

The Assembly of Eloah

This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and the One You have sent—Jesus Christ. John 17:3 (HCSB)

Freedom from Sin

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We observe the Passover and The Days of Unleavened Bread, which represent our freedom from Sin. This paper examines the history of the children of Israel and their liberation from Egypt. We will also examine how those events tie into our lives as Christians.



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We are all familiar with the story of Joseph in Egypt, and how he was sold into slavery by his brothers whom were jealous of Jacob's love for Joseph. They were also threatened by the visions Joseph had been having regarding his future role as their leader. The birthright has been forfeited by Reuben because he had relations with Bilhah, his mother's handmaid and his father's concubine. Joseph then received the birthright as a result.

The days of Unleavened Bread, or Passover as it is called, represent the beginning of a long journey to freedom; not only the physical freedom of Israel as a people, but also freedom from sin. We take part in the journey to freedom every year when we observe the Passover. By doing so we are obeying God through faith, which leads to true freedom.

Israel's Background

Let us begin by looking at the story of the release of Israel. Now Israel had gone to live in Egypt as a result of the seven-year famine. Joseph had been living in Egypt and had helped Pharaoh overcome the famine by helping him to prepare. He had risen to a very high rank in Egyptian society and then brought his family to live in Egypt.

It is worth noting that Joseph, after having been sold into slavery by his brothers, bore no ill will towards them. He came to realize that they were just serving God's purpose. Had he not been sold into slavery and ended up in Egypt, then his family may have perished in the famine. Instead he was in a position to be able to save them. We see that from the beginning, these events began with forgiveness. Just as Passover begins with us being willing to forgive others their trespasses, so in turn God will forgive ours.

We must be willing to forgive if we are to receive forgiveness. Let us look at Exodus 1:

Ex 1:1-7 Now these are the names of the sons of Israel who came into Egypt; every man and his family came with Jacob. 2) Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; 3) Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; 4) Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. 5) All the offspring of Jacob were seventy persons: and Joseph had come to Egypt before them. 6) Then Joseph came to his end, and all his brothers, and all that generation. 7) And the children of Israel were fertile, increasing very greatly in numbers and in power; and the land was full of them (Bible in Basic English, used throughout unless otherwise noted).

We see that the children of Israel were blessed and became very mighty. They multiplied as a result of God's blessings and His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Let us continue in Exodus:

Ex 1:8-14 Now a new king came to power in Egypt, who had no knowledge of Joseph. 9) And he said to his people, See, the people of Israel are greater in number and in power than we are: 10) Let us take care for fear that their numbers may become even greater, and if there is a war, they may be joined with those who are against us, and make an attack on us, and go up out of the land. 11) So they put overseers of forced work over them, in order to make their strength less by the weight of their work. And they made store-towns for Pharaoh, Pithom and Raamses. 12) But the more cruel they were to them, the more their number increased, till all the land was full of them. And the children of Israel were hated by the Egyptians. 13) And they gave the children of Israel even harder work to do: 14) And made their lives bitter with hard work, making building-material and bricks, and doing all sorts of work in the fields under the hardest conditions..

The children of Israel appeared to be a threat to the new Pharaoh, so he forced them into a life of servitude. He made them serve at hard labor and made their lives miserable, but they continued to multiply. Of course, this event was prophesied to happen. God had already

told Abraham what was going to happen to his descendants.

Gen 15:13-14 And he said to Abram, Truly, your seed will be living in a land which is not theirs, as servants to a people who will be cruel to them for four hundred years; 14) But I will be the judge of that nation whose servants they are, and they will come out from among them with great wealth.

So, the children of Israel became slaves to Egypt and the Egyptian people. Now Pharaoh saw that the Israelites continued to prosper, so he decided he was going to put a stop to it. We read in Exodus:

Ex 1:15-22 And the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew women who gave help at the time of childbirth *the name of the one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah*, 16) When you are looking after the Hebrew women in childbirth, if it is a son you are to put him to death; but if it is a daughter, she may go on living. 17) But the women had the fear of God, and did not do as the king of Egypt said, but let the male children go on living. 18) And the king of Egypt sent for the women, and said to them, Why have you done this, and let the male children go on living? 19) And they said to Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are strong, and the birth takes place before we come to them. 20) And the blessing of God was on these women: and the people were increased in number and became very strong. 21) And because the women who took care of the Hebrew mothers had the fear of God, he gave them families. 22) And Pharaoh gave orders to all his people, saying, Every son who comes to birth is to be put into the river, but every daughter may go on living..

Without the courage and fear of God that the midwives displayed, the male children of the Israelites would have been destroyed. Women have always played a major role in the history of the Israelite people. Don't ever let anyone say women have no role to play in the Church. God definitely sees it differently.

The story continues in Exodus 2:

Ex 2:1-25 Now a man of the house of Levi took as his wife a daughter of Levi. 2) And she became with child and gave birth to a Son; and when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she kept him secretly for three months. 3) And when she was no longer able to keep him secret, she made him a basket out of the stems of water-plants, pasting sticky earth over it to keep the water out; and placing the baby in it she put it among the plants by the edge of the Nile. 4) And his sister took her place at a distance to see what would become of him. 5) Now Pharaoh's daughter came down to the Nile to take a bath, while her women were walking by the riverside; and she saw the basket among the river-plants, and sent her servant-girl to get it. 6) And opening it, she saw the child, and he was crying. And she had pity on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. 7) Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, May I go and get you one of the Hebrew women to give him the breast? 8) And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the girl went and got the child's mother. 9) And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Take the child away and give it milk for me, and I will give you payment. And the woman took the child and gave it milk at her breast. 10) And when the child was older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son, and she gave him the name Moses, Because, she said, I took him out of the water. 11) Now when Moses had become a man, one day he went out to his people and saw how hard their work was; and he saw an Egyptian giving blows to a Hebrew, one of his people. 12) And turning this way and that, and seeing no one, he put the Egyptian to death, covering his body with sand. 13) And he went out the day after and saw two of the Hebrews fighting: and he said to him who was in the wrong, Why are you fighting your brother? 14) And he said, Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? are you going to put me to death as you did the Egyptian? And Moses was in fear, and said, It is clear that the thing has come to light. 15) Now when Pharaoh had news of this, he would have put Moses to death. But

