

Ex. 12:1 Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

12:2 "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.

12:3 "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.

12:4 'And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb.

12:5 'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

12:6 'Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.

12:7 'And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

12:8 'Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

12:9 'Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire-its head with its legs and its entrails.

12:10 'You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire.

12:11 'And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.

12:12 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.

12:13 'Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

12:14 'So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.

12:15 'Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

12:16 'On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat-that only may be prepared by you.

12:17 'So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance.

12:18 'In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.

12:19 'For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land.

12:20 'You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.'

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12:21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb.

12:22 "And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.

12:23 "For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.

12:24 "And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever.

12:25 "It will come to pass when you come to the land which the Lord will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service.

12:26 "And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?'

12:27 "that you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.' " So the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

12:28 Then the children of Israel went away and did so; just as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

12:29 And it came to pass at midnight that the Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock.

12:30 So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, 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.

12:31 Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the Lord as you have said.

From Today's Sermon

At Mount Sinai, God the Lord appeared to Moses and gave him a mission. "I have seen the suffering of my people in Egypt, and I have heard their cries because of their taskmasters. I know their suffering. I will go down and deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians..." However, at first Moses hesitated and was afraid, saying "Oh Lord, I am not a man of words, either before or since you spoke to your servant. I am slow of speech and heavy of tongue."

Then God said to him:

"Who has given man a mouth? Who has made him deaf and blind, so that he cannot hear or see? Is it not I, the Lord? Go now, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you should say."

He finally speaks to the king of Egypt, "Let my people go."

In the face of the king of Egypt, who has a hard heart, God sends nine plagues.

Even so, seeing that the king was still stubborn, the Lord decreed the death of the firstborn. The depths of human sin are unfathomable. Indeed, "the wages of sin is death." But the Lord provided a lamb, saying, "This is the Lord's Passover sacrifice." The Lord provided redemption for the serious sin of man, and "passed over the houses of the Israelites and saved our houses" from judgment.

Here is the message from Suzanne sensei-

I would like to thank each and everyone of you for welcoming me into your church, your house, your family. And for your warmth and kindness.

Your support has enabled us to do missions work here and to plant a church in Shobara.

And as much as you have been an encouragement to us, I hope we are an encouragement to you to share the good news of God's saving grace with the people in your communities and work places. Besides your own personal relationship with God, there is nothing more important than saving souls from destruction. And each of you have been strategically placed right where you are for that purpose.

When Pastor Lynne and I go door to door to tell people about Jesus, so many are not home. They may be where you are. And God will use you to reach those we cannot reach.

Please continue your kind, loving and generous ways and it will soften the hearts of those

around you making them ready to receive the good news that Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the dead. And that all who believe in Him and follow Him will be saved from eternal destruction and will live in eternity with our Heavenly Father.

Thank you very much for your precious service, Susan-sensei, who has been evangelizing in Shobara for a year, and Sasaki-sensei and his wife, who are evangelizing in Nagasaki.

I know that there have been times when you have felt inconvenienced, frustrated, suffered, or sad.

The Lord God listened to the people's cries in Egypt.

3:4 When the LORD saw that he was coming to look, God called to him from the midst of the thicket, "Moses, Moses!" He said, "Here I am."

3:5 God said, "Do not come near. Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

3:6 He also said, "I am the God of your father Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to see God.

3:7 The Lord also said, "I have seen the suffering of my people in Egypt, and have known their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their suffering.

3:8 I am going down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and I am going to lead them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

3:9 Now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.

3:10 So I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

God sees and knows all our suffering. He knows our failures and our sinfulness, and he guides and rescues us with patience and grace. Even though the Lord had called Moses to save his people, rather than being moved by God's deep will and putting himself on the line...Moses looked at himself, saw his own weakness, and was unable to demonstrate his trust in God's greatness and perfect plan. In that respect, we can really relate to him, but the Bible also teaches us an important lesson.

3:11 Moses said to God, "What am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

3:12 God said, "I will be with you. This is the sign I have sent you. When you lead the people

out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

3:13 Moses said to God, “When I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’

3:14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He also said, “Tell the Israelites this: ‘The one who says, ‘I AM,’ has sent me to you.’”

