

REMEMBER THIS DAY

EXODUS 13:3

We read in Exodus 13:3, “And Moses said unto the people, **Remember this day**, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.”

When Moses said to the Israelites, “*Remember this day*,” he was referring to the tenth and worst of the plagues against the Egyptians. It was the killing of every first-born male in Egypt. The Israelites were instructed to mark the doorposts of their homes with the blood of a lamb and, upon seeing this, the Lord *passed over* these homes, hence the term "passover".

Passover commemorates the story of the Exodus, in which the ancient Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. God helped the Children of Israel escape slavery in Egypt by inflicting ten plagues upon the Egyptians before Pharaoh would release his Israelite slaves.

When Pharaoh freed the Israelites, it is said that they left in such a hurry that they could not wait for bread to rise. In commemoration, for the duration of Passover no leavened bread is eaten, for which reason it is called "The Festival of the Unleavened Bread".

Passover was the day God gave the people of Israel a national existence and introduced them into the privileges of independence and freedom. It deserved to live in the memories of the Hebrews and their posterity; and, considering the gracious intervention of God displayed in it, to be held not only in perpetual, but devout remembrance.

Nearly 1500 years after the first Passover, the night before our Lord Jesus Christ was to endure his suffering for His people, he assembled himself with his beloved apostles to share in the last Passover. This gathering possessed great solemnity, and was filled with great symbolic significance for those who later would follow Him in faith.

Our Lord knew that this would be his last opportunity to teach his Apostles before the Cross. Therefore the events of that evening are very important. This particular evening our Lord established what we call **The Lord's Supper**.

These events were the actual fulfillment of a type set forth in God's scheme for our redemption. Being in the mind of God, these events were not random or mere happenstance, rather the purposeful fulfillment of God's design and plan. These events were prefigured by the Passover established by God for Israel. The Passover was a part of the Old Testament Law. It fulfilled a purpose for those who lived under the Old Testament, and it prefigured or shadowed the Lord's Supper. We learn about the concept of shadows from Paul's words in *Heb. 10: 1* "*For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things.*"

From this text we learn that those divine services under the Old Testament were shadowy images of divine services that would be established under the New Covenant. As such, they possess the stamp of Divine approval. God established them as shadowy images of what He had in mind for the coming age. God had a plan, a design, a purpose for Passover. Passover would be fulfilled in Christ.

We read in Hebrews 8:5, "Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, see, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount."

When Moses exhorted the people of Israel to, "**remember this day,**" he was having them remember all that God did in the Passover. Christ used similar language at the Last Supper when he said to his disciples, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: **this do in remembrance of me.**" Jesus Christ exhorts His people to remember all that He accomplished for them on the Cross for their sins.

Therefore, the title of my message is *Remembering this Day.* Moses commanded it, and Christ commanded it. What are we to remember regarding this day? We read in Exodus 13:3, "**Remember this day,** in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten."

1. We must remember our salvation from the bondage of sin.

We read, “Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage...”

The people of Israel must never forget that they had been servants to the Egyptians, by whom they had been made to serve with rigor, and their lives made bitter with hard bondage; that country had been like a prison house for them, where they had been detained captives, and treated in a very cruel manner. Pharaoh reigned over them with an iron fist.

The Scripture teaches that sinners are in bondage to sin and Satan.

We read in Romans 5:14, “Nevertheless **death reigned** from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.”

Albert Barnes writes, The expression "death reigned" is one that is very striking. It is a representation of death as a monarch; having, dominion over all that period, and over all those generations. Under his dark and withering reign men sank down to the grave. We have a similar expression when we represent death as "the king of terrors." It is a striking and affecting personification, for

(1.) his reign is absolute. He strikes down whom he pleases, and when he pleases.

(2.) There is no escape. All must bow to his sceptre, and be humbled beneath his hand.

(3.) It is universal. Old and young alike are the subjects of his gloomy empire.

(4.) It would be an eternal reign if it were not for the gospel. It would shed unmitigated woes upon the earth; and the silent tread of this terrific king would produce only desolation and tears for ever.

From Adam to Moses. From the time when God gave one revealed law to Adam, to the time when another revealed law was given to Moses. This was a period of 2500 years; no inconsiderable portion of the history of the world.

Whether men were regarded and treated as sinners then, was a very material inquiry in the argument of the apostle Paul. The fact that they died is alleged by him as full proof that they were sinners; and that sin had therefore scattered extensive and appalling woes among men.

Even over them. Over all those generations. The point or emphasis of the remark here is, that it reigned over those that had sinned under a different economy from that of Adam. This was that which rendered it so remarkable; and which showed that the withering curse of sin had been felt in all dispensations, and in all times.

Furthermore, we read in Romans 6:6, “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”

We should not serve sin. We should not be the slave of sin. We should not be subject to its control. The sense is, that before salvation we were slaves of sin, but that now we are made free from this bondage, because of Christ.