Moses went in flight from Pharaoh into the land of Midian: and he took his seat by a water-spring. 16) Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came to get water for their father's flock. 17) And the keepers of the sheep came up and were driving them away; but Moses got up and came to their help, watering their flock for them. 18) And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How is it that you have come back so quickly today? 19) And they said, An Egyptian came to our help against the keepers of sheep and got water for us and gave it to the flock. 20) And he said to his daughters, Where is he? why have you let the man go? make him come in and give him a meal. 21) And Moses was happy to go on living with the man; and he gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses. 22) And she gave birth to a son, to whom he gave the name Gershom: for he said, I have been living in a strange land. 23) Now after a long time the king of Egypt came to his end: and the children of Israel were crying in their grief under the weight of their work, and their cry for help came to the ears of God. 24) And at the sound of their weeping the agreement which God had made with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob came to his mind. 25) And God's eyes were turned to the children of Israel and he gave them the knowledge of himself.

Moses

Moses is saved from death by his mother and sister, and then by Pharaoh's daughter. Again, women came to the rescue. God or Elohim, heard the cries of the Israelites and had compassion on them. He gave them a knowledge of him. This is the same being that became the covenant Jehovah (Yahovah), or the Angel of Jehovah. We continue our story in Exodus 3:

Ex 3:1-4 Now Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian: and he took the flock to the back of the waste land and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2) And the angel of the Lord was seen by him in a flame of fire coming out of a thorn-tree: and he saw that the tree was on fire, but it was not burned up. 3)

And Moses said, I will go and see this strange thing, why the tree is not burned up, 4) And when the Lord saw him turning to one side to see, God said his name out of the tree, crying, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here I am.

The word translated "God: here is "Elohim." Again, this is the Angel of Yahovah not God the Father. No one has ever heard God the Father's voice.

John 5:37 And the Father himself who sent me has given witness about me. Not one of you has ever given ear to his voice; his form you have not seen..

Ex 3:5-22 And he said, Do not come near: take off your shoes from your feet, for the place where you are is holy. 6) And he said, I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses kept his face covered for fear of looking on God. 7) And God said, Truly, I have seen the grief of my people in Egypt, and their cry because of their cruel masters has come to my ears; for I have knowledge of their sorrows; 8) And I have come down to take them out of the hands of the Egyptians, guiding them out of that land into a good land and wide, into a land flowing with milk and honey; into the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. 9) For now, truly, the cry of the children of Israel has come to me, and I have seen the cruel behaviour of the Egyptians to them. 10) Come, then, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may take my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt. 11) And Moses said to God, Who am I to go to Pharaoh and take the children of Israel out of Egypt? 12) And he said, Truly I will be with you; and this will be the sign to you that I have sent you: when you have taken the children of Israel out of Egypt, you will give worship to God on this mountain. 13) And Moses said to God, When I come to the children of Israel and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you: and they say to me, What is his name? what am I to say to them? 14) And God said to him, I AM WHAT I AM: and he said, Say to the children of Israel, I AM

has sent me to you. 15) And God went on to say to Moses, Say to the children of Israel, The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has sent me to you: this is my name for ever, and this is my sign to all generations. 16) Go and get together the chiefs of the children of Israel, and say to them, The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has been seen by me, and has said, Truly I have taken up your cause, because of what is done to you in Egypt; 17) And I have said, I will take you up out of the sorrows of Egypt into the land of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, into a land flowing with milk and honey. 18) And they will give ear to your voice: and you, with the chiefs of Israel, will go to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and say to him, The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has come to us: let us then go three days' journey into the waste land to make an offering to the Lord our God. 19) And I am certain that the king of Egypt will not let you go without being forced. 20) But I will put out my hand and overcome Egypt with all the wonders which I will do among them: and after that he will let you go. 21) And I will give this people grace in the eyes of the Egyptians, so that when you go out you will go out with your hands full. 22) For every woman will get from her neighbour and from the woman living in her house, ornaments of silver and gold, and clothing; and you will put them on your sons and your daughters; you will take the best of their goods from the Egyptians.

Christ's Work

Moses was sent to liberate the Israelites from their physical enslavement. Christ was sent to release us from the bondage of sin. We were slaves to sin before we repented and were baptized.

John 8:31-36 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had faith in him, If you keep my word, then you are truly my disciples; 32) And you will have knowledge of what is true, and that will make you free. 33) They said to him in answer, We are Abraham's seed and have

never been any man's servant: why do you say, You will become free? 34) And this was the answer Jesus gave them: Truly I say to you, Everyone who does evil is the servant of sin. 35) Now the servant does not go on living in the house for ever, but the son does. 36) If then the son makes you free, you will be truly free.

We are made free because we have knowledge of the truth. Christ is the only way to true freedom. We are free from the bondage of sin (Egypt) because God's Laws are written in our hearts and minds today.

Heb 8:10 For this is the agreement which I will make with the people of Israel after those days: I will put my laws into their minds, writing them in their hearts: and I will be their God, and they will be my people.

It's also important to notice here that Jehovah said: "And I am certain that the king of Egypt will not let you go without being forced". God knew that Pharaoh wouldn't let the children of Israel go of His own volition. Sin has the same characteristic. It won't leave you without being forced out. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit, given to us through the laying on of hands at baptism, is the power by which we are able to overcome sin. Our minds are renewed and we become a new creation to God, in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17, cf. Galatians 6:15). We will struggle with sin throughout our entire lives and that is why we need this yearly renewal. We need to keep Passover and Unleavened Bread to renew our relationship with God, and to have our sins cleansed. We continue the story in Exodus 4:

