

(Exodus 12)
“*The Reason for My Hope*”

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled this message: “*The Reason for My Hope*”
 - (Exodus 12) NKJV

~ INTRO ~

OK...

- As we continue studying thru the OT...
 - We've come to the final plague – *death of the firstborn*.

GOD WAS PASSING OVER EGYPT...

- And delivering His final blow to those who resisted Him.
- This 10th plague is the most devastating of all plagues – death!

SO FAR...

- God has been patient with people for an extended period of time.
 - But He systematically toppled all the god's of the Egyptians.

AND... AT EACH EXCHANGE... (between Moses & Pharaoh)...

- There was an opportunity for Pharaoh to submit.
 - YET... he chose to harden his heart instead...
 - And take his chances against God.
- But now the consequences were catching up with him.

TODAY IN 2024...

- Our world is filled with millions of people making the same decision.
 - Electing to disregard the grace of God...
 - By trampling on the blood of Christ Jesus.

(Hebrew 10:29) NLT

HERE'S A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN TONIGHT...

IDEA #1 – NEW BEGINNING:

GOD WAS DOING SOMETHING NEW...

- With His people and the initiation of the *Passover*...

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- Marked a new beginning in the lives of His people.

AS A CHRISTIAN...

- You know exactly what that looks like.
 - (2 Cor. 5:15-17) NLT

(v.2)

THIS IS ISRAEL’S RELIGIOUS CALENDAR...

- And it corresponds to the modern-day month of April.
 - Which reflected their new beginning.

***Story** – I’ve often speak of the day I got saved (May 7th, 1993).

- And some of you have brought me birthday cards...
 - For my spiritual birthday... I LOVE IT!!!

IDEA #2 – REDEMPTION:

READ (vv.12-14)

THE MEMORIAL OF THE CHURCH...

- Is communion (1 Cor. 11:24-29)

FOUR VIEWS OF COMMUNION

- *Transubstantiation* established by Catholic Church in (1215 AD).
 - They teach elements literally become the body & blood of Christ.
- *Consubstantiation* established by Martin Luther (1517 AD).
 - Belief that Jesus’ body & blood are seen “*coexisting*” with the elements.
- *Reformed view* (blended view) – John Calvin (1536 AD) the French theologian who founded **Calvinism**, promoted a view of communion that blended Luther’s and Zwingli’s. His Reformed view recognized the spiritual presence of Christ IN the elements as well as the commemorative purpose of the sacrament.
- *Memorial view* – Jesus instituted it with His disciples at the Last Supper.
 - Paul taught the church this way (1 Cor. 11:24-26)

(v.15) Remove leaven...

- Leaven is yeast... which is known for decomposition...

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- (the process of rotting OR decaying).

IN BIBLICAL TYPOLOGY...

- Leaven is seen as sin...
 - Which breaks our life down & separates us from God.

(1 Cor. 5:7-8) NLT

JESUS TELLS THE CHURCH...

- (John 15:4) *Abide in Me, and I in you.*

SIMPLE PROOFS OF ABIDING IN CHRIST

- a) Obey His words
- b) Following His examples
- c) Not living in defiance to Him
- d) Being aware of the Holy Spirits in your life

(v.20)

THE IDEA OF LEAVEN IS SOMETHING THAT...

- Hurts OR hinders our walk with God.
 - (1 John 2:16) NLT

READ (vv.21-22)

- (John 10:9) *Jesus is the door to salvation*

(v.28) Reminds us of – (James 1:22) NLT

*“... don’t just listen to God’s word.
You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.”*

(vv.29-30)

- (1 Thess. 5:9-11) NLT

IDEA #3 – PROMISE KEPT:

BACK IN... (Gen 15:13)...

- God told Abraham how long his descendants would be in Egypt.
 - And now their deliverance was coming to pass.
 - (vv.40-43)

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THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT GOD

- 1) Time does not pressure God (Ps. 90:4) NLT
- 2) God is patient (2 Peter 3:9-10) NLT
- 3) God is kind (Ezekiel 33:11) NLT

THE PASSOVER LAMB...

- Points to the Jesus the Messiah...
 - *The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*
 - (John 1:29).

(v.46)

JUST AS THE LAMB... IN EGPTY'S PASSOVER...

- There was no broken bones...
 - So too... not one of Jesus' bones was broken.
 - (John 19:33) NLT

(vv.48-49)

THE FRAGRANCE OF OUR LIVES...

- Will draw people to ask what makes us different?

IN 2025...

- We will begin to move forward...
 - With a renewed focus on *evangelism* & *outreach*.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE...

- We've targeted and held community events here.
 - But the circumstances seem to be becoming favorable again.

~ IN CLOSING ~

- Here's what I want you to take away.

(1 Peter 3:15) NLT

*“... you must worship Christ as Lord of your life.
And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.”*

PERSONAL EVANGELISM...

- Is the most powerful & successful form of spreading the Gospel.

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- And I believe God has been getting us ready...
 - For new opportunities:
 - Unbelieving spouses will get saved
 - Neighbors will join you at church
 - Kids of all ages will return to Jesus
 - And old friendships will be renewed

SO... KEEP PRAYING...

- And be ready to share your faith.

AMEN!