4:1 Moses said, ‘But they will not believe me, and they will not listen to my voice. They will say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you.’”

4:2 The Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A rod.”

4:3 He said, ‘Throw it on the ground.’ When he threw it on the ground, it became a snake, so Moses fled from it.

4:4 The Lord said to Moses, “Reach out your hand and take hold of the tail. So he reached out his hand and took hold of it, and it became a rod in his hand.

4:5 This is to make them believe that the Lord, the God of their ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”

4:6 The Lord also said to him, “Put your hand in your pocket.” When he put his hand in his pocket and took it out, it was leprous and white as snow.

4:7 The Lord said, “Put your hand back in your pocket.” So he put his hand back in his pocket, and when he took it out again, he saw that it had been restored and was like the flesh of his hand.

4:10 Moses said to the Lord, “Ah, Lord, I am not a man of words, either before or after You have spoken to Your servant. I am slow of speech and heavy of tongue.”

4:11 The Lord said to him, “Who gave man the mouth? Who made him deaf and blind, so that he could not hear or see? Is it not I, the Lord?”

4:12 Therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you should say.”

4:13 Moses said, “Oh, Lord, please send someone else!”

God encouraged Moses by telling him that He would be with him at all times, providing this sign and that sign, but as he saw again and again how slow Moses was to act, he felt frustrated at how timid humans could be. However, despite being shown before their eyes that God is protecting them with great strength, they are still tormented by cowardice and laziness, and do not want to suffer hardship or be exposed to danger. Isn't this exactly the way we feel? Even Moses, who crossed the Red Sea with a vast crowd of people, fought against magicians, and dealt with the Egyptian king who was feared throughout the world, was still just a human being like us. How can God be with us and accomplish great works? We must pay attention

to this and expect God to work in our lives. This is the whole of our faith. There is absolutely no need to ask "Who am I?" before God. "I will surely be with you. This is the sign that I have sent you." "Who has given man a mouth? ... It is I, the Lord." This God, the God who calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee and made it possible for people to walk on water, is with us. This is the greatest sign of our strength and joy.

Now, Moses and Aaron went before the king of Egypt, and under the Lord's guidance, the nine plagues were brought upon Egypt, but the king's heart was still hardened. Then the final plague of death came.

We wonder why the king's heart was so hardened that he was unable to protect himself and his people and livestock, even though the plagues had come repeatedly. Was it pride, fearlessness, insensitivity, laziness, or slothfulness? But isn't that the reality of human beings? Even though there are many opportunities for repentance, many opportunities for improvement and salvation, they are unable to make use of them. And the sin of missing the mark in life, the sin of continuing to disobey God's will, will lead to death.

Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And the time finally came.

12:1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt:

12:2 "This month shall be to you the first month; it shall be the first of the months of the year.

12:3 Speak to all the assembly of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth day of this month each family shall take a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a household:

12:4 And if any family be too little for the lamb, let them and their next door neighbor take it according to the number of the persons, and eat it according to the house; they shall make their reckoning for the lamb, each one according to his eating.

12:5 The lamb must be a male, a year old, without blemish, and taken from the flock of sheep or goats.

12:6 It must be kept until the fourteenth day of this month, and all the congregation of Israel must slaughter it at twilight,

12:7 and take its blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the upper doorpost of the house in which they will eat it.

12:8 And that night you shall eat it roasted on the fire, with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

12:9 Do not eat it raw or boiled in water, but roasted on the fire, with its head, legs, and

internal organs.

12:10 Do not leave it until morning; if any remains until morning, roast it.

12:11 You shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded, and your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand, you shall eat it in haste. This is the Passover of the Lord.

This was a sacrificial offering to atone for the coming judgment of God, the death of the firstborn.

God's people also could not be spared from death without this sacrifice of the lamb.

Romans 3:10 It is written, "There is none righteous, no, not one.

3:11 There is none who understands, no, not one who seeks God.

3:12 All have turned aside, they have all become futile; there is none who does good, no, not one.

3:13 Their throats are open graves; with their tongues they deceive men; the venom of vipers is in their lips

3:14 and their mouths are full of cursing and bitter words.

3:15 Their feet are swift to shed blood

3:16 and in their paths is destruction and misery.