Ex 4:1-14 And Moses, answering, said, It is certain that they will not have faith in me or give ear to my voice; for they will say, You have not seen the Lord. 2) And the Lord said to him, What is that in your hand? And he said, A rod. 3) And he said, Put it down on the earth. And he put it down on the earth and it became a snake; and Moses went running from it. 4) And the Lord said to Moses, Put out your hand and take it by the tail: and he put out his hand and took a grip of it and

it became a rod in his hand: 5) So that they may be certain that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has been seen by you. 6) Then the Lord said to him again, Put your hand inside your clothing. And he put his hand inside his robe: and when he took it out it was like the hand of a leper, as white as snow. 7) And he said, Put your hand inside your robe again. And he put his hand into his robe again, and when he took it out he saw that it had become like his other flesh. 8) And if they do not have faith in you or give ear to the voice of the first sign, they will have faith in the second sign. 9) And if they have no faith even in these two signs and will not give ear to your voice, then you are to take the water of the Nile and put it on the dry land: and the water you take out of the river will become blood on the dry land. 10) And Moses said to the Lord, O Lord, I am not a man of words; I have never been so, and am not now, even after what you have said to your servant: for talking is hard for me, and I am slow of tongue. 11) And the Lord said to him, Who has made man's mouth? who takes away a man's voice or hearing, or makes him seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12) So go now, and I will be with your mouth, teaching you what to say. 13) And he said, O Lord, send, if you will, by the hand of anyone whom it seems good to you to send. 14) And the Lord was angry with Moses, and said, Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? To my knowledge he is good at talking. And now he is coming out to you: and when he sees you he will be glad in his heart.

Struggle Against Sin

Moses, like many of us, was trying to find a way out. He was resisting what God wanted him to do. We are no different. We resist God all the time. As Paul stated in:

Ro 7:15 And I have no clear knowledge of what I am doing, for that which I have a mind to do, I do not, but what I have hate for, that I do.

There is a struggle within us that we have to overcome. We fall short and have to repent of

the sins we commit. The prophets often times resisted God. Jonah spent three days in the belly of a big fish because of his resistance. When we read these stories we can't say, "I wouldn't have done that," because we do. The thing to remember here is that these examples are in the Bible as a lesson for us. Another important point is that they may have resisted initially but they went on to obey God and do great things.

Continuing in Exodus 4:

Ex 4:15-23 Let him give ear to your voice, and you will put my words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his, teaching you what you have to do. 16) And he will do the talking for you to the people: he will be to you as a mouth and you will be to him as God. 17) And take in your hand this rod with which you will do the signs. 18) And Moses went back to Jethro, his father-in-law, and said to him, Let me go back now to my relations in Egypt and see if they are still living. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace. 19) And the Lord said to Moses in Midian, Go back to Egypt, for all the men are dead who were attempting to take your life. 20) And Moses took his wife and his sons and put them on an ass and went back to the land of Egypt: and he took the rod of God in his hand. 21) And the Lord said to Moses, When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have given you power to do: but I will make his heart hard and he will not let the people go. 22) And you are to say to Pharaoh, The Lord says, Israel is the first of my sons: 23) And I said to you, Let my son go, so that he may give me worship; and you did not let him go: so now I will put the first of your sons to death.

The First Born

The Lord instructed Moses to tell Pharaoh that Israel was the first of His sons. Egypt suffered the death of their firstborn because they refused to let Israel go. The firstborn were sacrificed so the people could go free. God's firstborn was sacrificed so we could be made

free. As the firstfruits of the harvests of God, (Christ being the first of the firstfruits), many of God's people have sacrificed their lives. Many of us may have to do just that yet in the future. There is a sacrifice to be made for those that are first. We make many sacrifices while trying to overcome sin. We continue in verse 24:

Ex 4:24-31 Now on the journey, at the night's resting-place, the Lord came in his way and would have put him to death. 25) Then Ziporah took a sharp stone, and cutting off the skin of her son's private parts, and touching his feet with it, she said, Truly you are a husband of blood to me. 26) So he let him go. Then she said, You are a husband of blood because of the circumcision. 27) And the Lord said to Aaron, Go into the waste land and you will see Moses. So he went and came across Moses at the mountain of God, and gave him a kiss. 28) And Moses gave Aaron an account of all the words of the Lord which he had sent him to say, and of all the signs which he had given him orders to do. 29) Then Moses and Aaron went and got together all the chiefs of the children of Israel: 30) And Aaron said to them all the words the Lord had said to Moses, and did the signs before all the people. 31) And the people had faith in them; and hearing that the Lord had taken up the cause of the children of Israel and had seen their troubles, with bent heads they gave him worship.

When the children of Israel saw that the Lord had taken up their cause they worshipped Him. This was the first love, so to speak. Many of us, when we are first exposed to the truth, have a deep zeal and desire for the truth and the work. As we will see, the children of Israel quickly saw that it got worse before it got better. We see the same thing during our Christian development. At first it's easy. Then we see the requirements of the Law -- tithing, the keeping of the Sabbaths, New Moons and Holy Days. We begin to see the difficulties encountered as we attempt to change our lives. As we remove sin from our lives, it becomes more difficult. But with every sin we over-

come, we become that much closer to absolute freedom.

Ex 5:1-8 And after that, Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh, and said, The Lord, the God of Israel, says, Let my people go so that they may keep a feast to me in the waste land. 2) And Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord, to whose voice I am to give ear and let Israel go? I have no knowledge of the Lord and I will not let Israel go. 3) And they said, The God of the Hebrews has come to us: let us then go three days' journey into the waste land to make an offering to the Lord our God, so that he may not send death on us by disease or the sword. 4) And the king of Egypt said to them, Why do you, Moses and Aaron, take the people away from their work? get back to your work. 5) And Pharaoh said, Truly, the people of the land are increasing in number, and you are keeping them back from their work. 6) The same day Pharaoh gave orders to the overseers and those who were responsible for the work, saying, 7) Give these men no more dry stems for their brick-making as you have been doing; let them go and get the material for themselves. 8) But see that they make the same number of bricks as before, and no less: for they have no love for work; and so they are crying out and saying, Let us go and make an offering to our God.

Leaving Egypt

When Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him to let the people go for a three-day's journey so they might make sacrifice to the Lord, he made their work even harder. He took away the straw that had been provided to the Hebrews to make the bricks, and made them get it themselves with no less of a brick quota. In the same way, as we begin to overcome sin, Satan puts even more pressure on us. He tempts us and causes even our friends and loved ones to put pressure on us. Our lives can become very difficult. Many have lost families for the truth. We see this foretold in:

Matt 10:32-36 To everyone, then, who gives witness to me before men, I will give witness before my Father in heaven. 33) But if any-

one says before men that he has no knowledge of me, I will say that I have no knowledge of him before my Father in heaven. 34) Do not have the thought that I have come to send peace on the earth; I came not to send peace but a sword. 35) For I have come to put a man against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law: 36) And a man will be hated by those of his house.

