

## **REMEMBER THIS NIGHT**

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The Spring Holy Day Season is just ahead.

Hopefully ... we've been thinking of Passover — what the wine and bread mean to us — personally?

Passover is Tuesday evening. Thursday is the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

But ... before we get into the day-time observance of the Feast — there's another important observance that comes first!

Today ... let's review the Night To Be Much Remembered! Why do we do it and no other churches seem to?

#### **Exodus 12:5-8**

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

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.**

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*.**

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

Two parts to the Passover.

#### **Exodus 12:12-13**

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.**

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.

### **Exodus 12:21-24**

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.**

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. *(Daybreak ... when the sun is coming up)*

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.**

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

Very detailed instructions.

Jesus later changed the emblems to bread and wine.

### **Exodus 12:29-33**

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.** *(Midnight — probably the middle of the night)*

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.**

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.

32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also.”

33 **And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, “We shall all be dead.”**

At “midnight” — the death angel strikes. The Egyptians urged them to leave.

After daybreak ... the word spread. “We can go — we’re free!”

There were some hours for last-minute packing before they assembled at Rameses. Then they were ready to leave as the 15<sup>th</sup> Nisan approaches. At nightfall.

### **Exodus 12:37-39**

37 **Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth**, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children.

38 **A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds—a great deal of livestock.**

39 **And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt**; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves.

### **Numbers 33:3**

3 **They departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the day after the Passover the children of Israel went out with boldness in the sight of all the Egyptians.** *(The 15<sup>th</sup> Nisan)*

### **Deuteronomy 16:1**

1 **“Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night.** *(So beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> — what we call the Night To Be Much Remembered)*

### **Exodus 12:40-42**

40 **Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years.**

41 **And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years—on that very same day—it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.**

42 **It is a night of solemn observance to the LORD for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD**, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.

A couple of things to see here: 430 years ... very same day?

A night of solemn observance??

So ... as the Holy Day begins ... Israel is free to go. The Exodus begins. They leave with a high hand.

Even though night ... it would be bright enough for travel. The full moon is on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Also ... God went before them in a pillar of fire.

The whole 15<sup>th</sup> day is holy. But the evening part is a special celebration.

Verse 42 in other translations.

**Exodus 12:42 (NLT LIFE APPLICATION STUDY BIBLE 2020)**

42 ... **it must be celebrated every year, from generation to generation, to remember the LORD'S deliverance.**

**Exodus 12:42 New Century Version (NCV)**

42 ... **so on this same night the Israelites are to keep watch to honor the Lord from now on.**

**Exodus 12:42 (THE VOICE)**

42 ... **now this night is to be kept by His people, to be celebrated by all of the people of Israel throughout all generations.**

Some say that Mr Armstrong/COG just “made up” this festival — but it’s plainly in the scriptures. It’s to be celebrated ... to be observed.

Up until this year with Covid 19 ... it was common for God’s people to meet together if they could — hopefully to remember this famous night and what it pictures.

Although ... people can get sloppy. We went to one Church function a few years ago. There were about 35 — 40 brethren there. They just got their food ... sat down ... and started eating! No one made any mention of why they were gathering together — that it was a special celebration with deep meaning.

After a bit of fuss ... I was asked to say a few words.

We might be mostly on our own this year ... but we still need to make the evening as special as we can and remember God taking His people to freedom.

But let's look again at verse 41. Four hundred and thirty years "to the very day". (NASB)

**It suggests that this wasn't just random? An anniversary?** So ... maybe there is more to our remembering this night than "just" the Exodus? Something that happened during the lifetime of Abraham. What was that incident? It is not 100% clear — but very likely — highly probable that it was a special covenant that God entered into with Abraham.

#### **Genesis 15:1-5**

1 **After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."**

2 But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

3 Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"

4 And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "**This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.**"

5 Then He brought him outside and said, "**Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.**" And He said to him, "**So shall your descendants be.**"

Here's my suggestion: It was night time! I would suggest the evening of 14<sup>th</sup> Abib — the time when the Passover would take place.

