

Significant Lessons From The Seemingly Insignificant

#18 Let The Journey Begin

Institution of Passover: Exodus 12

1. God instituted the religious calendar to begin at Nisan.
2. Passover Marks the redemption of Israel from bondage from sin.
3. 10th Day of Nisan: Choose Your Lamb without spot, wrinkle or blemish
4. 14th Day of Nisan: Sacrifice your lamb at 3:00 pm; must be a blood sacrifice
5. The whole assembly was responsible for the killing of the lamb.
6. In contrast, each family was to individually apply the blood of their lamb to the doorposts of their own home as a visible sign of their faith in the Lord.
7. At that moment, the innocent lamb became their substitute, making it possible for the LORD'S judgment to PASS OVER them.
8. Each family ate the Passover meal that night in their home.
9. Lamb was roasted with fire, [no broken bones] unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
10. Eat the whole lamb. Nothing remained until morning.
11. It is the sacrifice of the Passover to God who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when he smote the Egyptians and delivered our houses. [12:27]
12. And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons forever. [12:24]

Note: The children of Israel did not leave Egypt destitute. In addition to their own possessions, the terrified Egyptians had bestowed upon them valuables of gold and silver, and clothing, in an effort to hasten their departure. [12:32-36] Thus God fulfilled in every detail His promise to Abraham that his descendants would leave their exile with great riches.

Gen. 15:13-14 And God said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; ¹⁴ And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge; and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

My Attitude While Eating The Lamb

- 9 plagues have already come upon the Egyptians
- The 10th and final plague will be the smiting of every firstborn in Egypt.
- The Israelites were to prepare for this final plague and the resulting exodus by eating the first Passover meal in a very unusual way to emphasize that God's people were about to leave the land of their bondage.

Ex. 12:11 "Now you shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste—it is the LORD's Passover"

[Like eating in an airport knowing your flight is almost ready for departure.]

1. Eat in HASTE:

- Haste = Strong's #2649 = chippazon = noun = trepidation, hurried flight
- Only 3 occurrences in Bible = Ex. 12:11; Deut. 16:3; Isa. 52:12
- Origin from chaphaz = Strong's #2648 = verb = to be in trepidation, hurry or alarm

God's focus seems to be on FEAR AND TREPIDATION! As they were eating the Passover that night, hundreds of thousands, perhaps as many as one million or more firstborn people in Egypt would die! The death angel would in fact PASS OVER the very houses of the Israelites ... and all that stood between the firstborn people in their houses and death was THE BLOOD which they by faith had smeared on the doorposts.

Note: Ex. 12:33 And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste = Strong's #4116 = mahar = verb = quickly

2nd Occurrence of Haste = chippazon = Deut. 16:3: Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, *even* the BREAD OF AFFLICTION [Hebrew oniy]; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt IN HASTE (Hebrew chippazon); that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.

- Affliction = oniy = Strong's #6040 = noun = trouble, misery

Question: Why did God through Moses tell them the unleavened bread during those 7 days is "the bread of affliction and trouble and misery? Because they left Egypt in Haste???

- Is the bread identified as BREAD OF AFFLICTION because they left in haste?

Question: Why would "haste" mean trouble and affliction?

After the Passover, they stayed around long enough to spoil the Egyptians.

Question: Is the bread identified this way because their departure from Egypt entailed fear and trepidation?

- Is this why they were to view the unleavened bread as "the bread of affliction?"
- Their trepidation reached a high point even before the end of the Seven Days Of Unleavened Bread, when they were "sore afraid" on seeing the Egyptian army behind them. [Ex. 14:10-12]
- Deut. 16:3 was written AFTER the events in Exodus 14 had taken place.
- By the time of Deut. 16:3 it was an historical fact that they had experienced EXTREME TREPIDATION before the end of the Seven Days of Unleavened Bread.
- When they left Egypt, the death of the firstborn hung over Egypt like a shroud.
- Within 7 days the Israelites were extremely fearful at the sight of Pharaoh's army.
- They were still eating the "bread of affliction."
- Conclusion: It seems in Deut. 16:3 the intended meaning is that they "...came out of the land of Egypt in TREPIDATION", rather than "in haste;" in a hurry.

2. Eat The Passover Meal With Your Loins Girded. [1st Mention]

In Israel a person wore as the basic garment a long shirt of linen or wool that reached to the knees or ankles. Over this a mantle [like a poncho] might be worn, but the mantle was laid aside for work. The shirt was usually worn long, but for active service, such as work or war, it was tucked up into a belt at the waist to leave the legs free.

The runner would be in trouble if he allowed his garments to fall down and become entangled in his legs. If he allowed those loose ends to keep dangling, he would surely lose the race.

Be ready to engage or work in battle: "Man up!" You are starting a new journey!

Running Our Race of Faith: *I Must Gird Up My Mind To Guard My Hope*

I Pet. 1:13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Grace first, hope second is confirmed by the word "therefore" at the beginning of verse 13.