But what we will gain is even greater. Christ said:

Matt 19:29 And everyone who has given up houses, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or child, or land, for my name, will be given a hundred times as much, and have eternal life.

We will be given a hundred times more **and** have eternal or aeonian life. Now that's true freedom!

Continuing in Exodus:

Ex 5:9-23 Give the men harder work, and see that they do it; let them not give attention to false words. 10) And the overseers of the people and their responsible men went out and said to the people, Pharaoh says, I will give you no more dry stems. 11) Go yourselves and get dry stems wherever you are able; for your work is not to be any less. 12) So the people were sent in all directions through the land of Egypt to get dry grass for stems. 13) And the overseers went on driving them and saying, Do your full day's work as before when there were dry stems for you. 14) And the responsible men of the children of Israel, whom Pharaoh's overseers had put over them, were given blows, and they said to them, Why have you not done your regular work, in making bricks as before? 15) Then the responsible men of the children of Israel came to Pharaoh, protesting and saying, Why are you acting in this way to your servants? 16) They give us no dry stems and they say to us, Make bricks: and they give your servants blows; but it is your people who are in the wrong. 17) But he said, You have no love for work: that is why you say,

Let us go and make an offering to the Lord.. 18) Go now, get back to your work; no dry stems will be given to you, but you are to make the full number of bricks. 19) Then the responsible men of the children of Israel saw that they were purposing evil when they said, The number of bricks which you have to make every day will be no less than before. 20) And they came face to face with Moses and Aaron, who were in their way when they came out from Pharaoh: 21) And they said to them, May the Lord take note of you and be your judge; for you have given Pharaoh and his servants a bad opinion of us, putting a sword in their hands for our destruction. 22) And Moses went back to the Lord and said, Lord, why have you done evil to this people? why have you sent me? 23) For from the time when I came to Pharaoh to put your words before him, he has done evil to this people, and you have given them no help.

Sin's Hold

As soon as things started getting rough, the people began to mumble and complain. They blamed Moses, and Moses blamed God. The real blame rested with Satan and Egypt. When we begin to overcome sin, bad things can happen. Satan will do everything he can to prevent us from successfully overcoming sin and becoming a free people. His goal is to destroy humankind and upset God's Plan. We have to remember what we are told in:

1Cor 10:13 You have been put to no test but such as is common to man: and God is true, who will not let any test come on you which you are not able to undergo; but he will make with the test a way out of it, so that you may be able to go through it.

The path to freedom is rough and full of pitfalls. A simple examination of history will prove that to be true. People have been sacrificing their lives for freedom since the beginning of time. Ours is an even greater freedom than for what so many of them died. How much more should we be willing to sacrifice to gain, not only freedom but also, eternal life?

Ex 6:1-7 And the Lord said to Moses, Now you will see what I am about to do to Pharaoh; for by a strong hand he will be forced to let them go, driving them out of his land because of my outstretched arm. 2) And God said to Moses, I am Yahweh: 3) I let myself be seen by Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God, the Ruler of all; but they had no knowledge of my name Yahweh. 4) And I made an agreement with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their wanderings. 5) And truly my ears are open to the cry of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep under their yoke; and I have kept in mind my agreement. 6) Say then to the children of Israel, I am Yahweh, and I will take you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians, and make you safe from their power, and will make you free by the strength of my arm after great punishments. 7) And I will take you to be my people and I will be your God; and you will be certain that I am the Lord your God, who takes you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.

Christ told Moses that he would take Israel out from under the yoke of the Egyptians, and he did. He also removes from us the yoke and bondage of sin as we see in:

Gal 5:1 Christ has truly made us free: then keep your free condition and let no man put a yoke on you again.

It is possible for the yoke to be put back on us. If we allow a man to lead us astray, then that yoke will be right back on us. If we aren't diligent in our efforts to overcome sin and remove it from our lives, we will be back under the yoke of bondage, and God will give us over to a reprobate mind. There is only one way to be free and that way is to overcome and follow God.

Continuing in Exodus 6:

Ex 6:8 And I will be your guide into the land which I made an oath to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it to you for your heritage: I am Yahweh.

Christ was the Israelites' guide to the Promised Land, and he is our guide to Kingdom of God. His sacrifice makes it possible.

Ex 6:9-30 And Moses said these words to the children of Israel, but they gave no attention to him, because of the grief of their spirit and the cruel weight of their work. 10) And the Lord said to Moses, 11) Go in and say to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, that he is to let the children of Israel go out of his land. 12) And Moses, answering the Lord, said, See, the children of Israel will not give ear to me; how then will Pharaoh give ear to me, whose lips are unclean? 13) And the word of the Lord came to Moses and Aaron, with orders for the children of Israel and for Pharaoh, king of Egypt, to take the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt. 14) These are the heads of their fathers' families: the sons of Reuben the oldest son of Israel: Hanoch and Pallu, Hezron and Carmi: these are the families of Reuben. 15) And the sons of Simeon: Jemuel and Jamin and Ohad and Jachin and Zohar and Shaul, the son of a woman of Canaan: these are the families of Simeon. 16) And these are the names of the sons of Levi in the order of their generations: Gershon and Kohath and Merari: and the years of Levi's life were a hundred and thirty-seven. 17) The sons of Gershon: Libni and Shimei, in the order of their families. 18) And the sons of Kohath: Amram and Izhar and Hebron and Uzziel: and the years of Kohath's life were a hundred and thirty-three. 19) And the sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi: these are the families of the Levites, in the order of their generations. 20) And Amram took Jochebed, his father's sister, as wife; and she gave birth to Aaron and Moses: and the years of Amram's life were a hundred and thirty-seven. 21) And the sons of Izhar: Korah and Nepheg and Zichri. 22) And the sons of Uzziel: Mishael and Elzaphan and Sithr. 23) And Aaron took as his wife Elisheba, the daughter of Amminadab, the sister of Nahshon; and she gave birth to Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. 24) And the sons of Korah: Assir and Elkanah and Abiasaph: these are the families of the Korahites. 25) And Eleazar, Aaron's son, took as his wife one of the daughters of Pu-

tiel; and she gave birth to Phinehas. These are the heads of the families of the Levites, in the order of their families. 26) These are the same Aaron and Moses to whom the Lord said, Take the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt in their armies. 27) These are the men who gave orders to Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go out of Egypt: these are the same Moses and Aaron. 28) And on the day when the word of the Lord came to Moses in the land of Egypt, 29) The Lord said to Moses, I am the Lord: say to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, everything I am saying to you. 30) And Moses said to the Lord, My lips are unclean; how is it possible that Pharaoh will give me a hearing?

