

Hebrews 11:28
“A trusted Sacrifice”

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I. Introduction

There are times like two weeks ago in Moses illustration where we see that we can deliberately choose wrongly and suffer the consequences of our actions. Such is the case before us with Pharaoh and the Egyptians. With that said, their wrong decision to this day has become the basis of the greatest celebration in Israel (Passover). ***It is the greatest for-runner to the work of Christ in all the Bible.*** What we have before us today is the source of praise songs to God, yet those praise songs include the wiping out of Egypt’s firstborn sons. According to 12:30 *“there was not a house where there was not one dead.”* The point of this illustration to the original readers is a warning that the failure to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior would lead to the same outcome as if the Israelites of Moses time if they had failed to participate in the first Passover. This morning we will go back to Exodus 11-12:13 and examine the story in greater detail to glean the truth that will transform our hearts and lives as well.

II.) Vs. 28a The Need

The writer starts with, *“By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood..”* To understand this, unlike the original readers, we will need to go back to Exodus to examine the reference. The first thing we notice in Exodus 11:1-11 is the so called ***“preamble”*** to the Passover. To understand the 11 chapter of Exodus we need to realize that Moses does not place this chapter in chronological order. Instead Exodus 11:1-3

happen right before Exodus 10:24-29 where Moses went in to Pharaoh to hear his final offer. Further more Moses' speech to Pharaoh, (11:4-8) happen in between Exodus 10:26-27. Then lastly Exodus 10:28-29 happen right after Exodus 11:8a where Moses explains that the Egyptians will say, "**get out!**" That's how the 11th chapter of Exodus unfolds chronologically. **With this picture we can see the responsibility that Pharaoh and the Egyptians had to their own destruction.**

1.) Through out the 9 plagues God had been revealing to Pharaoh and Egypt the futility of worshipping their gods. God said in chapter 12:12 that, "*against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am LORD.*" What Pharaoh, the Egyptians and the rest of the world is really worshipping is **Themselves!** **God was destroying the images of themselves that they set up to worship.** His jealousy is for us not against us as He in His mercy wants us to realize that these images of ourselves are not able to sustain or provide for us. **In the death of Egypt's firstborn sons, they would be forced to realize the fact that they are not in control, which is why they were still enslaving the Israelites. God was making a distinction that it was far better to be His child then to be fatherless. If instead of running from His judgment if they would have run to His mercy and grace they would have been granted life!**

2.) God gave Pharaoh and Egypt a choice, and they choose not to obey the Word. All of Egypt knew what God had said, they even thought of Moses as, "**great**". They could have done just as the Israelites had done and the angel of death would have passed over them as well. **In fact, some no doubt did as we are told in 12:38 that a "mixed multitude" went out with them.** God did not kill the first born sons of the Egyptians their own pride did!

God blessed obedience two ways:

- 1.) Vs. 1-3 **Grace: He gave them what they don't deserve.** First God had the Israelites women to go to the Egyptian women and ask for articles of silver and gold. This was a payment for a debt owed them but it was Gods grace which provided it. Moses reflects back upon what God had said in chapter 3:21 "**I will give you favor in the sight of the Egyptians and you shall not leave empty handed.**" Back wages for 400 years of forced slavery. God had promised Abraham in Gen. 15:14 that they would leave Egypt with "great possessions". God provided back all of what was owed His children. You can never out give God.
- 2.) Vs. 4-8 **Mercy: The Lord clearly warns Egypt what awaits them.** The death of the "**first born**" has three elements to it.
 - A. Vs. 5 It was **without discrimination.** All of the first born sons would be effected equally, from the highest to the lowest would be taken. The judgment was not based upon position or personal stature.

B. Vs. 6 That it was **unparalleled**: They could not look at this as some coincidence. The way this judgment fell upon those Egyptians they could not deny that it was super-natural as **ONLY those first born sons were effected.**

C. Vs. 7 It was **selective**: Only the Egyptians who did not take part in the Passover were judged. A dog did not even bark in the houses of the Israelites.

I list those things to say that Israel was just as sinful as was Pharaoh and Egypt; ***Israel was not getting what they deserved and it is based upon the obedience to the word of the Lord.*** This is true in our lives; we are no different then people in the world, we are sinners just like them. **The only difference lies in the fact that we have appropriated the free gift of the blood of Jesus, which was offered to everyone freely.**

III.) Vs. 28b The Sacrifice

The second part of the text and reference of the writer of Hebrews in 11:28b is, “*lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.*” So here we will need to turn to to Exodus 12:1-3 where we see several things that God wanted Moses to convey to the “*congregation of Israel*”. The first has to do with the **TIMING OF THE EVENT**: The Jewish nation had two separate calendars but both are according to a lunar calendar; today most of Israel only recognizes the civil calendar. This is why the Jewish Passover differs from year to year and is not always related to our Easter.

