

18-19 Bible Study #10

11/13/18

Administrative Information

- The Bible Study Class will be presented in the parish hall every Tuesday morning from **9:30 A.M. until 11 A.M.** beginning **September 11, 2018** and ending **May 14, 2019** except for the following Tuesdays related to a holiday:
 - **Nov 20, 2018 – Thanksgiving Week**
 - Dec 25, 2018 – Christmas
 - Jan 1, 2019 - New Year's Day
 - Apr 16, 2019 – Holy Week
- The same class will be given every Tuesday evening from **7:30 until 9:00 P.M.** in the parish hall
- Contact info: email: biblestudy@straymonds.org ; Tel: 703 644-5873
- Inclement weather decision will be **based on Fairfax County Public School announcements**

Reminder

- We will not meet for Bible Study next Tuesday, November 20 due to Thanksgiving week

Exodus 10

The Eighth Plague: Locusts

Exodus 10

- **Exodus 10:1-6**

- This statement must also be understood as a part of the “catechetical instructions” for the Israelites who, at this point, were still polytheists
- We must not forget that they had spent the previous 400 years in *Egypt* worshiping *Egyptian* gods
- There was no temple to the God of Israel, but there were many temples to the *Egyptian* gods
- We will see this play out when the Israelites arrive at Mt Sinai and begin to suspect that Moses was dead (*Apis* the golden calf)*
- Then we see the **eighth plagues, locusts***

Exodus 10 (Cont)

- **Exodus 10:7-9**

- Initially the servants of Pharaoh could replicate the plagues (1st and 2nd)
- Then they indicated that it was beyond their control
- Next, the boils were breaking out on the magicians
- Then, at this point, these servants listened and responded to Moses' warning Pharaoh that the hail that would kill all of the livestock

Exodus 10 (Cont)

- They even ask Pharaoh how long will he refuse the demands of the Israelites before he lets them go to serve (worship) their God
- They recognize, and point out that these plagues are destroying Egypt
- Remember, this is a religious battle*

Exodus 10 (Cont)

- **Exodus 10:10-23**

- It appears that Pharaoh was afraid and believed that once he let the Israelites go, they would not return
- This led to the **ninth plague, darkness** over the land except within *Goshen*
- **Wisdom 17-19** presents a description of the unrighteous living in darkness
- Father asked us to consider what it would be like to spend three days in total darkness
- During these times, the people were haunted by demons and phantoms*

Exodus 10 (Cont)

- **Exodus 10:24-29**

- *Pharaoh* agreed to let the people go, but not their live stock
- *Moses*, of course, pointed out that they will need the animals for burnt offerings to the Lord their God
- *Pharaoh* responded with his final threat stating that he was finished with this dialogue
- This sets the stage for the **Tenth** and final plague – the death of the first born*

Exodus 11

Warning of the Final Plague

Exodus 11

- **Exodus 11:1-3**

- At this point, before the tenth plague, both the people of *Egypt* and *Israel* had come to know that Moses was the prophet of a very powerful God
- These plagues were revelatory
- Once again, the Lord reminded Moses to tell the *Hebrew* people to despoil the *Egyptian* people upon the execution of the 10th and final plague*

Exodus 11 (Cont)

- **Exodus 11:4-10**

- Here we are introduced to what this final plague would consist of (remember God's warning to Pharaoh in **Exodus 4:24**)
- Once again we are introduced to the "hot anger" of Moses, which will manifest itself later in the story resulting in his being denied entry into the "Promised Land"
- In spite of all of this, Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, preventing him from letting the *Hebrew* people to go and worship their God*

