

THE NIGHT NOBODY SLEPT

A Study of the Passover in Exodus 12 and 1; John 3:1-5, 16-18

#4 of 5 in the Exodus Segment of Moses – Mr. Nobody

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INTRODUCTION:

The 10th Plague the Passover: It was the night Nobody slept.

In Egypt, it was the night nobody slept. Pharaoh and the rest of Egypt were up ***“during the night and there was loud wailing in Egypt for there was not a house without someone dead” (Exodus 12:30).***

In Goshen, it was the night Nobody – Moses/Mr. Nobody that is - slept. ***Among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any man or animal (Exodus 11:7)*** to disturb the quiet peace of that night. Unfortunately, Nobody slept like a baby – he woke up every two hours. During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, ***“Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested” (Exodus 12:31).***

What led to this sudden change of heart. Well, it wasn't sudden. The last 3 weeks had been the longest 3 weeks that anybody in Egypt – including Pharaoh – had ever experienced. They had endured nine plagues, including bugs and blood, frogs and ferocious storms. Throughout all that time, Pharaoh had absolutely refused to obey the Lord's instruction to let the Israelites go. Finally, God threatened Pharaoh with the most devastating of the 10 plagues: The death of every first born in Egypt.

Pharaoh is given one last warning. It is recorded in Exodus 11:4:

So Moses said, “This is what the Lord says: ‘About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne to the firstborn son of the slave girl, who is at her hand mill . . . There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt – worse than there has ever been or ever will be again.

The Lord gave special instructions to the people of Israel as to how they could protect themselves from this awful plague. There are three major ingredients to the “Passover Protection Plan”. Each aspect of this protection teaches us a valuable Passover lesson.

THE PASSOVER PROTECTION PLAN:

The first defense for the Israelites involved a lamb. Chapter 12:22-23.

Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. When the Lord goes through the land

to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down” (Exodus 12:22-23).

1. The lamb teaches us . . .
... God saves the obedient (Exodus 12:21-23).

Sometimes people ask, “How can you say that a God who would do something like this Passover, be a loving God?” That is a good question. That is a question that so nagged journalist and author Lee Strobel that he went to theologian Norman Geisler for some answers. In his new book, “The Case For Faith”, Strobel describes their conversation, and what he learned.

The lesson that is revealed in the Passover is that God will save anyone who obeys. For the Israelites, if they obeyed the Passover Protection Plan, they were saved...

13x’s the Lord commanded Pharaoh: “Let my people go” (Ex 7:16, 8:1, 20, 28, 32; 9:1, 13, 35; 10:3, 20, 27; 11:1, 10). If he had of obeyed just one time, he and all Egypt with him would have been saved. God always saves anyone who obeys.

It is not much different than you going to the doctor when you are sick. He prescribes the medicine that will save you from your sickness. You have a choice as to whether or not you are going to trust that Doctor’s prescription, bother to go to the drugstore and pay for the pills, then carefully follow the instructions of the pharmacist as to how many and how often, then follow through. Those are all your choices. If you choose to not follow the doctor’s advice then it would be totally irrational for you to say . . . “Well, that doctor is not loving.” If you did, then you should probably be taken to see another kind of doctor. The type the wears the white coat and has a couch in his office. Yet, that is exactly what people say about God.

Pharaoh ignored the doctor. Ultimately, just as when you ignore the doctor, you’ll pay serious - even life-threatening - consequences, so also, Pharaoh paid. God’s desire was to save him and the Egyptians. Pharaoh in his pride refused to be saved.

The second major ingredient in the protection plan involved unleavened bread. Chapter 12 deals with it for 9 verses and it takes up another 8 verses in Chapter 13. Why was unleavened bread such an important part of the Passover?

2. The unleavened bread teaches us . . .
... things can change very quickly (Exodus 12:11, 39-41).

You see, when the people were freed and were leaving Egypt, they gathered up some bread dough for the trip so they would have something to eat out there in the wilderness. The Scripture says: ^{Exodus 12:39b} ***The dough was without yeast because they . . . did not have time to prepare food for themselves.***

This is the big lesson that the unleavened bread teaches us. When God is on the scene, things can change VERY quickly. Suddenly there was this great break through. They'd been waiting and waiting. They were hurting. They were being whipped and beaten and worked to death. It was an absolutely agonizing, terrible, situation that had no hope whatsoever. The 9 plagues had been tried. Nothing. Pharaoh's heart had become permanently hard, so what hope was there of ever being free. Just when they must have been ready to give up; in the middle of the night Pharaoh puts the call in for Moses and Aaron, he and all: ^{12:33} ***The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!"*** ³⁴ ***So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing.***

