

Hidden in Plain Sight: Moses' Rescue

05.01.2022

OK - we're in our final week

Of Hidden in Plain Sight

So, let me make sure I'm saying this clear:

Sometimes the Holy Spirit inspired prophets to speak

Words that Jesus fulfilled

That's prophecy

Other times, the Holy Spirit inspired authors to write

Actions that Jesus fulfilled

That's more prophecy

But sometimes the Holy Spirit *also* inspired

People to action

That mimicked Jesus

Before He was here

That's called Typology

Typology

And God arranged these many details

Centuries in advance

To prepare the way for Jesus

Like this moment, right after the resurrection:

Luke 24:27 - And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, (Jesus) explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.

Then later in verse 44

Luke 24:44-45 - He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

Page after page

Event after event

Story after story

In the Old Testament

Is really about Jesus

Let me show you

Turn to Exodus 12

Page 46

BTW – while you're turning

I have a question – a poll really

So, we scheduled this series for 3 weeks

With today being the final installment
But we could do others if you'd like that
There are other examples of typology in the OT
So, let me know if you'd like more
And let me know if you are so glad this is the last week

Story of Moses...

Read Exodus 12:1-2

That's a pretty powerful picture

They are in Egypt

In the land of slavery

Pharaoh hasn't let them go

In fact, he's said no several times

And yet God is saying

This is a new day for you

Catch that: God is asking them to have a new day *mindset*

Before they have a new day *reality*

That's huge!

There are many examples

Of freed people

After God set them free

Still acting like slaves

Because they still lived with a slavery mindset

And this is an example

Of Moses and Aaron

Living with a freed mindset

When they were still slaves

Aaron had *always* been a slave

He had never tasted freedom

I think it's interesting that

God helped him live free

Before he was free

By having Moses

Who had tasted freedom

Show him the way

Listen, some of us are Christians

We are free

God has set us free

But we're still living in bondage

And some of us are still in bondage

Never allowed Jesus to pay for your sin

We're going to talk about that today

But you're still in bondage

And you need someone

Who has tasted freedom

To help guide you to freedom

And some of us

Who have tasted freedom

Need to get our head out of our own mess

And look around at a world that needs us

Because they need Him

So, God says

This is a new day

Start living like freed people

Because I am going to set you free

The first connection point is:

The deliverance of God

You and I are not free because of our goodness

Our circumstance

Our ability

We are free because of His deliverance

And it's time we started living that way

Verse 3:

Read Exodus 12:3-5

The second connection point to Jesus is:

Passover Lamb Selected

Notice in verse 3

It says the animal was selected on the 10th of Nissan

God's not talking about a car company

God's not talking about a stadium

The month of Nissan can still be tracked

On a Jewish calendar

It moves around

But it's always in March or April

That's why Easter moves every year

This year, it lines up exactly with the month of April

So, in 2022, the 10th of Nissan

Is the April 10th

That's selection day

So, what *also happens* on that day?

The Sunday *before* Easter?

"The triumphal entry"

If you don't know what that is

Jesus rode into town on a donkey
And they people declared Him
To be their King

So, on the 10th of Nissan
The week Jesus died

They *selected*... their lamb

Let me be clear:
Jesus chose to come into Jerusalem on that day
He was aware of the significance
But God arranged it
Centuries earlier
With Jesus in mind

Read Exodus 12:6

So, the selection process
And the verification process that followed
Lasted from the 10th through the 14th
Sunday is the selection
Sunday – Thursday the selection is verified
And then on Friday

The lamb is slaughtered

So, what happened

On Sunday

The week Jesus died

He was chosen

The people lined the streets

And cried "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord"

They chose Him to be their King

And then that week

He was verified

First, He was verified by the chief priest

In the Jewish court

Matthew 26:59-60a – The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put Him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

They tried Him

And found no fault in Him

No spot or blemish

In the lamb

Then He was verified

By Pilate in a Roman court

John 19:4 – Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing Him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against Him.”

He was without spot or blemish

This is a really important point

Don't miss this

When the people brought their perfect lamb

It was inspected

From the 10th to the 14th

But *they* weren't... inspected

They didn't have to be holy

Their sacrifice did

Their lamb did

1 Peter 1:17b-19 - Live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

You can stand before God

Holy

Not because of your righteousness

But because of His

That should have gotten an Amen

So, they select the perfect lamb

Without spot or blemish

They verify it from Sunday through Thursday

Then they slaughter it on Friday

Verse 7

Read Exodus 12:7

Let's talk about the **Blood** a second

So, death was about to come

Onto the whole community

The Egyptians

But also, the Israelites

God had sent 10 plagues on the land

Plagues 1-3 hit everyone

The entire area

Plagues 4-9 hit only the Egyptian areas

But the 10th plague

Was a combination

It would affect the whole area

Unless people took the precautions

That God provided

God said put blood on doorpost

We don't know exactly what that would entail

But some have suggested

That it formed the shape of a cross {Pic}

As you swiped it three times

And the blood dripped down

It would create a cross shape

We don't know

But if that's true

It's interesting

Because crucifixion wasn't invented

For another 600 or 700 years

God's smarter than you think

Another interesting thing about the blood

They placed it on the door

And then those in that house

Were safe

But you had to enter the house

Through the door

You couldn't put it on the door

And then let your kids go play in the yard

Or put it on the door

And then go work in the garden

You had to enter the house

Through the door

To be saved

Centuries later, Jesus says:

John 10:9a (NASB) - I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved.

