plagues brought on the Egyptians. The first plague parallels the first miracle of the Savior. His changing of water into new wine (better than the old) is opposite of the Egyptian's water turning to undrinkable "blood." The ten ancient plagues can be compared to modern plagues. **1. BLOOD** The river Nile, the main source of water for ancient Egypt, turned to blood. Its pollution was disastrous: the river stank, fish died, and the Egyptians searched desperately for fresh water. **2. FROGS** They covered the land, and found their way into the people's homes, clothing and food. **3. LICE** "As thick as the dust of the earth," they attacked both man and beast. **4. SWARMS OF FLIES** which "ruined all the land of Egypt." **5. PESTILENCE** The livestock of the Egyptians perished from virulent diseases. **6. BOILS** They afflicted men and animals causing much discomfort. **7. HAIL AND FIRE** of such intensity that they destroyed not only plant life, but also beasts and men. **8. LOCUSTS** so numerous that they "darkened the land," and ate every growing thing that had survived the hail. **9. DARKNESS** a pitch darkness that lasted for three days and nights. It was so thick that the lamps lit by the Egyptians could not penetrate it. **10. DEATH OF THE FIRSTBORN** the last and most terrible of the plagues. Every firstborn child of man and beast perished in one night at midnight." (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

Wine and Bread Followed by Bread and Wine: During the Passover meal, the master of the house will pour and bless wine (it should be "new Wine") three different times. He sips first, and then everyone else may sip. After each occurrence of wine there is a breaking and blessing of bread (unleavened) three different times. Again, each time the master blesses and eats a broken piece, then everyone else eats a piece. The remarkable exception is that at the beginning of the meal the middle of the three bread pieces is broken in two and a broken piece (largest of the two) is hidden for the children to find later in the Seder service. When it is found, that piece (fourth time bread is used) is blessed, broken, and the master eats the first part, then everyone follows his example. The fourth cup of wine is then poured full (more than the previous three "sips") and the master instructs everyone to "drink all of it."

Weekly Passover Reminder "Remembers" Israel's Deliverance, "Anticipates" Future Deliverance: In a religious Jewish home, a weekly reminder of the first Passover is done with a "Kiddush." The master of the house pours the wine with an appropriate blessing, sips first, followed by everyone else sipping. He breaks a piece of bread and after the appropriate blessing, eats the first piece with everyone following his example. The prayers include a promise of a future deliverance, greater than the first Passover. Weekly, Latter-day saints take a "sacrament" of bread, broken, blessed and the presiding Elder partakes first, then water (nowadays, water instead of wine) is blessed. Again the presiding authority partakes first and then everyone follows. This is done in "remembrance" of the greater deliverance provided by the Savior's atonement. It should be considered that symbolically, the Jews take wine and bread in anticipation of a greater deliverance while Christians take bread and wine in remembrance of that great deliverance . . . a chiasm - with the Savior's atonement in the middle.

Daniel Rona, born in Israel and living in Jerusalem has authored Old & New Testament, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Supplement Study Materials to be used in conjunction with the weekly LDS Gospel Doctrine Lesson study. NOTE: Three versions of the supplemental study materials are available *FREE* at www.HolyLandsRevealed.com. (Just click "LDS SUPPLEMENTS")

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