

# Will you Redeem it?

1/17/2020

Message 3

Exodus 13:1–16 (CSB)

The LORD spoke to Moses: <sup>2</sup> "Consecrate every firstborn male to me, the firstborn from every womb among the Israelites, both man and domestic animal; it is mine."

<sup>3</sup> Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day when you came out of Egypt, out of the place of slavery, for the LORD brought you out of here by the strength of his hand. Nothing leavened may be eaten. <sup>4</sup> Today, in the month of Abib, you are going out. <sup>5</sup> When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hethites, Amorites, Hivites, and Jebusites, which he swore to your ancestors that he would give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you must carry out this ceremony in this month. <sup>6</sup> For seven days you must eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there is to be a festival to the LORD. <sup>7</sup> Unleavened bread is to be eaten for those seven days. Nothing leavened may be found among you, and no yeast may be found among you in all your territory. <sup>8</sup> On that day explain to your son, 'This is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.' <sup>9</sup> **Let it serve as a sign for you on your hand and as a reminder on your forehead,** so that the LORD's instruction may be in your mouth; for the LORD brought you out of Egypt with a strong hand. <sup>10</sup> Keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year.

<sup>11</sup> *"When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your ancestors, and gives it to you, <sup>12</sup> you are to present to the LORD every firstborn male of the womb. All firstborn offspring of the livestock you own that are males will be the LORD's. <sup>13</sup> You must redeem every firstborn of a donkey with a flock animal, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. However, you must redeem every firstborn among your sons.*

<sup>14</sup> "In the future, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'By the strength of his hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the place of slavery. <sup>15</sup> When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed every firstborn male in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of humans and the firstborn of livestock. That is why I sacrifice to the LORD all

the firstborn of the womb that are males, but I redeem all the firstborn of my sons.' <sup>16</sup> **So let it be a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead, for the LORD brought us out of Egypt by the strength of his hand."**

### Introduction: Deliverance has arrived.

- A. After a lifetime of slavery, freedom has come.
  1. God has miraculously taken the life of every firstborn male of Egypt.
  2. The destruction is so terrible and the suffering so complete, that Egypt gives gifts to Israel so that she would leave them.
  3. Therefore, all of Israel starts marching east, with all of their families, herds, and livestock.
- B. Israel's deliverance became the most important event in her story.
  1. The month they were delivered became the first month of their calendar.
  2. The Passover celebration and the Feast of Unleavened Bread became the story that was to be passed down from generation to generation.
  3. Deliverance from Egypt was their testimony.
- C. When we experience salvation, deliverance becomes our testimony.
  1. Before we met Jesus, it was all about us.
    - a. Our sin.
    - b. Our mistakes.
    - c. Our story.
  2. But when we give our lives to Jesus, that changes.
    - a. Who I use to be is overshadowed by who I have become.

b. Although my life may bear the scars of my slavery to sin, they only tell the story of what God has delivered me from.

D. Today's message revolves around redemption.

1. Definition: "To redeem someone or something is to reclaim or buy back the person, animal, land, or nation (e.g., Israel).

Generally, there is a price that must be paid..."<sup>1</sup>

2. The Nation Israel belonged to God.

a. When Egypt put Israel in slavery, Egypt laid claim to what belonged to God.

b. The Lord redeemed, bought back, Israel at the cost of the firstborns of Israel and Egypt.

3. Israel was only spared by the provision of the blood of a lamb.

1. God intended for the celebrations to be a "Sign on the hand and a symbol on the forehead".

A. The events of Egypt were so important that God demanded His people to remember them constantly.

1. What God did for them in Egypt was to be a critical part of their identity.

2. They were a Nation because of God's mighty power.

3. Their firstborns were spared because of God's provision.

4. They were led out by God's presence.

5. If it hadn't been for God, Israel would have died in Egypt.

B. And such a great salvation deserves to be remembered.

1. So God told them to make the Feast and Festival (the celebration) a sign on their hand and a symbol on the forehead.

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<sup>1</sup> Kenneth D. Litwak, "[Redemption](#)," ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

2. God was speaking metaphorically here.
    - a. In other words, God intended for Israel to remember what God had done often.
    - b. It should be ingrained in their thoughts (head) and actions (hand).
    - c. God's deliverance was to be a critical part of Israel's identity and actions.
  3. By Jesus' day, the Jewish people had taken this command to be a literal command.
    - a. Even today, Orthodox Jews have what they call Phylacteries and wear them during morning prayer. (Picture)
    - b. "Phylacteries are small leather boxes tied to the forehead and left arm. In these boxes are strips of parchment on which are written Ex. 13:1-16; Deut. 6:4-6 (the famous "Shema"); and 11:13-21."<sup>2</sup>
- C. Why is this important for us to understand?
1. As Americans, we are too future focused.
    - a. Although we live in the present, we live for the future.
    - b. For example, we are more focused on what is happening this week, or next month than we are on today.
    - c. We can't remember what we did yesterday, but have a full itinerary for tomorrow or next Thursday.
  2. American also have no concept of history.
    - a. The general population has little to no understanding on what has happened in history.
    - b. We do not look backward, because that feels like failure.

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<sup>2</sup> Peter Enns, [Exodus](#), The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000).

c. By looking into the past, we discover important truths regarding human behavior and God's actions within history.

