

THE PENTATEUCH II: EXODUS

WEEK 3

Patrick Reeder

April 17, 2023

THE PASSOVER

IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

TYPOLGY

WILDERNESS-
EXODUS
EDITION

HISTORICAL
MATTERS

GRATITUDE AND
ANXIETY

MISCELLANEOUS
EPISODES

1 THE PASSOVER

Immediate Context
Typology

2 WILDERNESS-EXODUS EDITION

Historical Matters
Gratitude and Anxiety
Miscellaneous Episodes

THE PASSOVER

IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

TYPOLGY

WILDERNESS-
EXODUS
EDITION

HISTORICAL
MATTERS

GRATITUDE AND
ANXIETY

MISCELLANEOUS
EPISODES

1 THE PASSOVER

Immediate Context

Typology

2 WILDERNESS-EXODUS EDITION

Historical Matters

Gratitude and Anxiety

Miscellaneous Episodes

The Passover episode must be first understood in its context: final, most dramatic of the plagues. Israel is not exempt without a “proclamation” of innocence through substitution: death to blameless, life to sinful firstborn.

Why the emphasis on firstborn sons?

- A response to Pharaoh’s murder of Hebrew boys, God’s “firstborn” (Ex 4:22)
- The first born are set apart for cultic purposes, eventually replaced by Levites (Exodus 13, Num 3:12).
- The first born is “first sign of the father’s strength” (Gen 49:3; Deuteronomy 21:17)
- In traditional cultures, children generally are responsible to care for the elderly family members. The firstborn have the right to greater inheritance but also to such care.
- Morales (108) points out that the firstborn is a kind of surrogate father (cf. Gen 4:9; 37:21-22,29-30), entrusted to protect the others. The death of the first born poses a symbolic threat to all.

The Festival of Unleavened Bread is synonymous with the Passover celebration. It is a mix of history and symbol:

Exodus 12:33-34 NIV The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!" [34] So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing.

Why do you think there is so much emphasis on unleavened bread?

Why do you think there is so much emphasis on unleavened bread?

- Yeast is often associated with purity. For example, Lot bakes the angels unleavened bread. (Gen 19:3; cf. Gen 18:6)
- Deut 16:3 refers to the unleavened bread as “bread of affliction.” Exactly what this means is opaque, but it’s clear that this is to recall to mind their slavery. (Cf. John 8:33)
- African scholar Abel Ndjerareou observes:
The emphasis on eating unleavened bread makes sense when we remember that at that time the leaven or yeast that caused dough to ferment and thus to rise was made from a piece of unbaked bread dough left over from the previous batch. This fermented dough worked like the yeast we add to bread dough today. But using it mean that each new loaf of bread contained traces of the former bread. God wants the Israelites to set out on a new life and to make a total break with their old lives as slaves in Egypt, and uses the unleavened bread as a symbol of this new life. (100)

Memory is in the marrow of Exodus.

① God remembered... his promise to Abraham.

- Gen 12:3a (NIV) I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse
- Ex 2:24 (NIV) God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.

② God remembered... his promise to liberate his people and judge their captors.

- Gen 15:14,16a (NIV) But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here (Cf. Ex 7:4,5)
- Exodus 12:12b,29a (NIV) I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. [29] At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt..

③ Israel remembers ... what God did.

- Ex 13:3 (NIV) Then Moses said to the people, "Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast."
- Ex 13:12 (NIV) you are to give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD.

How do these apply to us? [Some are actually direct prophecies].

How do these apply to us?

① God remembered... his promise to Abraham.

- In Christ, God remembered his promise to bless all nations (Gen 12:2)
- In Christ, Abraham is the “father” of faith—Romans 4:16 (NIV) Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

② God remembered... his promise to liberate his people and judge their captors.

- Jesus releases his people from spiritual captivity— Isaiah 61:1 (NIV) The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners (Cf. Luke 4:14-21)
- Satan and his conspirators are destined for destruction (Cf. Psalm 110:1, I Cor 15: 24, 25)

③ Israel remembers ... what God did.

