



Your Partner Teaching!

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from Pastor/Evangelist Errol Eardly

Together bringing Salvation, Healing & Deliverance to un-reached millions in Sri Lanka!

THE SEVEN FEASTS OF THE LORD (7 JEWISH FEASTS) P3

Dearly beloved, I am sure you are being blessed by these teachings as I was. What a marvelous effect it had on me and the family. I am sure you will also experience the joy of obeying our wonderful Lord in keeping the feasts. This month we continue on the celebration.

3) Seder Check List



General

The table is usually set with the best dishes, a low floral arrangement, a tablecloth, and two candles and candlesticks.

Place a Haggadah at each setting (or every other setting.)

On the chairs should be a pillow or cushion for leaning.

On the table near the leader

A small basin of water for the hand washing (or the leader can bring it to the table when it is time) and a towel to dry the hands.

Seder Plate.

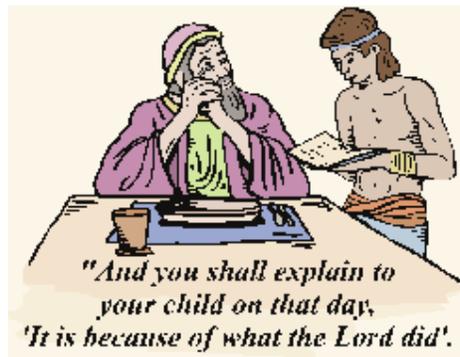
You can purchase a seder plate or use a fancy dish, or even let the children color a paper plate. On the seder plate are usually:

- A shank bone of a lamb (some leave off the shank bone and serve a different main dish because Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice. Others like the symbolism--you choose):
- Bitter herbs (usually horseradish);
- Karpas (a green vegetable, usually parsley or celery.)
- Charoset (a mixture of apple, nuts, and wine)
- Three pieces of matzah, in the specially designed matzah cover or within three cloth napkins.

On the table within everyone's reach

- Small bowls of salty water.
- Wine goblet or glass.
- Extra bitter herbs and charoset for a large family or gathering.
- A plate of matzah.
- A bottle of wine or grape juice (one bottle per every six to eight people).

The Four Questions



Jewish tradition requires the youngest child at the table to ask, usually in song, four questions about why this night is different from all other nights. The leader answers each question telling the Passover story.

1. Why do we eat unleavened bread on this night when all other nights we eat either leavened bread or Matzah?
2. Why do we eat only bitter herbs on this night when all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables?
3. Why do we dip our vegetables twice on this night when we do not dip our vegetables even once all other nights?
4. Why do we eat our meals reclining on this night when on all other nights we eat our meals sitting or reclining?

Israel's Redemption from Egypt (Exodus 1:1-18:27)

The Old Testament story of Passover is more glorious than any other event in history. Moses and his brother Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him that the Lord said to let the Israelites go. Pharaoh refused to release the Israelites, even for a brief visit to the desert to worship their God. In fact, he made life for the Israelite slaves even worse. Moses had warned Pharaoh that God would send a series of plagues upon Egypt unless the people were freed.



God sent the plagues to show the people that the God of the Hebrews is the one true God. He confronted the things that the Egyptians called gods. The ten plagues were God's judgments on their false gods they worshipped. God makes those false things that man worships a burden to them.

The Egyptians believed in magic. They were always trying to override the laws of nature to perform their "tricks" God used the laws of nature to bring about His signs and wonders.

The entire episode of the plagues is supposed to have happened within eight to ten months. Each of the plagues spoke as a sign to the Egyptians, showing them that the God of the Israelites is greater than their so-called gods. None of these plagues touched the Hebrews (I will put a division between my people and thy people Exodus 8: 23). Before each plague, God commanded Moses and Aaron to warn Pharaoh, *Let My people go or I [God] will bring a plague upon you. Before each plague, for three weeks, Moses warned Pharaoh.* The actual plague lasted one week.

The Ten Plagues

#1 - First Plague: The Nile waters Turn to Blood (Exodus. 7:14-25).

The Nile, the river of Egypt, was the Egyptians idol. The Nile's waters were their source of life for their people, vegetation and animals. The Pharaoh also thirsted after blood when he slaughtered the Hebrew children, and now God gave them blood to drink. Now the source that brought the Egyptians life brought death instead.

#2 - Second Plague: The frogs (Exodus. 8:1-15).

The frogs represented the fertility goddess, Isis - that was supposed to help women in childbirth. Frogs were everywhere: in their houses, in their beds, and at their tables. They could not eat, drink, or sleep without their precious god. The frog that symbolized life was left to be raked in heaps of rotting piles of death. Their god became a stench to them.

#3 - Third Plague: The Lice (Exodus. 8:16-19).

The lice which came up to live out of the dust of the earth represented the Egyptians god of the earth, Seth. Lice were small inconsiderable creatures, and yet, by their vast numbers, they rendered a sore plague to the Egyptians. God could have plagued them with lions, or bears, or wolves, or with vultures or other birds of prey; but He chose to do it by these very small creatures.

#4 - Fourth Plague: The Flies (Exodus. 8:20-32).

The stinging, disease-carrying flies ruined the land. Beelzebub, the prince of the power of the air, has been glorified as the god of flies, the god of Ekron. The fly was always present at idolatry sacrifices. It seems that the god partook of those in this manner. The plagues came upon the Egyptians only. It made Israel a separate and Holy People.

#5 - Fifth Plague: The Disease of Livestock (Exodus. 9:1-7).

A great number of cattle died by a disease. The Egyptians made the Hebrews poor and so God caused great loss to the Egyptians. This disease afflicted only the Egyptian livestock. The Egyptians believed animals were possessed by the spirits of gods. The bull was sacred in Egypt, identified in its markings to their god Apis. This pestilence, God's Word tells us, did not affect the Hebrew livestock.

