



Walking in the *Foot Prints* of Jesus

A Discipleship Journey

The OLD TESTAMENT- Their Story is Our Story

Passover

Exodus Chapters 11 & 12, Week 10

The history behind the Old Testament shows us that the Hebrew people were in Egypt for 400 years. Their numbers had grown dramatically over that time, and a Pharaoh who came to power was fearful of how much their population had grown. He was frightened of being overthrown because of the number of Israelites in Egypt. He was jealous of them as well. So, he made the Hebrew people slaves of Egypt. Furthermore, because their numbers continued to grow, the Pharaoh ordered that all Hebrew baby boys were to be killed at birth. Moses was one of these babies who was ordered to be killed, but he escaped death.

Many decades later, after Moses was an adult and after his encounter with the Lord at the burning bush, he set his sights for Egypt. God had given Moses the command to free His chosen people from Pharaoh. Pharaoh refused, and Moses told him that God would unleash ten plagues on the people of Egypt until he freed His chosen people. The tenth plague, which caused the death of every firstborn child in Egypt, is where we first hear of the Passover.

“Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it...

For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.”

Exodus 12.3-7, 12-13

And so, the Hebrew people were spared, and the firstborn of the Egyptians were not. Even the Pharaoh himself lost his firstborn. After this tenth and final plague, the Pharaoh set the Israelites free.

The series of events that led to the Passover were truly transformative for the Chosen People of God. You might say that their lives were changed forever. Many transformative moments happen throughout the lives of all people, even today. They offer us the opportunity to potentially start anew, change our ways, look at life differently, leave the wrong path, and walk with Christ again, etc. There are a couple of problems though. Some people do not care or are unwilling to make the necessary changes in their lives, despite the call to do so. Some people do not notice these moments in their lives at all. As a society we tend to be too busy, and we do not take the time to see what is happening around us. God talks to us in many different ways, and we need to listen and take notice. God does not always talk to us through thunder in the clouds. He sometimes whispers to us by reaching out to us through others. When transformative times happen in our lives, we need to take time and have a loving conversation with God. He is the one Who will transform us all and give us new life.

Have I had any transformative experiences in my life? How did I react to those moments? Do I need to pay more attention to God's actions in my life so I can grow closer to the Divine?