

Exodus 11-32

Question: How would you describe the Christian God to someone?

Tenth Plague, Passover, and Consecration of First Born

Tenth Plague

Read 11:1-10

- 11:1 God announces that he will bring one more plague to kill the first born of all of Egypt, and Israel will be set free
 - o 11:5 *and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle.*
- God tells Moses to collect gold and silver from the Egyptians
- Pharaoh's heart has been hardened, and God has hardened it further

Passover

Read 12:1-51

- God gives instructions of what they must do when the tenth plague comes
 - o Take a lamb for the household that is without blemish, a year old (share it with neighbours)
 - o Put the blood on the doorposts
 - o Eat the lamb in a hurry, belt fastened, wearing sandals, staff in hand, with unleavened bread, bitter herbs, and leave nothing for the next day
 - o This month becomes the first month in their calendar
 - o This day will be celebrated each year in remembrance for seven days with eating of unleavened bread
- Tenth plague comes, firstborn of Egypt dies, and Pharaoh tells Israel to go

- Lived in Egypt for 430 years, and leaving with about six hundred thousand men (Mixed multitude, not including women and children)
- Some rules are instituted by God for the Passover, mainly that no foreigner or uncircumcised person can eat the Passover

Question

How does the Passover point to Christ?

- o Symbolic exchange – exchange of children
- o Israelites apply blood of lamb in faith
- o Blood of the lamb passes them over in judgement
- o Jesus is our Passover lamb (1 Cor 5:7)
- o Jesus died at Passover, and Last Supper was Passover meal (Luke 22:7-8)
- o Jesus' blood passes us over in judgement

Consecration of the First Born

Read 13:1-22

- God declares: *The Lord said to Moses, "Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine."*
- Moses tells the people that the Feast of Unleavened Bread is to remind them of the Lord's deliverance. This is to be observed every year
 - o They will be brought into the land of Canaan and it will be given to them as God promised their forefathers
- Israel is directed to the Red Sea, because they may want to go back to Egypt
 - o God leads them by a pillar of cloud by day, and fire by night

Question

What is the significance of the Covenant with the Patriarchs, and how does this impact God's dealings with Israel?

Does the Passover festival have relevance for Christians today?

Complain, Complain, Complain

13:17-18:27

- Israel camps at the Red Sea
- Pharaoh's heart is hardened, and pursues after the Israelites
 - o Israel complains and is frightened
- The Lord parts the sea, the Israelites cross, but the Egyptians are drowned
- At Marah, the water was bitter
 - o Israel grumbles
- God instructs Moses to cast a log into the water to make it sweet, and the Lord promises health
- Israelites come to the Wilderness of Sin
 - o Israel grumbles and complain
- God sends quail and manna from heaven with rules for eating
 - o Israelites disobeys
- Double portion falls on the day before Sabbath for Israelites to rest
- Some of the Manna is saved as a reminder of God's provision
- At Rephidim, the Israelites complain about having no water, Moses strikes a rock and water comes out
- Battle with Amalek, and win with the arm raising of Moses
 - o God promises to blot out the name of Amalek

The Commands

Ten Commandments

Read 19:1- 20:21

- Israelites camp at Mount Sinai, and Moses meets God on the Mount
- Israel to be God's Priests and holy nation
 - o *Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests*

and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." ~20:5-6

- God, in three days, will be descend on the mountain, and made it holy
 - o Israelites are to purify themselves
- When God comes, Moses and Aaron go up the Mountain
 - o Everyone else must stay on ground

Book of the Covenant

20:22-24:18

- This complex body of laws is known as the Book of the Covenant
- Can be separated into Moral, Ceremonial, Civil/Judicial (these distinctions are not made in Scripture)

Moral Law

Examples: Ten Commandments, penalties for failure to obey the laws

Purpose:

- to promote welfare of those who obey
- To illuminate the fallen state of mankind

Ceremonial Law

Examples: animal sacrifices, rejection of foods such as pork and rabbit, adhering to feasts

Purpose:

- Instructions of receiving a right standing before God (animal sacrifices)
- Remembrances of God's work in Israel (adherence to feasts)
- Regulations to distinguish them from the other nations (food restrictions)
- Practices that point to the coming Messiah (Resting on the Sabbath)

Judicial/Civil Law

Examples: Restitution, responsibilities of the wrong doer to the one who was wronged

Purpose:

- Morally cultural laws except the Ten Commandments
- To resolve conflicts within Israelite society

Question

How are the Israelites doing as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation?

Do the Christians today need to follow the Ten Commandments, and the other commands?

Ark of the Covenant, Tabernacle, Priests

25:1- 31:18

- Instructions given to the building of the Ark of the Covenant, and the building of the Tabernacle
- Aaron and sons are to be consecrated as priests
 - o Description of the priest's garments
 - o Description of how they were to be anointed
 - o Description of different offers that the priests are responsible for
 - Blood atonement once a year
- God chooses artisans for the tabernacle
- God explains the Sabbath
- All that was said on Mount Sinai is written on two tablets

Question

What do all these laws and instructions tell us about worshipping God?

Idol Worship

Read 32:1-32:35

- Aaron leads Israel to create a Golden Calf to worship it
- God is displeased

- o 32:7-10: 7 And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" 9 And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. 10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you."

- Moses pleads for Israel, reminds God of the covenant with the Patriarchs
- Moses smashes the stone tablets
- Moses grinds the golden calf to a powder, scatters it in the water, and makes Israelites drink it
- Three thousand people are killed for their idolatry
- Names are blotted out, God forgives, still punishment through bringing of plagues

Question

What do the actions of God in these chapters tell us about Him and His character?

In what ways are the people of the Old Testament the same as the New Testament, and in what ways are they different?

Conclusion

- Jesus is foreshadowed everywhere
- The Passover is a reminder to Christians of how God saves
- God has a serious love for his covenant people
- God is particular of how he is to be worshipped
- People have a serious love with their sinful nature