#6 - Sixth Plague: The Boils (Exodus. 9:8-12).

Again God demonstrated His ability to control nature. When the death of their cattle didn't convince the Egyptians, God sent a plague that seized their own bodies. And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast (Exod. 9:10). Sores in the body were looked upon as punishment for sin, a means by which to call one to repentance. None of the Hebrews had any boils. This plague was a direct attack on the shamanism of the medico-mystical processes in Egypt.

#7 - Seventh Plague: The Hailstorm (Exodus. 9:13-35).

Moses gave the people a one-day warning before this plague. The notice was given because the sorcerers of Egypt were also agricultural shamans who supposedly controlled the weather. Those who feared the Lord went into shelter (showing us that God had mercy on some of the Egyptians). Those who did not believe God and took no shelter died in the fields (Ex. 9:21). There was ice and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all of the land of Egypt. The hail killed both men and cattle, and battered down the herbs, vegetable gardens, fruit trees, and other plants. God, in His judgment, caused it to rain or hail on the Egyptians and not on the Hebrews.

#8 - Eighth Plague: The locusts (Exodus. 10:13-14, 19).

By this time, Pharaoh's people, his magicians, and advisors, began to rebel. Pharaoh stood alone against God. Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such. The plague was then sent which devastated the land and hence the power of the gods and shamans of agriculture. Pharaoh sent for Moses and pretended to repent. He asked Moses to pray to God to take the locusts away. And the LORD turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red Sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt.

#9 -Ninth Plague: The Darkness (Exodus. 10:21-29).

The Egyptians rebelled against the light of God's Word and they were justly punished with darkness. This thick darkness was over Egypt three days, but the people of Israel had light where they dwelt. What a picture of dark and light, of being lost and saved. The children of God walked in the light while Pharaoh and his people wandered in the darkness.

It was a total darkness. We have reason to think, not only that the lights of heaven were clouded, but that all their fires and candles were put out by the damp or clammy vapors which were the cause of this darkness; for it is said (v. 23), They saw not one another. It is threatened to the wicked (Job 18:5-6) that the spark of his fire shall not shine, even the sparks of his own kindling, as they are called (Isa. 50:11), and that the light shall be dark in his tabernacle. Hell is utter darkness. The light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee (Rev. 18:23)."

This plague was an attack on the power of the supreme deity of Egypt, the sun god Re or Amun-Re. The Egyptians could do nothing but stay in their homes and consider what they had experienced up to now, regarding the power of the God of the Israelites. Even then, Pharaoh refused to yield.

#10 - Tenth Plague: The Death of the Firstborn (Exodus. 11:1-10).

God said in Exodus 13:2, *"Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine."*

God placed a special claim on the firstborn of man and beast (Ex. 13:11-13). This meant that the nation of Israel attached unusual value to the eldest son and assigned special privileges and responsibilities to him. Because of God's claim on the first offspring, the firstborn sons of the Hebrews were presented to the Lord when they were a month old. Since the firstborn was regarded as God's property, it was necessary for the father to redeem, or buy back, the child from the priest. Early Hebrew laws also provided that the firstlings of beasts belonged to the Lord and were turned over to the sanctuary (Ex. 13:2; 34:19; Lev. 27:26). The firstborn's birthright was a double portion of the estate and leadership of the family. As head of the home after his father's death, the eldest son customarily cared for his mother until her death, and provided for his unmarried sisters until their marriages. He was the family's spiritual head and served as its priest.

The death of every firstborn in Egypt, from the house of Pharaoh to the slaves and the livestock, was great. But Israel was spared so that there would be an obvious distinction between those who belong to the YAWH and those who do not.

"And it came to pass, that at midnight the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead. And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as ye have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also. And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We be all dead men. And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading troughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders. And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: And the Lord gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptian." (Exodus 12:29-36).

Redemption



The great miracle of the parting of the Red Sea is the completion of the departure from Egypt and the inspiring wonder that forged a group of slaves into a nation and the destruction of their enemies. This also points to the great miracle of our redemption and deliverance from bondage and slavery to sin and to the enemy to the Kingdom of Almighty God through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

During this God-ordained night we celebrate the miracle of our salvation. Thus, like ancient Israel, we are brought to the edge of the "sea" with no hope except to trust His deliverance and to follow Him. We marvel at His all sufficiency and we trust Him for deliverance and walk through the "sea" with Him, we end up singing and dancing on the other side. That's Pesach – The Passover!

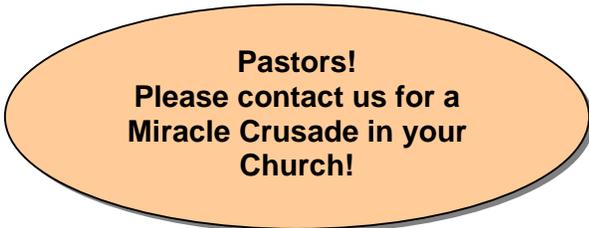
Note: A day on the Jewish calendar begins at sunset. When a date is given for a Jewish holiday, the holiday actually begins at sundown on the preceding day.

Thank you, thank you my beloved partner for your love, prayers and support for our wonderful Lord's work in Sri Lanka! One of the most neglected nations where evangelism is concerned. Without you and our precious Lord these would not be possible. Keep sowing your seed for your harvest and the Lord's harvest for the lost! Our rewards are going to be great in heaven.

With my love for you and the lost!



Errol Eardly
Continued next month.....



Pastors!
Please contact us for a
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Church!

Quote of the Month!

"The greatest need of this generation is a wholehearted return to the plan and purposes of God"

- Dr Richard Owen Roberts

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