"Therefore . . . fix your hope completely." "Therefore . . . hope fully." This word makes Peter's first command dependent on All The Grace he has exulted in for the 12 verses.

V. 1: Since God has chosen you

V. 3: Since God has caused you to be born again to a living hope

V. 4: Since God is keeping an inheritance for you imperishable, undefiled, and unfading

V. 5: Since God is protecting you through faith so that you won't lose that inheritance

V.6-7: Since God is refining your faith by fire so that it will receive praise and glory and honor

V. 8: Since you are swimming with the strokes of love and faith and joy in Christ

V.10-13: Since prophets and angels are on tiptoe to see all what God's grace is going to do in your life, THEREFORE, FIX YOUR HOPE FULLY IN THIS GRACE.

Note: The imperatives of Christian living always begin with "therefore." Peter does not begin to exhort Christian pilgrims until he has celebrated the wonders of God's salvation in Jesus Christ.

Running Our Race of Faith: *I Must Gird Up My Mind To Guard My Hope*

I Pet. 1:13a Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind,

A. Diligent Mind: I Pet. 1:13a Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind,

[Remove anything that will impair your spiritual growth or progress; Prepare Your Minds

For Action; roll up the sleeves of your mind; Mindset: Prepare to engage in a battle or race]

1. Readiness For Action is seen in virtually every other instance of the expression.

a. I Kings 18:46 Elijah girded up his loins and outran Ahab to Jezreel.

b. II Kings 4:29 Gehazi was told by Elisha to gird up his loins, take Elisha's staff and hurry to the Shunammite's son who had died.

2. Girding the loins seems to include the dimension of Courage or Resolve.

The task he was called to do was not a pleasant one and could bring persecution.

a Jer. 1:17 Jeremiah was commanded to gird up his loins and to prophesy:

"Now, gird up your loins, and arise, and speak to them all which I commanded you.

Do not be dismayed before them, lest I dismay you before them."

3. Girding The Loins of Your Mind: Related to Mental Outlook; Not Physical Clothing

a. Job 38:3 God challenges Job to gird up his loins. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if you have understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

b. Job 40:7 "Now gird up your loins like a man; for I will demand of thee and answer thou me."

I Pet. 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, BE SOBER,

B. Sober Mind: Remove anything that would hinder your spiritual growth and obedience. - cause you to trip up

Clear, focused mind on the task that is set before me; not numb with intoxicating influences

Luke 12:35-40 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately...

Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

1. Girding up the loins of the mind corrects a too casual attitude toward the Lord's coming which will prevent us from being caught unaware and unprepared at His coming.
2. Our attitude determines our action. A Christian who is looking for the return of Jesus Christ has a greater motivation for present obedience than a Christian who ignores the Lord's return.

C. Peter's Command: Hope Fully in God's Grace!

Fix Your Hope Completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. An action you do with your mind and your heart. It's a command to hope.

Note: Girding up the loins of my mind and being sober are the means to the end - HOPE FULLY

1. What is the object of my hope? The Grace of God

"Fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Grace is on the way. Hope in it. Hope in it fully! Hope fully in God's grace.

D. God's Command and Delight: Hope in God

Ps. 147:10-11 He delights not in the strength of the horse: He takes not pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love.

God's command and delight is not first what you can perform for Him with your strength.

It is first that you hope in what He can perform for you with His strength.

The first human counterpart to divine grace is hope. Grace is coming to you; hope in it.

Let your whole soul be engaged in hope. Don't be partially hoping and partially doubting.

Let grace get all the glory! Show the world that grace is all-satisfying. It will meet every need.

Turn the robes of your mind into running shorts. Girding the mind is a means to hoping fully in grace. "Having girded up the loins of your mind, hope fully . . ." That's what our minds are running for. What is the mind to be doing so actively that it produces hope? The answer is TRUTH. Hope happens when our minds are girded up with truth, and active in truth.

3. Eat The Lamb With Shoes On Your Feet.

a. Speaks of our walk with God. Walk in the deliverance before you.

Watchman Nee: Prepare to take the journey: to take their sojourning way. Once the blood is applied and the flesh eaten, one becomes a sojourner, and he must leave Egypt.

Our life is the life of a sojourner; therefore, we must be ready to leave Egypt. Once we are born again and begin to feast on God's Word, He will not allow us to remain in Egypt anymore.

How The LORD Frees Us From Bondage: Put Your Shoes On

b. Acts 12:7-8 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly.

And his Chains Fell Off From His Hands. And the angel said unto him,

Gird thyself and bind on thy sandals. And so he did.

And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

Peter was about to take a journey. To walk is to take up our sojourning.

c. Ephesians 6:15 "And your feet shod with the preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness] of the gospel of peace,"

The Roman army's [which we assume was the model for the idioms Paul was using] footwear of were nail-studded sandals (caligae) were designed to anticipate the various countermeasures which an enemy might employ to inhibit their advance or to dislodge their footing when in combat.