- We must remember Jesus’ sacrifice (Luke 22:17-21)
- We are also to remember God’s dealings with Israel—1 Cor 10:11-12 (NIV) These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!

THE PASSOVER

IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

TYPOLGY

WILDERNESS-
EXODUS
EDITION

HISTORICAL
MATTERS

GRATITUDE AND
ANXIETY

MISCELLANEOUS
EPISODES

1 THE PASSOVER

Immediate Context

Typology

2 WILDERNESS-EXODUS EDITION

Historical Matters

Gratitude and Anxiety

Miscellaneous Episodes

What are some ways that Jesus typologically fulfills the Passover?

THE PASSOVER

IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

TYPOLGY

WILDERNESS-
EXODUS
EDITION

HISTORICAL
MATTERS

GRATITUDE AND
ANXIETY

MISCELLANEOUS
EPISODES

What are some ways that Jesus typologically fulfills the Passover?

- Substitutionary Atonement—"When He [LORD] sees the blood on the lintel and on the two door posts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come into your house to smite you."
 - John 1:29—"lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"
 - 1 Cor 5:7-Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, *just as you are in fact unleavened*. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.
- Break no bone (12:46; Psalm 34:19,20; John 19:34)
- Jesus was crucified on Passover (John 19:14)
- Jesus and Lord's Supper!

Outright connection to “exodus” from sin is not mentioned in NT. Nevertheless, we are encouraged to connect them given the proximity to passover and NT language of redemption:

- 1 Peter 1:18,19—knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ
- John 8:34-36—Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. . .” (Galatians 4:4-5)
- Titus 2:13b,14—our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

THE PASSOVER

IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

TYPOLGY

WILDERNESS-
EXODUS
EDITION

HISTORICAL
MATTERS

GRATITUDE AND
ANXIETY

MISCELLANEOUS
EPISODES

1 THE PASSOVER

Immediate Context
Typology

2 WILDERNESS-EXODUS EDITION

Historical Matters
Gratitude and Anxiety
Miscellaneous Episodes

The Hebrew phrase translated 'red sea' is actually, *Yam suph*, which means literally Reed Sea. This translation is inherited from the LXX, which translated *yam suph* as *eruthrá thálassē*. English Bibles inherited this translation.

What we know:

- Large enough that circumnavigating it would be fruitless
- Large enough water to create walls
- Large enough able to drown an army
- Along the border of Egypt and Sinai Peninsula

Reasons to doubt the Red Sea proper:

- Israelite starting point: most likely, North Eastern Egypt.
- We know they headed *somewhat* south, or at least indirect (13:17). The path to the actual Red Sea is *very* long and mostly southern.
- Millions crossing the red sea proper would probably take at least a few days. This episode seems to start and end in a night (Cf. 14:24).

Most people propose one from among the marshy lakes along the route of the modern Suez canal: Ballah Lakes, Lake Timsah, Bitter Lakes.

Some have proposed that the Gulf of Suez extended much further inland.

THE PASSOVER

IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

TYPOLGY

WILDERNESS-
EXODUS
EDITION

HISTORICAL
MATTERS

GRATITUDE AND
ANXIETY

MISCELLANEOUS
EPISODES

1 THE PASSOVER

Immediate Context
Typology

2 WILDERNESS-EXODUS EDITION

Historical Matters
Gratitude and Anxiety
Miscellaneous Episodes

First post-exodus grumbling:

Exodus 14:10, 13,14—As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up and there were the Egyptians marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. . .

Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid . . . The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still [silent].”

This is the first of many quarrels between Israel and God, almost always centered around their lack of faith.

On the positive side, Pharaoh himself is judged for his evil in this final showdown.

In almost all of the following cases, the people compared their current circumstances to Egypt (where they were slaves!)