3:17 And they do not know the way of peace.

3:18 There is no fear of God before their eyes."

12:12 And I will go through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

Because of the sins of man, even animals and beasts that should not have sinned are now being judged.

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

8:19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

8:20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it,

8:21 and because the creation itself remains in the hope of being set free from the bondage of

corruption into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

8:22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

12:20 You shall eat nothing that has been sown. You must eat unleavened bread in all your dwellings."

12:21 So Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Hurry and take a lamb for each family and slaughter the Passover lamb.

12:22 Also take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood in the basin, and put the blood in the basin on the two doorposts and on the two doorframes. Until morning, none of you shall go out of the door of his house.

12:23 And when the LORD goes round to smite the Egyptians, and seeth the blood upon the lintel and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

12:24 And this shall be a statute for ever, that ye may keep it for your seed:

12:25 You must keep this ceremony when you come to the land that the Lord has promised you, as he has commanded you.

12:26 If your children ask you, 'What is the meaning of this ceremony?

12:27 you shall say, 'This is the Lord's Passover sacrifice. When He struck the Egyptians, He passed over the houses of the Israelites who were in Egypt, and saved our houses. At this, the people bowed down and worshiped.

The people then took the blood of the lamb and prepared for the Passover, as the Lord had instructed them. The meaning of this ceremony was, "This is the Lord's Passover sacrifice. When He struck the Egyptians, He passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and saved our homes."

The Lord struck Egypt, which was oppressing His people, and delivered and redeemed His people, who belonged to His faith, from their sins. However, as I mentioned earlier, the Israelites, who were God's people, were also a people who needed to have their sins forgiven. What separated the Egyptians and the Israelites was not whether they had good manners, were well-informed, or were pure or good-behaved. It was whether they would lean on God's grace or not, and whether they would follow their own thoughts or not. The people knew this, and in the presence of God's perfect grace, they were filled with fear and bowed down.

The consequences for those who did not know the Lord and his salvation, and who rejected

it, were terrible. And they finally bowed down to God.

12:28 The people of Israel did as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

12:29 At midnight the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the prisoner who was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of livestock.

12:30 So Pharaoh and his servants and the Egyptians rose up in the night, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no house without a dead man. There was no house without a dead person.

12:31 So Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in the night and said, "You and the Israelites should stand up and leave my people. Go and serve the Lord as you have said.

Here we have a solemn and solemn event recorded.

As I mentioned earlier, we are asked what we live by. There are times when we find ourselves unable to take a single step forward in the face of difficulty, when we are so wrapped up in our own thoughts that we just walk away, but there is someone who does not judge us, but embraces us, supports us with a mighty hand, loves us, blesses us, and guides us, even paying a great price for us. We are made righteous in God's eyes through the precious blood of the sacrifice of His Son, through His life. We want to think of the suffering of the Lord on the cross, confess honestly and obediently that the sacrifice of Jesus the Lamb is for our sins, partake of the precious gift of redemption, receive cleansing, receive forgiveness, and, as Moses said, let our people go as vessels used by God, and pass on the message of salvation from sin and liberation to eternal life through Jesus.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

3:24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

3:25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished because He has overlooked the sins that have been committed in the past, in view of His patience.

3:26 It is to make His righteousness known at the present time, so that He Himself may be just and the one who has faith in Jesus may be declared righteous.

3:27 Where, then, is our boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On the principle of works? No, but on the principle of faith.

3:28 We believe that a person is justified by faith, not by works of the law.

3:29 Or is God the God of the Jews only? Is he not the God of the Gentiles too? Yes, of the Gentiles too, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the

uncircumcised through faith.

3:30 If there is one God, he will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

◇Prayer; Heavenly Father, thank you for today's service.

We thank you for the Lord's grace in providing us with the Passover sacrifice. Despite the repeated plagues brought by the Lord upon the king of Egypt, we are amazed at how stubbornly he persisted in sinning before God, but this also shows our own stubbornness before our God. However, you have allowed us to say, "You have passed over the houses of the Israelites and saved our homes," through the life and blood of the lamb of atonement. Please lead all those who are suffering into God's salvation and peace. Bless our family and the people in our community. Please use us. In the name of the Lord Jesus, I pray. Amen