A Helper

Are we going to say to God: “How can I be a Christian?” or “There is no way I can overcome sin because I am not a good person.” That’s what Moses was doing when he said, “I am of unclean lips.” In other words: “If the people won’t listen to me, how is it possible that pharaoh will listen to me?” If we were left on our own to do it, then it isn’t possible. But we aren’t left alone. John 14:26-29 shows us that the Holy Spirit is our teacher:

John 14:26-29 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will be your teacher in all things and will put you in mind of everything I have said to you. 27) May peace be with you; my peace I give to you: I give it not as the world gives. Let not your heart be troubled; let it be without fear. 28) Keep in mind how I said to you, I go away and come to you again. If you had love for me you would be glad, because I am going to the Father: for the Father is greater than I. 29) And now I have given you word of it before it comes, so that, when it comes, you may have faith.

It is God Who acts within us.

Matt 19:26 And Jesus, looking at them, said, With men this is not possible; but with God all things are possible.

Mark 9:23 And Jesus said to him, If you are able! All things are possible to him who has faith.

God sent His Holy Spirit to lead us into truth and to give us understanding. By His Holy Spirit we are able to overcome. Of ourselves we cannot do it on our own, however, all things are possible with God. Through faith we can move mountains. We are not alone in this battle for freedom. We have our elder brother, Jesus Christ, interceding with God on our behalf. We have the Holy Spirit to guide us and, if we have faith, we can and will overcome. God then uses us to deal with the world.

Ex 7:1 And the Lord said to Moses, See I have made you a god to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother will be your prophet.

The word translated God here is Elohim. Moses was an Elohim as were all the sons of God and as we are and will be.

Ex 7:2-25 Say whatever I give you orders to say: and Aaron your brother will give word to Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go out of his land. 3) And I will make Pharaoh’s heart hard, and my signs and wonders will be increased in the land of Egypt. 4) But Pharaoh will not give ear to you, and I will put my hand on Egypt, and take my armies, my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt, after great punishments. 5) And the Egyptians will see that I am the Lord, when my hand is stretched out over Egypt, and I take the children of Israel out from among them. 6) And Moses and Aaron did so: as the Lord gave them orders, so they did. 7) And Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they gave the Lord’s word to Pharaoh. 8) And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 9) If Pharaoh says to you, Let me see a wonder: then say to Aaron, Take your rod and put it down on the earth before Pharaoh so that it may become a snake. 10) Then Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and they did as the Lord had said: and Aaron put his rod down on the earth before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a snake. 11) Then Pharaoh sent for the wise men and the won-

der-workers, and they, the wonder-workers of Egypt, did the same with their secret arts. 12) For every one of them put down his rod on the earth, and they became snakes: but Aaron's rod made a meal of their rods. 13) But Pharaoh's heart was made hard, and he did not give ear to them, as the Lord had said. 14) And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, Pharaoh's heart is unchanged; he will not let the people go. 15) Go to Pharaoh in the morning; when he goes out to the water, you will be waiting for him by the edge of the Nile, with the rod which was turned into a snake in your hand; 16) And say to him, The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to you, saying, Let my people go so that they may give me worship in the waste land; but up to now you have not given ear to his words. 17) So the Lord says, By this you may be certain that I am the Lord; see, by the touch of this rod in my hand the waters of the Nile will be turned to blood; 18) And the fish in the Nile will come to destruction, and the river will send up a bad smell, and the Egyptians will not be able, for disgust, to make use of the water of the Nile for drinking. 19) And the Lord said, Say to Aaron, Let the rod in your hand be stretched out over the waters of Egypt, and over the rivers and the streams and the pools, and over every stretch of water, so that they may be turned to blood; and there will be blood through all the land of Egypt, in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone. 20) And Moses and Aaron did as the Lord had said; and when his rod had been lifted up and stretched out over the waters of the Nile before the eyes of Pharaoh and his servants, all the water in the Nile was turned to blood; 21) And the fish in the Nile came to destruction, and a bad smell went up from the river, and the Egyptians were not able to make use of the water of the Nile for drinking; and there was blood through all the land of Egypt. 22) And the wonder-workers of Egypt did the same with their secret arts: but Pharaoh's heart was made hard, and he would not give ear to them, as the Lord had said. 23) Then Pharaoh went into his house, and did not take even this to heart. 24) And all the Egyptians made holes round about the Nile to get drinking-water, for they were not able to make use of the Nile water. 25)

And seven days went past, after the Lord had put his hand on the Nile.

The Plagues

Here we see the beginning of the plagues of Egypt. There is great meaning behind these plagues. God demonstrated through the plagues that the gods of Egypt were powerless, and that He is the One True God.

Ex 8:1-23 And this is what the Lord said to Moses: Go to Pharaoh and say to him, The Lord says, Let my people go so that they may give me worship. 2) And if you will not let them go, see, I will send frogs into every part of your land; 3) The Nile will be full of frogs, and they will come up into your house and into your bedrooms and on your bed, and into the houses of your servants and your people, and into your ovens and into your bread-basins. 4) The frogs will come up over you and your people and all your servants. 5) And the Lord said to Moses, Say to Aaron, Let the rod in your hand be stretched out over the streams and the waterways and the pools, causing frogs to come up on the land of Egypt. 6) And when Aaron put out his hand over the waters of Egypt, the frogs came up and all the land of Egypt was covered with them. 7) And the wonder-workers did the same with their secret arts, making frogs come up over the land of Egypt. 8) Then Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron and said, Make prayer to the Lord that he will take away these frogs from me and my people; and I will let the people go and make their offering to the Lord. 9) And Moses said, I will let you have the honour of saying when I am to make prayer for you and your servants and your people, that the frogs may be sent away from you and your houses, and be only in the Nile. 10) And he said, By tomorrow. And he said, Let it be as you say: so that you may see that there is no other like the Lord our God. 11) And the frogs will be gone from you and from your houses and from your servants and from your people and will be only in the Nile. 12) Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh; and Moses made prayer to the Lord about the frogs which he had sent on Pharaoh. 13) And the