MARAH So, the people grumbled against Moses (15:24)

MANNA In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. (16:2)

MERIBAH But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. (17:3)

It's worth note that God is extremely patient with them through this ordeal. This begins to change later.

What are some examples of grumbling for us?

In all of these cases, there are genuine needs: they're in a desert without food or water. What are some things God has done for them?

THE PASSOVER

IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

TYPOLGY

WILDERNESS-
EXODUS
EDITION

HISTORICAL
MATTERS

GRATITUDE AND
ANXIETY

MISCELLANEOUS
EPISODES

What are some things God has done for them?

- Fulfilled his promise to actually make them a nation at all
- Rescued them from slavery
- Showed them his extraordinary command of nature
- Told them how to avoid the judgment through passover
- Each wilderness episode (except first) was preceded by a previous fulfilled request

Thanksgiving is the best medicine against anxiety (Cf. Phil 4:6,7) To rehearse all the times God has come through is a good reminder of God's goodness and ability to respond to our condition

THE PASSOVER

IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

TYPOLGY

WILDERNESS-
EXODUS
EDITION

HISTORICAL
MATTERS

GRATITUDE AND
ANXIETY

MISCELLANEOUS
EPISODES

1 THE PASSOVER

Immediate Context
Typology

2 WILDERNESS-EXODUS EDITION

Historical Matters
Gratitude and Anxiety
Miscellaneous Episodes

Observe 13:17-“The people might change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt.” What’s different?

Observe 13:17-“The people might change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt.” What’s different?

- Probably not the whole community(17:9-‘some of our men’)
- Journeying through Philistia would probably involve considerable casualties; here Amalekites “came and fought”
- God’s calls are proportionate to what he’s revealed to an individual (or group). This is after a few rounds of God demonstrating his power.

THE PASSOVER

IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

TYPOLGY

WILDERNESS-
EXODUS
EDITION

HISTORICAL
MATTERS

GRATITUDE AND
ANXIETY

MISCELLANEOUS
EPISODES

Here's an awesome example of leadership strategy: delegation! What advantages does delegation provide?

What advantages does delegation provide?

- Top (or higher) leadership is not exhausted by unnecessary detail
- More people can serve
- More people are served

Our whole church operates under this paradigm, in a sense.

Every-member-ministry and discipleship are delegation taken to the limit (in a good way!)

THE PASSOVER

IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

TYPOLGY

WILDERNESS-

EXODUS

EDITION

HISTORICAL

MATTERS

GRATITUDE AND

ANXIETY

MISCELLANEOUS

EPISODES

In some ways, the account is surprising. Major administrative structures are being put into place among the covenant community without any word from God. Why is Jethro, at best on the fringes of the covenant people, allowed to play such an extra-ordinary role as counselor and confidant of Moses?

The questions answer themselves. God may use the means of “common grace” to instruct and enrich his people. The sovereign goodness and provision of God are displayed as much in bringing Jethro on the scene at this propitious moment as in the parting of the waters of the Red Sea. (Carson, 92)

- 1 Blackburn, W. Ross. *The God Who Makes Himself Known: The Missionary Heart of the Book of Exodus*. IVP, 2012.
- 2 Carson, DA. *For the Love of God, Vol. M1*. Crossway Books, 1998.
- 3 Hamilton, Victor P. *Exodus: An Exegetical Commentary*, Baker Academic, 2011.
- 4 Hoffmeier, James K. *Israel in Egypt: The Evidence for the Authenticity of the Exodus Tradition* Oxford University Press, 1996.
- 5 Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *Expositor's Bible Commentary, Vol. 2: Exodus*, edited by Frank Gaebelein. Zondervan, 1990.
- 6 Morales, L. Michael. *Exodus Old and New*. IVP 2020.
- 7 Ndjerareou, Abel. "Exodus," in *Africa Bible Commentary*, ed. Tokunboh Adeyemo. Zondervan, 2006.