The term "shod" (Greek, u`podeomai, hupodeo) means to underbind, to bind under one's self, or to bind on. It is a call to action.

Our journey is a spiritual battle; we can't walk into battle unprepared and barefoot.

1. Being Ready: Comes from the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which gives the peace of God. Apostle Paul thinks this peace is like the heavy hob-nailed boots that the legionaries wore, by which they could stand firm, whatever came against them.
2. The Gospel is a peace-bringing power in the warfare; causes us to stand firm.
3. The Gospel of peace in our hearts will prepare us for the journey.
4. Troubled hearts cannot focus on the task because much of their energy is taken up in steadying or quieting themselves or is dissipated in going after a hundred other things.
 - The steam engine is said to be a very imperfect machine which wastes more power than it utilizes.
 - True with many Christians: They possess the POWER, but do not rest in the peace and tranquility of God. They waste much of the power that is theirs.
5. A peaceful heart makes us ready for duty: Steadfast, unmovable
 - Unless my footing is firm, I will be tumbled over by the onset of an unexpected circumstance or trial. The sudden assaults can work disastrously against us.
 - "Gospel shoes" allow us to stand when we face the difficult circumstances.

Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. [shall garrison *and* mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.]

- Command: Bind On The Shoes: Soaking our minds and hearts in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Keep near Jesus Christ from whom all the fullness of the spiritual life flows. If my vessel is full of Him, I will realize the fulfillment of the promise: "He will not suffer thy foot to be moved."

4. Eat The Lamb With Your Staff In Your Hand.

The Importance of the Staff

1. God made Moses' staff the object of power and freedom for the people of Israel.
2. God used Moses' staff to provide the provision of water for the Israelites in the wilderness.

Ex. 17:6 The LORD answered Moses, "Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb.

Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink."

3. God used Moses' staff as the protector of the Israelites. Provided victory against enemy

Ex. 17:9 The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites.

Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands."

Consider: When we raise our "stuffs" up to the Lord, He is our protector, our defender.

He works on our behalf. We must continually offer ourselves to the Lord.

4. Satan Desires To Steal Your Staff

- Judah's son Er, a wicked man, was married to Tamar. God judged Er and killed him.
- It was the custom for the brother of the deceased to lie with the widow to insure the lineage would continue.
- Onan, the brother, did lie with Tamar, but spilled his seed on the ground.
- This angered the Lord; Onan lost his life.
- Tamar has no relative to carry on Er's seed.
- Judah, her father-in-law, failed to make any provision for Tamar through one of his grandsons.
- Judah tells Tamar to remain a widow which was devastating to her.
- Judah's wife died. After a period of mourning, he took a weekend trip to Timnah.
- He & a buddy decide to live it up. Tamar learns of the trip and poses as a prostitute in the street.
- He propositions Tamar, whose head is covered and cannot be recognized.
- He thought payment for sex would be a young goat, but he did not have the goat with him.
- He would bring it the next day. So Tamar asks for a pledge.
- It was his staff which had his seal on it. It represented his rank and honor; great value.

- Judah had to sign over what represented his very life to the woman who now had the goods on him.
 - Satan wants to steal my inheritance and destroy God's calling on my life.
5. Jacob had a long history of being a manipulator and controller. Before his dreaded meeting with Esau, he wrestled with the angel who overcomes him by removing his hip socket.
- Jacob's name is changed to Israel. He will now walk with a limp. His staff represents dependence on God and was now used to help him walk. His staff was still beside him at death.

Heb. 11:21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

- Jacob's staff changed from a symbol of striving and manipulation to a symbol of brokenness.

6. We Can Misuse Our Staff

- Moses used his staff inappropriately. He was not allowed to enter the Promised Land.
- We must be in total submission to God's ways and instructions.

Consider: Moses' wrong use of the staff achieved what he wanted - water from the rock. But he was judged. If I use my "staff" in ways that God never designed for me, I will achieve only things of the flesh. Works that are born in the flesh will result in burned up works.

Oswald Chambers: Counterfeit Christianity: Much of modern Christian enterprise is "Ishmael." Born not of God, but of an inordinate desire to do God's will in our own way - the one thing our Lord never did."

When you and I depend upon our own strength, it becomes a splintered staff which creates a painful infliction. One little splinter has the ability to cripple you if it is not removed. So too, our staffs, when used through our own strength becomes a source of pain.

The Promised Land = The Abundant Life

We enter the Promised Land and receive our inheritance through obedience, not sweat.

Josh. 24:13 "So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant."

Abide in Jesus Christ to receive from God out of your obedience, not your sweat and toil.

This is where you will see the activity of God in your life and work - your staff.

Let The Journey Begin: Gird Up My Mind; Bind My Feet with the Gospel Of Peace;
My Staff in My Hand; In Haste

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;