Lord did as Moses said; and there was an end of all the frogs in the houses and in the open spaces and in the fields. 14) And they put them together in masses, and a bad smell went up from the land. 15) But when Pharaoh saw that there was peace for a time, he made his heart hard and did not give ear to them, as the Lord had said. 16) And the Lord said to Moses, Say to Aaron, Let your rod be stretched out over the dust of the earth so that it may become insects through all the land of Egypt. 17) And they did so; and Aaron, stretching out the rod in his hand, gave a touch to the dust of the earth, and insects came on man and on beast; all the dust of the earth was changed into insects through all the land of Egypt. 18) And the wonder-workers with their secret arts, attempting to make insects, were unable to do so: and there were insects on man and on beast. 19) Then the wonder-workers said to Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: but Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he did not give ear to them, as the Lord had said. 20) And the Lord said to Moses, Get up early in the morning and take your place before Pharaoh when he comes out to the water; and say to him, This is what the Lord says: Let my people go to give me worship. 21) For if you do not let my people go, see, I will send clouds of flies on you and on your servants and on your people and into their houses; and the houses of the Egyptians and the land where they are will be full of flies. 22) And at that time I will make a division between your land and the land of Goshen where my people are, and no flies will be there; so that you may see that I am the Lord over all the earth. 23) And I will put a division between my people and your people; tomorrow this sign will be seen.

Sin's Separation

The Angel of Yahovah put a division between the Israelites and the Egyptians. There was a clear separation between the people of God and "Babylon". In Isaiah 59:2 we see an ironic twist. In Exodus we see God separating His people from Egypt, which is symbolic of sin. In Isaiah we see that our sins separate us from God. We put a wall between ourselves and

God with our sin. If we fail to repent and overcome, that wall continues to grow larger and stronger. We must take ownership for the relationship we have with God and maintain it at the highest level possible if we are to be free from sin, which is waiting at our door to gain a foothold in our lives.

Isa 59:2 But your sins have come between you and your God, and by your evil doings his face has been veiled from you, so that he will give you no answer.

If we allow our sins to build a wall between us and God and we do not repent, He will not answer our prayers. If we do not receive answers to our prayers, perhaps we need to examine ourselves to ensure we are right with God.

Ex 8:24-32 And the Lord did so; and great clouds of flies came into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants' houses, and all the land of Egypt was made waste because of the flies. 25) And Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron and said, Go and make your offering to your God here in the land. 26) And Moses said, It is not right to do so; for we make our offerings of that to which the Egyptians give worship; and if we do so before their eyes, certainly we will be stoned. 27) But we will go three days' journey into the waste land and make an offering to the Lord our God as he may give us orders. 28) Then Pharaoh said, I will let you go to make an offering to the Lord your God in the waste land; but do not go very far away, and make prayer for me. 29) And Moses said, When I go out from you I will make prayer to the Lord that the cloud of flies may go away from Pharaoh and from his people and from his servants tomorrow: only let Pharaoh no longer by deceit keep back the people from making their offering to the Lord. 30) Then Moses went out from Pharaoh and made prayer to the Lord. 31) And the Lord did as Moses said, and took away the cloud of flies from Pharaoh and from his servants and from his people; not one was to be seen. 32) But again Pharaoh made his heart hard and did not let the people go.

There is a significant lesson to be drawn from these events. We should have noticed that Moses did what he was told to do, and then prayed for God to remove the plagues. Prayer is an invaluable tool in the Christian's war against sin. If we doubt that it is war, then read what Paul says in:

Eph 6:11-18 Take up God's instruments of war, so that you may be able to keep your position against all the deceits of the Evil One. 12) For our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against authorities and powers, against the world-rulers of this dark night, against the spirits of evil in the heavens. 13) For this reason take up all the arms of God, so that you may be able to be strong in the evil day, and, having done all, to keep your place. 14) Take your place, then, having your body clothed with the true word, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness; 15) Be ready with the good news of peace as shoes on your feet; 16) And most of all, using faith as a cover to keep off all the flaming arrows of the Evil One. 17) And take salvation for your head-dress and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18) With prayers and deep desires, making requests at all times in the Spirit, and keeping watch, with strong purpose, in prayer for all the saints.

We are engaged in spiritual warfare, and we need to be always mindful of that fact. We need to use all of the tools in the arsenal of God in our fight for freedom from sin. Prayer is an important tool and we need to use it frequently, making requests at all times. James told us that we do not receive because we don't ask.

James 4:2-3 You are burning with desire, and have not your desire, so you put men to death; you are full of envy, and you are not able to get your desire, so you are fighting and making war; you have not your desire, because you do not make request for it. 3) You make your request but you do not get it, because your request has been wrongly made, desiring the thing only so that you may make use of it for your pleasure.

We should be asking for what it is we want. If we ask with the proper attitude, it will be given to us. Either this is true, or the entire Bible is a lie. Of course, we often times have difficulty knowing when we have received that for which we asked. We have to have faith that God is doing what is in our best interests. We need to make prayer and supplication in Christ's name. If we ask for strength to overcome sin, it will be given to us. We still have to put forth the effort but we will be successful if we ask.

John 16:23-24 And on that day you will put no questions to me. Truly I say to you, Whatever request you make to the Father, he will give it to you in my name. 24) Up to now you have made no request in my name: do so, and it will be answered, so that your hearts may be full of joy.

Exodus, chapters 9 and 10 cover more of the plagues of Egypt. Those verses are not included here, but should be considered for further study.

The Final Straw

We see in these passages that, each time God punished Pharaoh, Pharaoh gave a little bit more. First he said only the males could go. Then he said the little ones could go, but not the flocks and herds. This is similar to the way we behave. Every time God chastises and corrects us, we give a little more. We are being sculpted into a new creation, but it's an arduous task. We go down fighting, so to speak. God has to force us to be the type of people He can use for His purpose.

