

Bible Study #33
Community Lutheran Church
10/21/2020

1. Exodus 12 continued...
 - a. Time to go...
 - i. 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. Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me." The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!" So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians. 12:31-36
 1. Here is the kernel of the original story... things happened so fast that the Israelites had to take their bread while it was still rising.
 2. Pharaoh gave permission to go worship... don't miss that.
 - b. The Israelites go...
 - i. The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Succoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. Many other people went up with them, as well as large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds. With the dough they had brought from Egypt, they baked cakes of unleavened bread. The dough was without yeast because they had been driven out of Egypt and did not have time to prepare food for themselves. 12:37-39
 1. They are on the move
 2. Those two areas were 8 miles apart meaning they haven't gone far.
 - c. An accounting of the exile...
 - i. Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord's divisions left Egypt. Because the Lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the Lord for the generations to come. 12:40-42
 1. A long time...
 2. Keep Vigil to honor the Lord
 - d. More Passover Restrictions... 12:43-50
 - i. No Gentile (non-Jew) may participate.
 - ii. Gentile Slaves can only after circumcision (conversion)
 - iii. Eat outside
 - iv. Don't break the bones of the lamb

- v. Gotta be circumcised if you're going to eat the Passover
- vi. Israel obeyed.

2. Exodus 13

- a. A special instruction located outside of the Passover Covenant
 - i. The Lord said to Moses, "Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether man or animal." 13:1-2
 - 1. This is a counterpoint to all the first born males of Egypt dying. Egypt was cursed (because of Pharaoh's attitude) and Israel is blessed.
 - 2. However, everything in the Old Testament that references first born males (mostly ceremonial law) is a direct reference to this moment and the Passover. As if to subtly say, "Don't forget that God rescued you."
- b. Here is the explanation of this directive...
 - i. Then Moses said to the people, "Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast. Today, in the month of Abib, you are leaving. When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites—the land he swore to your forefathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey—you are to observe this ceremony in this month: For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the Lord. Eat unleavened bread during those seven days; nothing with yeast in it is to be seen among you, nor shall any yeast be seen anywhere within your borders. On that day tell your son, 'I do this because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.' This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that the law of the Lord is to be on your lips. For the Lord brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand. You must keep this ordinance at the appointed time year after year. "After the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your forefathers, you are to give over to the Lord the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the Lord. Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons. "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. When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed every firstborn in Egypt, both man and animal. This is why I sacrifice to the Lord the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.' And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the Lord brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand." 13:3-15

1. This is a reminder of the Passover and the importance of the first males.
- c. God leads them towards the "Red Sea" for a reason...
 - i. When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt armed for battle. 13:17-18
 1. God knows the Israelites all too well... the same applies to us. God knows us too. Sometimes we are put in situations because God knows how we would react.
 2. They take the longer route. (They have no idea how long the journey is actually going to take.)
- d. They didn't forget Joseph!!!
 - i. Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear an oath. He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place." 13:19
 1. They are going to leave no trace of themselves behind.
 2. They also fulfill their promise to Joseph. This was not his home either.
- e. They move from Succoth to Etham...
 - i. After leaving Succoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people. 13:20-22
 1. While the exact location is not known... it is out in the middle of nowhere.
 2. God's presence will guide them by day and night. Even though we can't see a pillar of cloud or fire, God is with us too.

3. Exodus 14

- a. God says turn around... for a reason...
 - i. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.' And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord." So the Israelites did this. 14:1-4
 1. God always knows what to do.
 2. It's a trap Pharaoh! Well, he never learns, does he?
- b. Pharaoh of course changes his mind. (Nothing new here)

I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.” 14:16-18

1. The plan for the final battle for Egypt begins.
 2. It also shows the people of Israel who is really in charge.
- g. A hedge of protection is set up. That hedge is God...
- i. Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long. 14:19-20
 1. An angel and God stood between Egypt and Israel
 2. Darkness to Egypt and light to Israel
- h. Then Moses did this (actually God through Moses)...
- i. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. 14:21-22
 1. It’s the wind doing the work!
 2. Then the Israelites walk across
- i. Egypt follows...
- i. The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. 14:23-24
 1. Out into a vulnerable situation
 2. Confusion if not fear ensues.
- j. Things aren’t working out for the Egyptian army...
- i. He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.” 14:25
 1. Did you know archeologists have found Egyptian chariot wheels in the red sea? Just google search it.
- k. The end is nigh...
- i. Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.” Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. 14: 26-27
- l. Israel is saved...
- i. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. But the Israelites went through the sea on dry

ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the great power the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant. 14: 28-31

1. God saves.
2. The people of Israel trust God... for now.