The truth is sinners are dominated by Satan. Satan as the prince of this world never lets go of what he considers his own unless he is overpowered by a stronger power, i.e. Christ. When God redeems a person, he redeems the entire person which then is liberated to serve God.

Are you free from the rule and bondage of sin? Does Satan rule over you? Satan is an evil tyrant. He is a criminal. But Christ came to destroy the works of the devil and free men from their sins.

The first thing we must remember is our salvation from the bondage of sin.

2. We must remember the power of the blood in our salvation.

We read, ...for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place...”

It was not by their own might and strength that they were redeemed from their state of bondage, but by the mighty hand of the Lord who wrought such signs and wonders before Pharaoh and his servants, and inflicted such plagues upon them, which none but an omnipotent hand could do, which obliged Pharaoh at last to let them go.

John Gill writes, “And if the Israelites were under obligation, on account of this redemption, to remember the day when it was in this wonderful manner wrought out, much, more reason have we to remember the redemption by Christ the mighty Redeemer, whose own arm wrought salvation for us, and delivered us out of the hands of our spiritual enemies, that were stronger than we, by frequently attending the ordinance of the Lord's supper, which is instituted to bring this amazing affair to our remembrance, and which is to be continued for that purpose unto the second coming of Christ.”

How were the Israelites delivered on the day of Passover? The Lord passed over the Israelites in Egypt because the blood of the lamb was applied to their door posts.

Alfred Edersheim writes, “In the original institution the blood of the sacrifice was to be sprinkled with hyssop on the lintel and the two doorposts of the house, probably as being the most prominent place of entrance. Then the whole animal, without breaking a bone of it, was to be roasted, and eaten by each family with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, to symbolize the bitterness of their bondage and the haste of their deliverance, and also to point forward to the manner in which the true Israel were in all time to have fellowship in the Paschal Lamb (1 Cor 5:7,8). All who were circumcised were to partake of this meal, and that arrayed as for a journey; and whatsoever was not consumed was to be burnt on the spot.”

We read in Revelation 5:6, “And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, **stood a Lamb as it had been slain**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Adam Clarke writes, “This is very remarkable; so important is the sacrificial offering of Christ in the sight of God that he is still represented as being in the very act of pouring out his blood for the offences of man. This gives great advantage to faith: when any soul comes to the throne of grace, he finds a sacrifice there provided for him to offer to God. Thus all succeeding generations find they have the continual sacrifice ready, and the newly-shed blood to offer.”

If you are here today without a covering for your sins, then the sacrifice of the Lamb of God is ready for you to offer to God. The blood of Christ is able to save you from all your sins. Go to Christ and He will forgive you. There is power in the blood! Is the blood of Christ applied to your heart. Without being washed in the blood you can't be forgiven of your sins.

The second thing to remember is we must remember the power of the blood in our salvation.

3. We must remember the prohibition against sin.

“...there shall no leavened bread be eaten.”

A commentator observes, “The word here properly signifies unleavened *cakes*. It is supposed that *leaven* was forbidden on this and other occasions, that the bread being less agreeable to the taste, it might be symbolical of their bondage and *bitter* servitude, as this seems to have been one design of the *bitter* herbs which were commanded to be used on this occasion; but this certainly was not the sole design of the prohibition: *leaven* itself is a species of *corruption*, being produced by *fermentation*, which in such cases tends to *putrefaction*.”

In this very light the Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, “Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

It just takes a small quantity of leaven to leaven the whole lump. Leaven or yeast will pervade the entire mass of flour, or dough, and diffuse itself through it all. This is evidently a proverbial saying. By leaven the Hebrews metaphorically understood whatever had the power of corrupting, whether doctrine, or example, or anything else.

The sense here is plain. A single sin indulged in, or allowed in the church, would act like leaven--it would pervade and corrupt the whole church, unless it was removed. On this ground, and for this reason, discipline should be administered, and the corrupt member should be removed.

We read in Galatians 5:9, "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."

Its meaning here is, that the embracing of doctrinal errors which the church had adopted was to be traced to some influence existing among themselves, and acting like leaven.

It may mean that the false teachers there might be compared to leaven, whose doctrines, though they were few in number, had pervaded the mass of Christians.

The apostle means to say, that the influence which had brought this change about was at first small and unimportant; that there might have been but a few teachers of that kind, and it might have not been deemed worthy of particular attention or alarm; but that the doctrines thus infused into the churches, had spread like leaven, until the whole mass had become affected.

We must not tolerate sin. We must not practice sin. We must not allow sin to spread in the church, at home, and in our hearts.

We must remember the prohibition against sin.

In closing, Moses exhorts the children of Israel to “Remember this day.” This day refers to Passover. The institution of the Passover was fulfilled in Jesus Christ and replaced by the Lord’s Supper. Remember this day teaches that we must remember our salvation from the bondage of sin. We must remember the power of the blood in our salvation. We must remember the prohibition against sin. May the Lord help us to remember these things. Let us pray!