Ex 11:1-10 And the Lord said to Moses, I will send one more punishment on Pharaoh and on Egypt; after that he will let you go; and when he does let you go, he will not keep one of you back, but will send you out by force. 2) So go now and give orders to the people that every man and every woman is to get from his or her neighbour ornaments of silver and of gold. 3) And the Lord gave the people grace in the eyes of the Egyptians. For the

man Moses was highly honoured in the land of Egypt, by Pharaoh's servants and the people. 4) And Moses said, This is what the Lord says: About the middle of the night I will go out through Egypt: 5) And death will come to every mother's first male child in all the land of Egypt, from the child of Pharaoh on his seat of power, to the child of the servant-girl crushing the grain; and the first births of all the cattle. 6) And there will be a great cry through all the land of Egypt, such as never has been or will be again. 7) But against the children of Israel, man or beast, not so much as the tongue of a dog will be moved: so that you may see how the Lord makes a division between Israel and the Egyptians. 8) And all these your servants will come to me, going down on their faces before me and saying, Go out, and all your people with you: and after that I will go out. And he went away from Pharaoh burning with wrath. 9) And the Lord said to Moses, Pharaoh will not give ear to you, so that my wonders may be increased in the land of Egypt. 10) All these wonders Moses and Aaron did before Pharaoh: but the Lord made Pharaoh's heart hard, and he did not let the children of Israel go out of his land.

Many would look at this and say that it's not fair that God hardened Pharaoh's heart. This would impute sin to God, as being a respecter of persons. It is God's right to use His creation to do His will. Mainstream Christianity imputes this sin to God in many different ways. It is an insidious evil and we must ensure we aren't guilty of it at any time.

Rom 9:14-24 What may we say then? is God not upright? let it not be said. 15) For he says to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and pity on whom I will have pity. 16) So then, it is not by the desire or by the attempt of man, but by the mercy of God. 17) For the holy Writings say to Pharaoh, For this same purpose did I put you on high, so that I might make my power seen in you, and that there might be knowledge of my name through all the earth. 18) So then, at his pleasure he has mercy on a man, and at his pleasure he makes the heart hard. 19) But you will say to me, Why does

he still make us responsible? who is able to go against his purpose? 20) But, O man, who are you, to make answer against God? May the thing which is made say to him who made it, Why did you make me so? 21) Or has not the potter the right to make out of one part of his earth a vessel for honour, and out of another a vessel for shame? 22) What if God, desiring to let his wrath and his power be seen, for a long time put up with the vessels of wrath which were ready for destruction: 23) And to make clear the wealth of his glory to vessels of mercy, which he had before made ready for glory, 24) Even us, who were marked out by him, not only from the Jews, but from the Gentiles?

Passover

Ex 12:1-20 And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2) Let this month be to you the first of months, the first month of the year. 3) Say to all the children of Israel when they are come together, In the tenth day of this month every man is to take a lamb, by the number of their fathers' families, a lamb for every family: 4) And if the lamb is more than enough for the family, let that family and its nearest neighbour have a lamb between them, taking into account the number of persons and how much food is needed for every man. 5) Let your lamb be without a mark, a male in its first year: you may take it from among the sheep or the goats: 6) Keep it till the fourteenth day of the same month, when everyone who is of the children of Israel is to put it to death between sundown and dark. 7) Then take some of the blood and put it on the two sides of the door and over the door of the house where the meal is to be taken. 8) And let your food that night be the flesh of the lamb, cooked with fire in the oven, together with unleavened bread and bitter-tasting plants. 9) Do not take it uncooked or cooked with boiling water, but let it be cooked in the oven; its head with its legs and its inside parts. 10) Do not keep any of it till the morning; anything which is not used is to be burned with fire. 11) And take your meal dressed as if for a journey, with your shoes on your feet and your sticks in your hands: take it quickly: it

is the Lord's Passover. 12) For on that night I will go through the land of Egypt, sending death on every first male child, of man and of beast, and judging all the gods of Egypt: I am the Lord. 13) And the blood will be a sign on the houses where you are: when I see the blood I will go over you, and no evil will come on you for your destruction, when my hand is on the land of Egypt. 14) And this day is to be kept in your memories: you are to keep it as a feast to the Lord through all your generations, as an order for ever. 15) For seven days let your food be unleavened bread; from the first day no leaven is to be seen in your houses: whoever takes bread with leaven in it, from the first till the seventh day, will be cut off from Israel. 16) And on the first day there is to be a holy meeting and on the seventh day a holy meeting; no sort of work may be done on those days but only to make ready what is necessary for everyone's food. 17) So keep the feast of unleavened bread; for on this very day I have taken your armies out of the land of Egypt: this day, then, is to be kept through all your generations by an order for ever. 18) In the first month, from the evening of the fourteenth day, let your food be unleavened bread till the evening of the twenty-first day of the month. 19) For seven days no leaven is to be seen in your houses: for whoever takes bread which is leavened will be cut off from the people of Israel, if he is from another country or if he is an Israelite by birth. 20) Take nothing which has leaven in it; wherever you are living let your food be unleavened cakes.

Here we see the institution of the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. It is to be kept throughout all our generations, forever. This is a seven-day Feast, and it is to be kept all seven days.

Not only are we to abstain from eating bread containing leavening, but we are also instructed to eat unleavened bread. As we see from Paul in 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 this unleavened bread represents sincerity and truth. By the eating of the unleavened bread, we are sym-

bolizing our taking up the sincerity and truth that it represents as part of our character.

1Cor 5:6-8 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7) Therefore purge out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened. For also Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. 8) Therefore let us keep the feast; not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (NKJV)

We have been told in the past that leavened bread represents sin. The fact of the matter is that it represents a type of sin, but it is not always sin. For instance, the loaves at Pentecost are leavened.

Lev 23:16-17 Let fifty days be numbered, to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you are to give a new meal offering to the Lord. 17 Take from your houses two cakes of bread, made of a fifth part of an ephah of the best meal, cooked with leaven, to be waved for first-fruits to the Lord.

