



Sermon Notes from 14 July

A Deliverance to Remember (*Exodus 11:1 - 13:16*)

by Pastor GL Wong

In this passage, we see how God uses the 10th plague to bring about the deliverance of His people. The deliverance is not just a factual recount of Israel's national history, but also serves a spiritual purpose - it teaches us that God has delivered His people from humanity's greatest trouble.

3 things about this deliverance from God that must be remembered:

1) Remember His Judgement

Ex. 11:4-5 - People tend to remember God as Deliverer without remembering Him as Judge. We need to see God's deliverance and judgement as inter-related.

The term 'firstborn' had special significance in the ancient near-east; they had special rights and authority. God's judgement to kill the firstborn from all sectors (human and cattle) of Egyptian society was an extremely serious one. We also see a heightened sense of God's personal involvement in this plague; He would be the immediate performer of it. God is the one actively bringing about judgement (Ex. 12:12). He is the God of justice. He looked upon the Israelites suffering, just as a father would look upon his son's suffering. God saw His people as His son (Ex. 4:22-23). He waited patiently for hundreds of years for repentance, but nothing changed.

Ex. 12:12 - God was not just judging the people in Egypt for their sins; but as the Ultimate Authority, judging the false gods of Egypt that were enslaving everyone with falsehood. Each plague was targeted at exposing false gods. Fake-news enslaves, but the truth of the good news saves. Don't fall for the scams of fake gods!

2) Remember His Love

God's deliverance of His people shows His love for them. He blesses them with material possessions (Ex. 11:2-3) and the promise of no harm upon them (Ex. 11:7). While God regarded the sons of

Israel and Egypt very differently, they both were in need of God's saving grace. It is this grace, His own covenantal goodness (Ex. 2:24) and His promise of blessings (Ex. 12:2) that spared them from His judgement. God was saving not just the ethnic Jews but all who saw and believed God by grace through faith (Ex. 12:38). Our only hope for deliverance is the same covenantal love God had over His people at Egypt. God teaches us through the physical exodus that sinful humanity needs a spiritual exodus; a deliverance from sin and death. God deems His people as firstborn not by nature, but through adoption (Ro. 9:4). This distinct love is given not based on performance, but by grace.

3) Remember His Passover

God introduces 3 important interrelated rites (the Passover, the Festival of Unleavened Bread and the Consecration of the Firstborn). The Passover, in particular, is especially important and deserves emphasis.

What can we learn from the Passover?

#1 It marks a new beginning for God's people (Ex. 12:1-2) - God has delivered us from sin and slavery and now we have a new life!

#2 It is so important that it needs to be taught in re-enactment for future generations (Ex. 12:24-27) - Remember the Passover for our good and His glory!

#3 The blood of a substitute is needed for the Passover (Ex. 12:3-7) - Salvation is accomplished by faith in the substitute.

Only the blood of the perfect Lamb of God can save (Joh. 1:29). The Passover in Egypt ultimately points to Jesus Christ - God's unblemished sacrificial Lamb of God (1 Co. 5:7). Jesus instituted the Lord's supper to be re-enacted for remembrance of the Passover (Lu. 22:19). Look up and remember the deliverance! We overcome on the ground of the blood of the Lamb (Re. 5:12)!