Some of you are in difficult situations right now. Some people are in homes that are intolerable. Some of you are in financial, health, career, family, marriage trouble. Some of you are facing incredible odds and it seems there is absolutely no hope. Remember, the lesson of the unleavened bread. The Israelites had been in captivity for 430 years. It was to the very day of the 430th anniversary (Exodus 12:41) that suddenly God changed everything. Have you been in that situation for 430 years. Than don't give up . . . God could break through before this service is done today!

The third major aspect of the Passover deliverance involved the consecration of the first born son. It was the first born son that God saved through the Passover. So in honor of God's deliverance they were to consecrate the first born.

3. The consecration of the son teaches us . . .
... nothing is impossible for God's mighty hand (Exodus 13:3, 9, 14, 16).

Exodus 13:14 ***In days to come, when your son asks you, "What does this mean?" say to him, "With a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery (Exodus 13:14).***

Little Bobby was spending the weekend with his grandmother after a particularly trying week in kindergarten. His grandmother decided to take him to the park on Saturday morning. It had been snowing all night and everything was beautiful.

His grandmother remarked... "doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God painted this just for you?"

Bobby said, "Yes, God did it and he did it left handed."

"What makes you say God did this with his left hand?"

"Well," said Bobby, "we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand!"

No one is sitting on God's hands....God is not sitting on his hands. In fact Jer 32:17 says: "Ah, Sovereign Lord you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."

The consecration of the first born reminds us that God has a mighty hand. That mighty hand got right into the throne room of Pharaoh's palace. It got right down into the dungeon that was all locked up. That hand today can get into places that we thought were all sealed up. His hand can lower down upon somebody's life that we thought was out of reach!

It is never all over with God. Nothing is impossible for him who believes.

APPLYING THE PASSOVER PROTECTION PLAN TODAY:

We are not Jewish – we don't celebrate the Passover...yes you do. Every time you take communion you celebrate the Passover. Jesus in his death and resurrection perfectly fulfilled the Passover Protection Plan.

Jesus perfectly fulfills the Passover:

1. Jesus is the Lamb of God (John 1:29, Revelation 5:6).

The first thing that came to John the Baptist's lips when he saw Jesus was "Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us ...

You are saved by the grace of Jesus

Have you accepted the prescription?? On the Passover night, there was nothing the people could do to save themselves except apply the blood of the lamb. They were covered by the blood of the lamb. There is nothing any one of us can do to save our lives from sin. There is nothing we can do to free ourselves from "Egyptian bondage" – from lusts, selfishness, anger, habit.... accept follow the instructions and, by faith, receive the blood of Jesus the Lamb, shed to save you from sin. ***The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin (1 John 1:7).***

2. Jesus is the Bread of God (John 6:33-35).

Remember, the unleavened bread tells us that...

God can change things very quickly (Acts 2:1-4)

God can do that miracle today; right now. You can receive his grace of forgiveness today; right now. You can be cleansed from all unrighteousness today; right now. You can be completely filled with His Holy Spirit today; right now.

The situation that seems hopeless can change and start turning around today; right now. Remember the lesson of the unleavened bread. Jesus is the Bread of God so things can happen quickly.

3. Jesus is the Son of God (John 3:16-18).

The penalty to the Egyptians for their disobedience was the death of the first born son. ***The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23) but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).***

Jesus, as the Son, paid the price of death for our sin. He shed his blood on the cross, the blood of the lamb, which ***purifies us from all sin (1 John 1:7).***

Just as the Israelites had to apply the provision to their own homes; we have to apply the blood to our own lives to receive the gift of cleansing, forgiveness and his wonderful presence in our lives. This forgiveness and the power of His presence splits your future wide open.

This is not just something that was for 3300 years ago. Jesus is risen from the dead today. His Spirit is at work in your world today.

You can do all things through Him (Philippians 4:13)

I can do everything through Him who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13). If he is the one who saves you, who purifies you, who protects you . . . he is going to give you the strength to accomplish what you would never have been able to do. ***He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things (Romans 8:32)?***

Jesus is the answer today.

LET'S CELEBRATE THE LORD'S PERFECT FULFILMENT OF THE PASSOVER SUPPER --- COMMUNION!