- a.) **The civil calendar, which starts in our September – October at the end of harvest season.** It is during this time that Jewish people celebrate their new New Year “*Rosh Hashanah*”. But this falls of the 7th month of their religious calendar.
- b.) The second one is sacred and and it is this one that we see the Lord instituting here. It would start in the month of Abid which was changed after the Babylonian captivity to Nisan which was a Babylonian name for the same time period.
What God is saying is saying is that as far as He was concerned they were having a spiritual “new birth”. He wanted them to realize that time was starting over for them as He was delivering them out of bondage. God choose Spring because it is in the Spring that “new life” is made visible. **God was telling them that as far as He was concerned the year starts at the time of their redemption. The same is true with us; we have a “new beginning” in Jesus and we are to continually see ourselves as new creatures in Christ.**

The second thing that God didn't want the people to forget was in Exodus 12:3 and that is that **redemption always involves a sacrifice. The concept of redemption, is FREEDOM**, and there must always be some form payment for our freedom. Every year we celebrated "*Memorial Day*" which is the day in which we remember those who have laid down their lives for our freedom. The price for human redemption is death and there were two kinds of death's represented here.

- 1.) **The death of the first born**: To reject the Lord is to pay the price. Which of course not accepted.
- 2.) **The second, is seen in the Passover lamb**: Both of these are fulfilled in Jesus who according to John 3:16 was Gods "first born" Son, who on the cross became the Passover lamb (1 Cor. 5:7). **There were four things that every family that participated in this Passover need to realize**:
 - A. vs.3 **It was personal**: There was a lamb for every house. God did not want some lamb that was outside of each family. He didn't want any of the families not to understand the price of their redemption.
 - B. Vs. 3, 6 **It was to be precious**: This lamb was to live with them for four days. They became fond of the lamb, it was part of the family and everyone in that house new that this little lamb was going to die for them. They saw that the lamb was innocent and had done nothing deserving death.
 - C. Vs. 4 **It was to be private or intimate**: The gathering for the Passover was centered around the family. If the family was to small, then they were to get with the family next door. God desired that the lamb would be closes enough to each person, so they would understand individually the cost being paid for their redemption. The lamb was according to each mans, need. And this reveals that we all have the need to be redeemed.
 - D. Vs. 5 **It was to perfect**: The word blemish means an "*acquired defect*". **It could not have gotten tangled up and damaged by the world in which it lived in, it had to have remained perfect.** No scars, but **Peter says that Jesus was without a spot and this means that Jesus was also without any inherited defects as well. Jesus didn't have any ACQUIRED defects from the world or any INHERITED defects from fallen humanity.**

There are two more things that I want you to see in Exodus 12:5-7:

- 1.) Vs. 5,6,7 First, notice that Moses did not say you shall keep "*them*" but you shall keep "*it*". The words "*it*" (**singular**) speaks of the lambs (**plural**). **Moses was speaking of sacrificing 1000's of lambs that night yet as this is written every one of those lambs points to only one Lamb, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.**
- 2.) Vs. 6 Second, all the assembly was involved in the deaths of the lamb: All of us are responsible for the death of Jesus as it was for all our sin that He dies. **The only difference lay in appropriating His blood. There was not one person who could claim that they were good enough to not have the Passover lamb be sacrificed for them.** The only ones that thought that they did not need to sacrifice the lamb were most of the Egyptians as they didn't choose a lamb to die so their sons did not have to.

Exodus 12:7 tells us that they were to take the blood and place it upon the doorposts of the home. **In so doing the blood would have formed the points of the cross. It was the life of the lamb that saved them from the judgment of death.** Moses would later write in Lev. 17:11 “without the shedding of blood there is no remission”. **It was not enough that they knew that the lamb had to be killed, they had to apply it or they were to be judged right along with the Egyptians. They couldn't just watch their neighbors apply the blood and & not do it, the act of what their neighbors did could not save them. It is the same with Jesus' sacrifice we must personally apply the blood of Jesus to the door posts of your heart!** Paul said in Gal. 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

In Exodus 12:8-10 we are told that they were not to boil the lamb it because not a bone was to be broken and to put it into a pot would mean that you would have to break its bones. The lamb was to be roasted in the fire which was to remind them of judgment of fire. Bitter herbs, was to remind them of the price of their redemption. Leaven or yeast speaks of sin and that they were to leave that old life style behind and no longer be slaves to sin. They were leaving Egypt and nothing was to be left behind in the former life.

Finally, in Exodus 12:11-13 we see that sacrifice is associated with moving or walking. If, Pharaoh and the Egyptians would have obeyed the command they too would have been saved. God said, “**When I see the blood, I will pass over you.**” **There was not a person saved that night who was sincerely doing their best, or because they were honest and good.** God said, “**I'm only looking for the blood!**” They were not to look

out the window if they did they would have died. This speaks to us of the truth that nothing could be taken away or added, it was simple trust in God's only provision.