3. God wanted His people to look back enough that the past became the present.

a. For the same God that redeemed Israel with a mighty hand in Egypt is the same God that could redeem them today.

b. The same God that saved and redeemed you years ago is the same God that can save your kids or neighbors.

c. The same God who healed you in the past is the same God who can heal you today or your family.

d. **If we don't remember what God has done, we won't know what God can do.**

D. So, what are some ways that you are remembering what God has done for you and your family?

1. Have you ever told your kids about your own salvation?

a. Can your kids sit their kids down and tell your story?

b. Are there altars and Bibles that serve as signposts of your faith and God's deliverance?

2. **Who will tell the story of God's deliverance and faithfulness when you are gone?**

a. Your kids and grandkids need to hear some of your story.

b. They need examples of when God's hand was upon your life.

1. The time God saved you in the car accident.

2. How God helped you through the miscarriages.

3. Your grandkids especially need to hear how God worked in your life, your marriage, or delivered you from an addiction.

## 2. The Story of Redemption involves saving the Unclean

A. If you've ever read the OT, you know that certain animals were considered unclean.

1. These were animals that were not to be eaten or sacrificed.
2. Common examples include pigs, lobster, camel, and rock badgers.
3. Exodus 13 makes a big deal about a particular animal: donkey.

*<sup>11</sup> "When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your ancestors, and gives it to you, <sup>12</sup> you are to present to the LORD every firstborn male of the womb. All firstborn offspring of the livestock you own that are males will be the LORD's. <sup>13</sup> You must redeem every firstborn of a donkey with a flock animal, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. However, you must redeem every firstborn among your sons.*

B. God, by decree, lays claim to every firstborn male.

1. You ever wonder about the story of Abraham and Isaac?
  - a. Even though Isaac was the son of the promise, he was Sarah's firstborn male and the first belongs to God.
  - b. Abraham understood this, so that is why he obeyed and started the process of sacrifice.
2. God repeatedly calls Israel His firstborn.
  - a. When you give the first to God, everything that comes after is blessed.
  - b. This is the Big Idea behind tithing (giving of the first 10%).

3. In Israel, when a clean animal had its firstborn male, it was to be given to the Lord as a sacrifice.
4. In the case of children, the male child was redeemed with a sacrifice and circumcised on the 8<sup>th</sup> day, just like Jesus was.

C. But God makes a special case for donkeys. Why?

1. Why would God make provision to redeem a donkey?
  - a. In the desert, donkeys were invaluable.
  - b. They could carry heavy burdens for long distances.
  - c. They are strong and hearty.
  - d. They are smarter than horses and require less maintenance.
  - e. Having a donkey would be a blessing to almost everyone.
2. But donkeys were not clean and could not be sacrificed.
  - a. Donkeys had purpose but they were not holy.
  - b. Donkeys had value but needed to be redeemed.
  - c. So God made a provision: **If you want to redeem the donkey, it will cost you the life of a lamb.**

D. The redemption of a donkey foreshadows what Jesus has done for us.

1. In this story, we are the donkey.
2. We are useful, we are of value, but we are unclean.
  - a. By ourselves, we are lost and broken.
  - b. We cannot redeem ourselves.
  - c. We are destined for death.
3. But Jesus is the Lamb of God that redeems the unclean.

3. We are Redeemed by a Perfect Lamb.

- A. Today, we are going to share in communion.

1. On that night 2,000 years ago, Jesus had gathered the disciples to celebrate the Passover.
2. On that night, they had gathered to remember God's miraculous salvation of Israel from Egypt.
3. On that night, they gave thanks to God for accepting the death of sheep and goats in place of the death of Israel's firstborns.
4. On that night, they remembered the cost of sin.

B. But Jesus adds a twist that night.

1. On this particular celebration, the Lamb is missing.
2. They share in bread, broken for them.
3. They share in the cup, the blood of the Covenant.
4. But there is no lamb to eat.

C. Because, what they did not yet know, was that Jesus was their Passover lamb.

1. There was no way that these men could save their own souls.
2. They were unclean.
3. Because they were unclean, they could not even offer themselves as a sacrifice to God.
4. But Jesus could!

D. Jesus was the Lamb that was sacrificed for the sins of the world.

1. There is a great attempt to remove the violence and the blood out of the story of salvation.
2. Just as the blood of lambs and goats caused the destroying Angel to Passover the houses of Israel, the blood of Jesus causes the punishment for sin to Passover us.

Hebrews 9:12 (CSB)

<sup>12</sup> he entered the most holy place once for all time, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

E. Jesus accomplished what we could not.

1. Jesus bought our redemption.
2. He paid the price of our sin.
3. This, we must never forget and we must tell others.

Closing: *Where is your focus?*

A. Israel was constantly reminded of what God had done.

1. A symbol and sign on their forehead and their hand.
2. Daily, the sacrifice of goats and lambs were heard in the area around the Tabernacle.
3. The truth of their sinfulness and the costliness of their redemption was constantly before them.

B. This morning, I ask you: How often do you think about what Jesus has done for you?

1. We are so distracted that we are forgetting about Jesus.
2. Our eyes are on everything except the Lamb.
3. **We are more concerned with the Mark of the Beast than we are the Blood of the Lamb.**

a. We will not overcome Satan with anything less than the Blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony.

b. Many of us believe that Satan is behind the evil in our world.

c. Then why are we so focused upon carnal weapons instead of spiritual weapons?

C. So today, I call upon all of us to remember what Jesus has done!

1. Let us think about the Blood that was shed for us.
2. Let us think upon the life that was gave for us.
3. Let us plead the Blood of Jesus over our lives, our families, and our nation.