

Do you understand the Passover? - Tony Pearce

We also see, it's interesting when you look at the major events concerning the **Exodus** and the New Covenant, that there are three major events which took place, which have a parallel in each case.

There are three events which take place leading up to the giving of the 10 Commandments. You have the Passover, the Crossing of the Red Sea, and Sinai, the giving of the Law.

The Passover, when the Israelites are told to shed the blood of the lamb, to put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of their houses. On that night the Angel of Death is going to pass over their houses and they will be free from the death of the firstborn, which happens to the Egyptians, and that will be the signal that the Egyptians are going to tell them to leave, and to get on their way out of the land.



So, they put themselves under the blood of the Lamb to come to the Red Sea, the crossing; then the waters part, and they go through on dry land.

And at that point, as Pharaoh comes to chase after them to take them back into slavery, they're delivered from the slavery of Egypt and become a free people who are now under God's leadership through the wilderness. And then they come to Sinai, to the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai.

Now, if you think about it, all these things are parallel with what happens in the New Covenant, under the New Covenant, Jesus dies on the cross on Passover time. We believe in Jesus, we put our lives under the blood of the Lamb, and we pass from death to life.

Then, on the third day, Jesus rises from the dead, which is a parallel to the parting of the Red Sea. We come out of slavery to sin, and we enter into a new relationship with God as we become free people under God, and become His people, redeemed through His blood, and through His deliverance, through His resurrection in this case. And then we come, 50 days later, to the day of Pentecost when God gives the Holy Spirit.

Now, the 50 days is interesting. The rabbis actually calculate that the time from the **Exodus** to Mount Sinai is 50 days. You can take it or leave it but that's what they say, and there are certain verses in the scriptures which do imply that would be roughly the case. On the 50th day in Jewish calendar, you have the feast of Shavuot, or Pentecost as it is in Greek, which means the Feast of Weeks which takes place 50 days after the Feast of First-fruits, which happens during Passover. And in the Passover celebrations, the day after the Sabbath in the Passover week is called the first day of the first fruits.

So, the day after the Sabbath is the first day of the week, *Yom Rishon* (יוֹשֵׁב ראשון) in Hebrew, which is Sunday in our time. And Paul says that on **Yom Rishon**, the first day of the week, Jesus rose from the dead, which is a type of the Feast of First-fruits. So, you count 50 days from that day, and you get to Pentecost.

What happens on Pentecost? God gives the Holy Spirit and, according to our understanding, the ministry of the Holy Spirit is actually to write the law of God on our hearts. So, you have the parallel with the 50 days and the coming of the *Torah*.

And now we have the law written not on the tablets of stone, as given to Moses, but now written on the hearts of those who believe in Him.

And all this is about actually meeting with God. So, we have this concept that in both cases there is a meeting with God who is revealing these things.

In fact, when you come to Sinai, and the meeting of the people of Israel at Mount Sinai, it actually goes right back to the Commission which God gave to Moses, right back in **chapter 3 verses 1-12**, when God told him to go down to Egypt, and to bring the people out of Egypt, out of slavery, bring them into the Promised Land. And in **Exodus 3** we read:

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." ⁴ So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." ⁶ Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

So, Moses had an encounter there with the living God. It says it was the Angel of the Lord, and the Angel of the Lord often speaks not just of an angel but of the Lord Himself. And he said he was afraid to look upon God; and God spoke to him out of the burning bush, told him who He was. And God says: **"I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows."** And down to **verse 9: "Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" 12 So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."**

Notice, God says you will serve God on this mountain. He's at the mountain called Horeb. Horeb is the same as Mount Sinai, it's just another name for the same place. So, God is bringing the children of Israel out and God says 'I'm going to be with you to do this'.

Moses has this personal encounter with God, and God tells him, 'I'm going to be with you to do something that you can't do on your own', something which is totally supernatural, which is to bring a whole people out of slavery, out of Egypt, to bring them out of Egypt and to bring them eventually to this place where I will meet with the whole people of Israel.

And notice He says 'I'm going to be with you'. 'I will be with you'. That's a very important phrase, because, as we saw earlier on, when Israelites are grumbling because they don't have any food and they don't have any water, the question which they ask is: 'is the Lord, among us, or not?'

And depending on what the answer that question is, is whether they're going to get fed and whether they're going to get enough to drink, whether they're going to get to the place where they want to go to. And God says 'I am with you'.

And that's what God is saying to us as well. Because when we face difficulties, when faced with troubles, and we ask: 'Is God with us? Is the Lord among us or not?', God wants us to know that He is with us. And Jesus said: **I'm with you always, even to the end of the age. The work I began in You, I will bring to completion, even to the end of this age.**

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So, God is with His people, and that's what makes all the difference, God with us. One of the names which is given to Jesus is Immanuel, which in Hebrew (**לְאֱנוּכָה**) means 'with us God', Emmanuel, 'God is with us'.

God says 'I'm going to be with you'. I'm going to go with you. I'm going to bring you to the place where I have promised to take you, and then bring you in, and bring you to this mountain, and you're going to serve God on this mountain.

So, it's significant that God has brought the Israelites out of Egypt, and has brought them now to the very place where God appeared to Moses when He commissioned him in the first place.

This is showing that God is faithful, and God is faithful to His Word. And now God has brought Moses with the people out of Egypt, and has gathered them at Mount Sinai, and He's about to reveal Himself to them and give them the Law.

EXODUS Chapter 3 verses 9-12

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