#### **Genesis 15:6-8**

6 **And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.**

7 Then He said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it."

8 And he said, "**Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?**" (*The Promised Land*)

In verse 8 we can see that Abraham asked God to give him some evidence that this would happen.

Millions of descendants to inherit the land. (The journey started in Exodus 12:40).

#### **Genesis 15:9-12**

9 So He said to him, **“Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”**

10 **Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.**

11 And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. *(A special sacrifice takes place)*

12 Now **when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him.** *(The daytime on 14<sup>th</sup>? — this could be a picture of the Lord Jesus dying on the Cross as the sun is going down ... and being buried).*

### **Genesis 15:13-16**

13 Then He said to Abram: **“Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.**

14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; **afterward they shall come out with great possessions.**

15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.

16 **But in the fourth generation they shall return here,** for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

The Prophecy of Israel’s return.

### **Genesis 15:17-18**

17 **And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.**

18 **On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—**

The sun has gone down — so now into 15<sup>th</sup> evening — the Night To Be Much Remembered.

The Covenant Promise of the land. On the night of 15<sup>th</sup>!

So .. we can perhaps look back — not just to the freedom of the Israelites from Egypt — but God’s Covenant with Abraham — of which we have a part.

### **Galatians 3:29**

29 **And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.** *(You are Christ's if you have been baptised)*

Abraham is the Father of the Faithful. We're his heirs. We can inherit the promises contained in the covenants.

And Abraham wasn't just thinking of a plot of land in Palestine. He saw the big picture.

### **Hebrews 11:8-10**

8 **By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance.** And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

9 **By faith** he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, **the heirs with him of the same promise;**

10 **for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**

Abraham looked for eternal life in the City of God — Heavenly Jerusalem.

### **Hebrews 11:15-16**

15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

16 **But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country.** **Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.** *(For you and me too. We get the same outcome)*

This is part of our heritage — included in the Covenant with Abraham.

For most of us ... the Night To Be Much Remembered probably points us back to Israel's escape from Egypt — from bondage and slavery.

Great news for them — and a reminder to us that there is a spiritual application.

We also have been set free — delivered from bondage to sin and Satan — our Pharaoh.

### **Colossians 1:9-14**

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, **do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;**

10 **that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;**

11 **strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;**

12 **giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.**

13 **He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,**

14 **in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.**

We have been delivered from the power of darkness.

### **Colossians 1:13 (THE PASSION)**

13 **He has rescued us completely from the tyrannical rule of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom realm of his beloved Son.**

### **Romans 6:14-23**

14 **For sin shall not have dominion over you,** for you are not under law but under grace.

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

18 **And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.**

19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, **so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.**



20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

22 **But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God,** you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

23 **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Sin has no dominion over us. We have been set free from sin. Not just from the penalty of sin. But free from its power. We are on a new walk.

We are on our way to the Promised Land! Washed in the Blood of the Passover Lamb. Like Israel ... we've left spiritual Egypt behind.

#### **Romans 8:1-2**

1 **There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,** who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

2 **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.**

We are free!

#### **Galatians 1:3-5**

3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and **our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age,** according to the will of our God and Father,

5 to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Jesus died. Our Passover Lamb. To deliver us from this evil age (a spiritual Egypt).

When we get to the Feast of Unleavened Bread next week ... we will look a little more at walking the walk — putting out the leaven.

But the opening night of the Feast is about celebrating the deliverance and freedom of Israel as they began their journey — and being grateful for our deliverance from the whole realm of darkness — including sin and Satan.

Once again:

**Exodus 12:42**

**42 It is a night of solemn observance to the LORD for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.**

There's a lot to remember on this Night To Be Much Remembered!

Finally: Have a memorable Passover on Tuesday and a memorable and an enjoyable Night to Be Much Remembered on Wednesday.