Exodus 12

The Passover Instituted

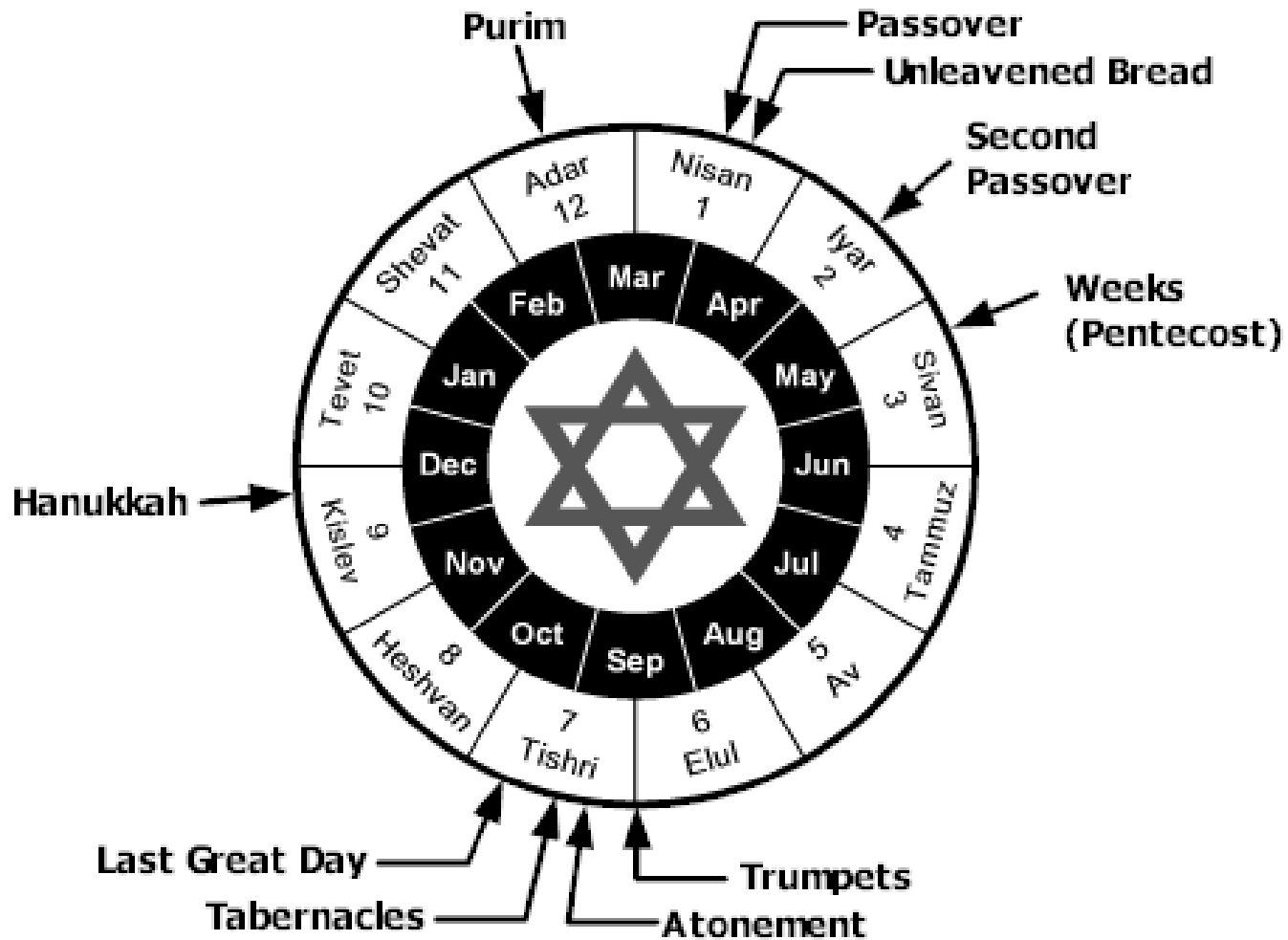
Exodus 12

- **Exodus 12:1-5**

- Notice that this feast (Passover) came in the first month which became the beginning of the Israelites' liturgical year and the festival cycle
- This is different from ***Rosh Hashanah*** which was the beginning of the civil calendar
- Father pointed out that we, as Christians, celebrate the Feast of Passover in the Church
 - Those who speak English or German call it "Easter"
 - Those in Rome, Sicily or Greece call it the "Passover" (***Pascha*** in Latin)

Exodus 12 (Cont)

- The Christian liturgical year begins with “Advent” followed by the “Passover,” which is important because it was during the Passover that Jesus experienced His passion and when He left us the New Covenant
- Most Christians are not aware that the Church celebrates the “Passover” and believe that the most important festival is Christmas



Exodus 12 (Cont)

- On the Jewish Passover, every family was instructed by God to take a 1 year old lamb or goat without blemish, ritually sacrifice it, paint its blood over the doorpost of their houses, roast and eat its flesh in a state of preparation for flight
- Father gave a detailed explanation of the differences between sheep (herding animals) and goats (solitary animals) ¹
- Jesus uses the contrast between the two animals as a metaphor for sin (**Matthew 25:31-46**)*

Exodus 12 (Cont)

- **Exodus 12:6-11**

- The Hebrew people were instructed to celebrate this feast in a specific manner because at its conclusion they were going to flee Egypt in great haste
- We remember that by girding their loins the men could travel much faster
- It was depicted as the Lord's Passover because during that night the angel of the Lord would bring death to all the first born of man and beast except for those whose doorposts were marked with the blood of the sacrifice*

Exodus 12 (Cont)

