

Sermon Notes

6th October 2019

Exodus 11:1-8, 12:1-14, 24-36

The tenth plague

- Different from the previous 9 plagues in the length of its description and its severity
 - The one that finally makes Pharaoh give in
 - It's remembered in the Passover ritual every year
- Is it fair that all Egypt should suffer for Pharaoh's sin?
 - Sin has consequences
 - Our sin can hurt others
 - A bad ruler can destroy a nation
 - What lesson should we learn from that?

Sin and death

- The theme of death, blood and sacrifice runs throughout the story
 - Points us to something deep at the heart of sin and its consequences
- Faith isn't just about following a set of rules and being nicer people
 - It's about life and death!
- Sin kills.
 - It separates us from a holy God. Its spiritual death.
 - We need salvation, not to be told to 'try harder'
 - Bringing life out of death
 - Redeeming, buying back what's lost and broken
 - Salvation comes through the blood of a sacrifice
 - A price has to be paid

Passover

- The Passover ritual remembers (every year) what happened in the Exodus
 - The cornerstone of Jewish identity
- Each family to take a lamb, slaughter it and put its blood on the door-frames
- A meal of lamb, unleavened bread and bitter herbs, to be eaten in haste
- The blood is a sign separating Israel and Egypt. They are 'passed over' and rescued
- It involves the whole community of Israel, but is only for God's people

Jesus the lamb of God

- Luke 22:14-19 In the upper room, Jesus and his disciples are celebrating the Passover – they're eating this meal!
- They would have had the traditional meal of lamb, unleavened bread and bitter herbs

- But Luke only records bread and wine – where's the lamb?
 - Lamb should be the centrepiece of the meal!
- The lamb is the host, Jesus – the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
 - 1 Corinthians 5:7 Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed
 - 1 Peter 1:18-19 You were redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect
 - John 1:29 The lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
- In Hebrews, the author makes a lot of this connection
 - Jesus is both priest and sacrifice (Heb 9:11-14)
 - He made the perfect sacrifice (Heb 9:25-28)
 - The old system of sacrifice is now finished, because Jesus has done everything necessary

The distinction by blood

- In Exodus the blood made a distinction between Israel and Egypt
 - Either the blood was on your door-frame (12:7) or it wasn't
 - Either you were 'passed over' or you weren't (12:12-13)
 - The distinction wasn't about niceness, or keeping the rules – it was the blood
 - Something had to be done to be included (12:7)
- Sacrifice and blood pointed forward to Jesus, the lamb of God, making the perfect sacrifice of himself so that our sins could be forgiven
- Now it is his blood that marks the divide
 - Either it is for you, or it isn't
 - Hebrews goes on to show how it's received by faith (Heb 11)
 - We received the benefits of Jesus, the lamb of God, by faith in him (Heb 12:1-3)

Space for your notes

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