

Bo
"Come"

Torah Reading: Exodus 10:1 - 13:16
Haftarah Reading: Jeremiah 46:13-28

Study Questions

1. What did the slaying of the firstborn mean to Pharaoh and Egypt?
2. Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart according to Exodus 10:1-2? Do you think that was fair?
3. What time of the day did the last plague occur? Why do you think it happened then?
4. What three foods did the Lord single out for Israel to eat at Passover? What are their meanings?
5. Why is this occasion called Passover?
6. Did the Lord also spare the lives of any Egyptians who heeded the commands about Passover?
7. How do you feel about Shemot 12:36?
8. How long did the Lord tell Israel to celebrate the Passover? Why?
9. Who may participate in the Passover? Be prepared to discuss.
10. What does Shemot 13:16 mean?
11. What does it mean that Passover is considered a sign according to Shemot 13:9?
12. Do you think it is justified to tie Yeshua and our belief in him into the Passover ceremony? Why or why not?
13. What is a key difference about the Passover sacrifice and the other sacrifices that the Israelites were to offer during other times?

Study Notes

Outline

- What the First Passover Meant to Israel
- What the First Passover Meant to Egypt

Important Points

- This was to be a night to remember. Not just the history but also the spiritual pictures which the history paints.
- The Lord also established a new system of national dating for Israel.

Mark Your Calendars!

- There are indications in Leviticus 23 that this new calendar has a definite spiritual message.
- God fixed the date for the New Year for Israel as the first of Nisan. This is approximately late March or early April.

1st of Nisan

- The theme of Nisan is Redemption. It is a representation of the new work God wants to do in each of our lives.
- The Passover Haggadah applies the Exodus to ourselves - "In every generation, one must look upon himself as if he, personally, had come out from Egypt."
- There is a deeper meaning here. Many rabbis said the Exodus symbolizes "an ongoing process."
- Yeshua is "Our Passover". (I Corinthians 5:6-8).

10th of Nisan

- On this day each household was to set aside a lamb and take special care of it until it was to be sacrificed on the 14th of Nisan. A four day inspection was required. It is easy to see how you could become attached to it during this time thus making the sacrifice more difficult.
- Josephus tells us that one year during the Second Temple period, there were as many as 256,500 lambs entering into the city of Jerusalem destined to be slain for Passover.
- It is also on this day that we believe Yeshua entered Jerusalem declaring himself to be the Messiah (Palm Sunday). He was presenting Himself for the four day inspection.

14th of Nisan

- This is the date on which Passover, Pesach, happens. Shemot 12:6 tells us it was in the afternoon that the Passover lamb was killed.
- It is significant that the Gospels tell us that Yeshua, our Passover Lamb, was also killed in the afternoon (Luke 23:44-46 tells us it was about the ninth hour or 3:00PM).
- Imagine the scene as tens of thousands of lambs are being slain at the same time Yeshua is being crucified. Don't forget about the importance of types and patterns to the Hebraic way of looking at scripture.

21st of Nisan

- The 14th and 21st of Nisan are days of rest that bookend the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- In the redemption accomplished by Yeshua, we enter into a spiritual rest. (Hebrews 4).

Don't Forget the Food

- There are certain foods we are to eat and one we are to avoid during this time.
- Each item carries with it a beautiful symbolism.

The Lamb

- This is the central food to be eaten, the unblemished lamb.

- Many rabbis believe that God chose a lamb because the lamb was sacred to the Egyptians. "...by slaying it, the Israelites would demonstrate to the Egyptians the helplessness of their god."
- God commanded the Israelites to roast the lamb. This was the fastest way to cook it and help the Israelites to leave in haste.
- None was to be used the next day. It was not to be used for an ordinary meal.

The Matzah

- The bread used was to be unleavened (without yeast). (Shemot 12:39). Part of the reason was because they were leaving quickly and the bread would not have time to rise. But the main spiritual significance seems to be a symbolism of sin. (Matthew 16:6).
- The Feast of Unleavened Bread provided a week in which the believer would be constantly reminded not to walk in the flesh.
- Ultimately, the bread of Passover became a symbol of Yeshua's body.

The Bitter Herbs

- The Hebrew word is 'maror'. Horseradish is usually used but isn't specified.
- The bitter herbs are "eaten to recall that the Egyptians embittered the lives of our ancestors in Egypt."
- Jewish tradition requires that when we eat the bitter herbs, we are to eat them in such a quantity as to make tears come to our eyes.