

EXODUS 12: PASSOVER



A building with a stylized “12” roofline sits behind a small home with an **Exit** sign (for Exodus). Blood painted on the doorposts cause the Angel of Death to **pass over** the home (the Passover).

+ When God assigns the departure of Israel from Egypt as demarcation of the New Year it shows us how critically important this was to God and to the nation of Israel. People are re-named in the Bible to denote a new spiritual birth, and even calendars can get reworked. Consider that a person who becomes Christian is to be “born again”; everything is supposed to be new – a *new life* is to be lived. One’s conversion is their new beginning, similar to the Exodus for Israel.

+ The Jews at the first Passover ate in a state of watchful anticipation, and were *ready* when the wailing of the Egyptians signaled that the hour of their departure to freedom was at hand. Jesus tries to instill in us some of that same nearly jittery watchfulness of his sudden return, “No one knows about that day or hour,” likening it to the unanticipated judgment of God in the universal flood of Noah’s Day! Jesus further compares Judgment Day to a master returning unexpectedly and judging his servants’ behavior in his absence (see Matthew 24:36-51). Have we forgotten the *urgency* in the Passover and the Lord’s Supper? Dare we get comfortable with it? I think not!

+ Paul the Apostle told us in I Corinthians 11:26, "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." We properly continue the watchfulness, literally anticipating the sudden deliverance promised from God. Just as the Angel of Death swooped in to slaughter the Egyptians' firstborn sons, so also Christ will suddenly appear once again for Judgment upon his enemies and deliverance of his people. Only a fool would think, "I have time to get my spiritual life together later..."

+ A lasting ordinance is one which should not be broken, whether recognition of the rainbow as the symbol of God's promise not to flood the Earth again, attending the Table of the Lord as a covenantal participation in the crucifixion, proclamation of the resurrection and return of Christ, or holding the marriage bond to be indissoluble. We live in such an unreliable world both relationally and technologically that "disposable" is the term applied not only to electronics but also to many human relationships. Pledges are meant conditionally, vows meant to be broken, contracts meant to be violated, or worse, simply ignored. God help the person who does so, because after the lawyers comes... the Judge.