- **Exodus 12: 12-13**

- Notice that God said that He would smite all the gods of Egypt
- This was the culmination of all His acts of judgment against the Egyptian gods, proving that they were weak, or no gods at all
- This last plague will finish them off
- Notice that the word Passover is prominently displayed in this section*

Exodus 12 (Cont)

- **Exodus 12:14-15**

- Next, we find out that this day will be followed by a seven day feast
 - The first night is called Passover
 - This was followed by seven days of eating unleavened bread (explained in **Exodus 12:34; 39**)
 - This was not required because leaven was impure or evil, but to remind them of the swiftness of their departure from Egypt
 - For the seven days after the Passover they only had time to make and eat unleavened bread as there was not time to allow for the bread to rise before baking
- This also became an annual festival for the Jews for all time*

Exodus 12 (Cont)

- **Exodus 12:16**

- Passover is considered to be a Sabbath day no matter what day of the week it falls on
- Sabbath means “day of rest” not Saturday
- It is always a “Holy Day”
- This practice has been adopted by the Christian Church and thus we celebrate Holy Days as a day of rest, a day different from the ordinary days of the week
- In some parts of the world, stores are closed, people do not go to work, and go to church with their families*

Exodus 12 (Cont)

- **Exodus 12:17-20**

- Unfortunately, some have often become overly scrupulous on these Holy Days
- It does not mean that on a Holy Day you do absolutely no work
- Instead, it should be different than a regular day, but many of the normal details like preparing food and other necessities can be continued
- It is a day that is “set apart,” “distinct,” or “special” from the routine*

Exodus 12 (Cont)

- **Exodus 12:21-24**

- Here we find the description of how the Israelites were to put the blood of the lamb on their doorposts
 - Hyssop was a nice smelling bush
 - They were to take a branch of Hyssop and use it like a paint brush to smear the blood on the door post and lintels of their house
 - A lintel is a horizontal support of timber, stone, concrete, or steel across the top of a door or window*

Exodus 12 (Cont)

- **Exodus 12:25-27**

- This provided an answer to children as to why their father was killing a lamb and putting its blood over the door
- It was a sacrifice and a memorial from that day forward
- It was not to appease an angry God
- In the Old Testament, a sacrifice was seen as the offering of the life blood of an animal so that the people might live
- The blood of the lamb was going to keep Israel from death that night

Exodus 12 (Cont)

- It was also to nourish and sustain the people as they went on their arduous journey in the desert to Mount Sinai
- Again, the blood kept them from death and the flesh sustained their lives
- This is obviously Eucharistic imagery
- It was a life or death situation*

Exodus 12 (Cont)

- **Exodus 12:28-29**

- This final plague came upon the Israelites and Egyptians alike
- Those who refused to put the sacrificial blood on their doorposts lost their first born sons
- Upon seeing the blood, the angel of death “passed over” that house, sparing the firstborn of man and animal within
- The loss of the firstborn son was a major blow to the family

Exodus 12 (Cont)

- The average lifespan for men at that time was only to around age 40
- In that culture, men were usually married around 18 or 19 to a woman between 12 and 15
- They had children as quickly as they could
- Ideally, they would have a son, followed by a second or third son as early as possible
- Thus, the death of the firstborn son was a major sign of the death of the family
- Most families who lost their firstborn son did not continue*

Exodus 12 (Cont)

- **Exodus 12:30-36**

- Next, we are given an explanation of how the people were to make and eat unleavened bread
- This was required because God knew that after the final plague they would have to leave Egypt very quickly
- There would not be time to allow the yeast (leaven) to rise
- We also see, one more time, the requirement to despoil the Egyptians on their way out of the country
- They were going to need this bounty to build the tabernacle later on*

Exodus 12 (Cont)

- **Exodus 12:27-38**

- There has been wide speculation as to the total number of people in the Exodus
- The Book of Exodus says that there were about 600,000 men on foot besides women and children, plus a mixed multitude
- This meant somewhere between 1.5 and 2 million people depending on the number of children they had
- Adding the Mixed Multitude of Gentiles, it could have been 5 and 10 million people*

Exodus 12 (Cont)

- **Exodus 12:39-50**

- Again, we hear about the need to bake unleavened cakes because they had to flee so early in the morning, not because leaven was evil
- Next, we get a new number of years they had lived in Egypt (430)
- Also, we are told about watching through the night
- We will see Jesus asking Peter, James and John to watch for one hour while he was suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane

Exodus 12 (Cont)

- Finally, we get the restrictions concerning who could eat of the Passover meal
- This also set the stage for how the Church allowed access to the Mass to those who are Baptized*