

Remembering Our Freedom

Exodus 12:14; 13:3

INTRODUCTION:

A. Lesson Texts:

1. **Exodus 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.”
2. **Exodus 13:3** – “And Moses said to the people: ‘Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out of this place’ . . .”

B. Two operative statements from these two passages are called to our attention:

1. “So this day shall be to you a memorial . . .” Exodus 12:14
2. “. . . Remember this day . . .” Exodus 13:3

C. Memorials and special days are known throughout Biblical history. And such is true throughout American history as well. Tomorrow we celebrate our national holiday known as Memorial Day. I have read two different versions of how our Memorial Day came into existence.

1. **The 1st version:** In April 1863, in Columbus, Mississippi after decorating the graves of hertwo sons who served during the Civil War as confederate soldiers, an elderly woman also decorated two mounds at the corner of the cemetery. An observer asked, “What are you doing? Those are the graves of two Union soldiers.” Her replay was, “I know. I also know that somewhere in the North, a mother or a young wife mourns for them as we do for ours.” This lady, and a few others, perhaps set in motion what became known as Memorial Day.
2. **The 2nd version:** The custom of placing flowers on the graves of the war dead began on May 5, 1866 in Waterloo, New York, and Waterloo has been recognized by Congress as the official birthplace of Memorial Day. In 1868, General John A. Logan, then president of the Grand Army of the republic, declared that May 30 would be a day to “decorate with flowers the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion (Civil War).” After World War I the day was set to honor all of the American wars, and the custom was extended to pay homage to deceased relatives and friends . . . both military and civilian.

D. In the two passages we read from Exodus, God commanded Moses to have the people of Israel remember the ‘day of the Passover.’ Perhaps you will recall the story.

1. The night of the Passover was when the Israelites were commanded to kill a lamb and spread its blood on the two door posts and lintel of their homes (Exodus 12:3, 7), thus **making the sign of a cross by this action.**

2. That night the Lord sent a plague throughout the land of Egypt, and whomever had their doors marked by the blood of the lamb, death passed over them – thus the name Passover (Exodus 12:13).
 3. Symbolically, this represented our salvation from spiritual death by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. The Egyptians did not have their door posts marked, so the firstborn of the Egyptians were struck dead (Exodus 12:12). The very next morning, the Pharaoh was so tired of striving with the Lord that he allowed the Israelites to depart from Egypt (Exodus 12:31). The Passover represented their freedom from slavery, and this is what Moses commanded the people to remember – the day of their freedom.
- D. **Exodus 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.”
1. The Passover represented their freedom from slavery.
 2. Moses commanded them to remember the day of their freedom.
- E. Two door posts & lintel form the sign of the cross.
1. **John 1:29** - “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”
 2. **1 Corinthians 5:7** “...For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”

FREEDOM ISN'T REALLY FREE

- A. “There is no such thing as a free lunch.” That is true. At the point of receiving it , it may seem free to you . . . but somewhere back down the line it was paid for by others.
- B. The same is true with our country’s freedom. In times past others have wanted to take it away from us . . . But men and women donned the uniforms of the various branches of our armed forces and prevented them from taking it. Many continue to defend it to this very hour. From a historical perspective:
1. The official day of our freedom came on July 4, 1776 when the thirteen colonies signed the Declaration of Independence and sent it to England to be read by King George III.
 2. Even though the 13 colonies declared freedom as an independent country, the people were not yet free. There were many wars and battles to be fought and many lives to be paid as the cost of freedom.
 3. Estimated casualties over the past two plus centuries:
 - a. Revolutionary War —————> 33,000 soldiers died.
 - b. The War of 1812 —————> 7,000 soldiers died.
 - c. The Mexican War —————> 13,000 soldiers died.
 - d. The Civil War —————> 980,000 soldiers died.
 - e. The Spanish-American War ———> 4,000 soldiers died.
 - f. World War I —————> 1,320,000 U.S. soldiers died.

resurrection as He has asked us to do.

- a. We partake of and remember the Passover bread that now memorializes His body.
 - b. We partake of and remember the Passover fruit of the vine that now memorializes His blood shed in His death for our spiritual freedom.
 - c. We remember the battlefield of Golgotha (Calvary) where indeed– “. . . Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.” **1 Corinthians 5:7**
 - d. On the night before that fateful battle, he said to all of us through the pages of Holy Writ, as is recorded in **Luke 22:19** – “. . . Do this in remembrance of Me.”
 - e. Luke’s account: **Luke 22:19-20** – “He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’
Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.’”
 - f. **1 Corinthians 11:25** – “In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”
 - g. **1 Corinthians 10:16** – “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”
 - h. The greatest battle casualty of all time died for us in order that we might be made spiritually free from all our sins.
5. Jesus purchased our freedom on the cross of Calvary.
- a. **Ephesians 1:7** – “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
 - b. **Colossians 1:14** – “In whom (Christ) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”
 - c. **Colossians 1:20** – “And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.”
 - d. **Hebrews 9:22** – “. . . And without shedding of blood there is no remission
 - e. **1 Peter 1:18-19** – “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

CONCLUSION:

- A. Remember!
- B. We have a lot to remember . . . And we have a lot to be thankful for.
- C. Observe our national Memorial Day holiday:

1. In a way that will show honor and respect to all those men and women who have died in the defense of freedom.
 2. In a way that will show a much deserved appreciation to all those still living who took up the cause of defending freedom through military service.
 3. In a way that will show a sense of gratitude to all the men and women now on active duty or in the reserves.
 4. In a way that will enable you to remember family, friends, and loved ones who have already the call of death and have gone before you through the “. . . Valley of the shadow of death.” **Psalm 23:4**
- D. Remember Christ, our Passover, every Lord’s Day and observe His supper, His great memorial feast . . . The Lord’s Supper.
- E. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**