As Paul stated, we are unleavened and we are to keep this feast with the new leaven of sincerity and truth. We clean the old leaven out of our homes prior to coming to Passover. This leavening represents the old leaven of malice and wickedness. We consume the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth throughout the Days of Unleavened Bread. We then return home and begin to consume leaven again. This is symbolic of the sin that re-enters our lives throughout the year. As the children of Israel were brought out from Egypt, we are brought out of sin by our Passover, Jesus Christ. Like the Israelites, we keep the Passover as a reminder of what has been done for us, as well as a renewal and a cleansing (the Lord's Supper).

1Cor 11:20-29 But now, when you come together, it is not possible to take the holy meal of the Lord: 21) For when you take your food, everyone takes his meal before the other; and one has not enough food, and

another is the worse for drink. 22) What? have you not houses to take your meals in? or have you no respect for the church of God, putting the poor to shame? What am I to say to you? am I to give you praise? certainly not. 23) For it was handed down to me from the Lord, as I gave it to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night when Judas was false to him, took bread, 24) And when it had been broken with an act of praise, he said, This is my body which is for you: do this in memory of me. 25) In the same way, with the cup, after the meal, he said, This cup is the new testament in my blood: do this, whenever you take it, in memory of me. 26) For whenever you take the bread and the cup you give witness to the Lord's death till he comes. 27) If, then, anyone takes the bread or the cup of the Lord in the wrong spirit, he will be responsible for the body and blood of the Lord. 28) But let no man take of the bread and the cup without testing himself. 29) For a man puts himself in danger, if he takes part in the holy meal without being conscious that it is the Lord's body.

We keep the Lord's Supper and Passover over the 14th and 15th of the First Month as a reminder; realizing that we are the body of Christ and we are made righteous by his sacrifice. We are freed from sin.

Ex 12:21-51 Then Moses sent for the chiefs of Israel, and said to them, See that lambs are marked out for yourselves and your families, and let the Passover lamb be put to death. 22) And take some hyssop and put it in the blood in the basin, touching the two sides and the top of the doorway with the blood from the basin; and let not one of you go out of his house till the morning. 23) For the Lord will go through the land, sending death on the Egyptians; and when he sees the blood on the two sides and the top of the door, the Lord will go over your door and will not let death come in for your destruction. 24) And you are to keep this as an order to you and to your sons for ever. 25) And when you come into the land which the Lord will make yours, as he gave his word, you are to keep this act of worship. 26) And when your children say to you, What is the reason

of this act of worship? 27) Then you will say, This is the offering of the Lord's Passover; for he went over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he sent death on the Egyptians, and kept our families safe. And the people gave worship with bent heads. 28) And the children of Israel went and did so; as the Lord had given orders to Moses and Aaron, so they did. 29) And in the middle of the night the Lord sent death on every first male child in the land of Egypt, from the child of Pharaoh on his seat of power to the child of the prisoner in the prison; and the first births of all the cattle. 30) Then Pharaoh got up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians; and a great cry went up from Egypt; for there was not a house where someone was not dead. 31) And he sent for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Get up and go out from among my people, you and the children of Israel; go and give worship to the Lord as you have said. 32) And take your flocks and your herds as you have said, and be gone; and give me your blessing. 33) And the Egyptians were forcing the people on, to get them out of the land quickly; for they said, We are all dead men. 34) And the people took their bread-paste before it was leavened, putting their basins in their clothing on their backs. 35) And the children of Israel had done as Moses had said; and they got from the Egyptians ornaments of silver and of gold, and clothing: 36) And the Lord had given the people grace in the eyes of the Egyptians so that they gave them whatever was requested. So they took away all their goods from the Egyptians. 37) And the children of Israel made the journey from Rameses to Succoth; there were about six hundred thousand men on foot, as well as children. 38) And a mixed band of people went with them; and flocks and herds in great numbers. 39) And they made unleavened cakes from the paste which they had taken out of Egypt; it was not leavened, for they had been sent out of Egypt so quickly, that they had no time to make any food ready. 40) Now the children of Israel had been living in Egypt for four hundred and thirty years. 41) And at the end of four hundred and thirty years, to the very day, all the armies of the Lord went out of the land of Egypt. 42) It is a

watch-night before the Lord who took them out of the land of Egypt: this same night is a watch-night to the Lord for all the children of Israel, through all their generations. 43) And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, This is the law of the Passover: no man who is not an Israelite is to take of it: 44) But every man's servant, whom he has got for money, may take of it, when he has had circumcision. 45) A man from a strange country living among you, and a servant working for payment, may not take part in it. 46) It is to be taken in one house; not a bit of the flesh is to be taken out of the house, and no bone of it may be broken. 47) All Israel is to keep the feast. 48) And if a man from another country is living with you, and has a desire to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all the males of his family undergo circumcision, and then let him come near and keep it; for he will then be as one of your people; but no one without circumcision may keep it. 49) The law is the same for him who is an Israelite by birth and for the man from a strange country who is living with you. 50) So the children of Israel did as the Lord gave orders to Moses and Aaron. 51) And on that very day the Lord took the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.

Summary

The children of Israel were sent out of Egypt in haste. Pharaoh and the Egyptians were eager to be rid of them by the time they left. We are all familiar with the stories of the wander-

ings in the desert. Many complained and grumbled and accused Moses of bringing them out to the desert to die.

Ex 14:11-12 And they said to Moses, Was there no resting-place for the dead in Egypt, that you have taken us away to come to our death in the waste land? why have you taken us out of Egypt? 12) Did we not say to you in Egypt, Let us be as we are, working for the Egyptians? for it is better to be the servants of the Egyptians than to come to our death in the waste land.

We have been freed from sin. We should never look back at where we came from and think we were better off. While we may go through trials and tribulations, the reward we will receive is immeasurable. Let us not take the freedom we've been given lightly. Continue to fight the good fight; keeping the faith and obeying the laws of God. Appreciate what has been given to us and never look back for as Christ tells us in:

Luke 9:62 But Jesus said, No man, having put his hand to the plough and looking back, is good enough for the kingdom of God.

This is why we have the example of Lot's wife. We must never look back on our former lives and think we were better off, because previously we were in bondage. We are on our way to total freedom if we pray always, continue to strive to overcome and keep the Laws of God

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