You have to enter into salvation

In Christ

Through the door

To be saved

Read Exodus 12:13

There is an ancient Midrash

An old Jewish commentary (The Mekhilta d'Rabbi Yishmael)

Of Exodus 12:13

And it says,

"I shall see the "blood" of the binding of Isaac"

So, the Jewish scholar

Was looking back to Abraham

Back to Genesis 22 that we looked at last week

And saying

The blood of the lamb

Is like the blood of Isaac

The only problem

Isaac never bled

Abraham bound him

But then God provided a lamb

Genesis 22:14 – So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

“Will be” provided

Interesting

Moses, who wrote Genesis

Foresaw that God’s provision

Would be provided

On that spot

The very spot that Jesus later died

And the Jewish commentators

Saw the Passover lamb

As referring back to that lamb

Back to that prophecy

This is all so precise

Even the use of the hyssop branch
Is a specific thing in Levitical functions

Look at how David spoke of the hyssop:

Psalm 51:7 - Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

David looking to be cleansed from murder & adultery

And there was no proscribed offering

To provide forgiveness for murder

There was no proscribed offering

To provide forgiveness for adultery

So, David writes,

“Cleanse me with hyssop...”

If you look later in that verse:

Psalm 51:16 – You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

David’s saying

There’s not a sin offering that I can bring

To blot out my egregious sin

If there was a way I could fix this

I would fix it

There’s not

Psalm 51:17 – My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

You & I are in the same tight spot
On our own
There's nothing we can do
No offering we can make
To cover *our* egregious sin
But if we bring a broken spirit to God
If we offer God a contrite heart
He'll cleanse us
Through the blood
Of the spotless lamb

The Gospels say

Not only did Christ's blood
Open the way
To safety in the home
But it also provided
Access to the presence of God

Matthew 27:51-52 – At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.

Jesus' death opened the doorway

To access to God
The veil that kept people out
Was torn in two from top to bottom
And Jesus' death opened the doorway
To life after death

Can you imagine that scene?

Jesus dies
And at the moment of His death
There was a massive earthquake
I don't know the Richter number
But rocks splitting and tombs breaking open
Is a pretty massive earthquake
And many people were raised to life

Matthew 27:54 - When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely He was the Son of God!"

He really was
And His death
Has changed EVERYTHING
For us

Hebrews 10:19-22 - Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His Body,

and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Jesus is the door to God

And Jesus is the curtain

Torn to give us access

So, let's talk about **Jesus' body** a second

When we celebrate communion each week

It was instituted at the last supper

Which was a Passover meal

We celebrate the blood

And the body

Of Jesus

They were very specific here as well:

Read Exodus 12:8-10

Lamb had to be consumed

All of that stuff we just read

It's all symbolic

It all means something

But we don't have time to get into everything

Bottom line:

Jesus is saying

You have to receive me

Internally

Luke 22:19 – And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

To celebrate this

They would take a piece of matza {Pic}

Notice a few things about it:

Unleavened

That represented without sin

Pierced

That was foreshadowing

Charred

Fire represents judgment

And it had been singed by the fire

Taking the judgement that we deserved

Striped

Isaiah 53:5-6 (RSV) tells us:

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with His *stripes* we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

One interesting custom

That the Jewish people sometimes practiced

Was called **afikomen**

The leader of the group

Would start the meal

By breaking a piece of the matzah

He would hide one piece of the matzah

Catch this

He would wrap it in a clean, linen cloth

And hide it

What does that remind you of?

And then they would eat the other part of the matzah

To start the meal

Then later – at the end of the meal

The kids would go look for the hidden Matzah

Kind of like an Easter egg hunt

And when they found it

They would trade the hidden piece of matzah for a small prize

And then they would explain its meaning

This is good – don't miss this

You know sometimes a word

Sometimes has two very different meanings?

Like "ground"

Ground can mean dirt

Or – ground can mean the way food is prepared

Like ground pepper

Or ground beef

Or the word "race"

Race can be a competition

For runners or cars

Race can refer to ethnicity

Or, if you put a y at the end, race becomes something that is flirty and provocative

Something racy

OK – keep that in mind

Afikomen can mean dessert

Like the last item eaten during a meal

The best part... saved for last

Or – afikomen can mean

The Coming One

So, when a Jewish person

Who had celebrated Passover their whole life

Who had looked for the afikomen each year as a kid

When he became a Christian

And had dessert (afikomen) at his meal

He would have thought about the matzah being hidden

He would have thought about Jesus being wrapped in a clean linen cloth

He would have thought about Jesus being hidden in the ground

And then the disciples finding Him

Finding life!

I would think of that every time I had dessert

If I was a Jewish Christian

Scholars debate

But many think this practice was around during the time of Jesus

In fact, some have suggested Jesus was participating in this afikomen

In Luke 22

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My Body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." (Luke 22:19)

The Passover is not optional

Numbers 9:13 - But if anyone who is ceremonially clean and not on a journey fails to celebrate the Passover, they must be cut off from their people for not presenting the Lord's offering at the appointed time. *They will bear the consequences of their sin.*

"They will bear the consequences of their sin"

The Passover is not optional

Without the forgiveness that the Passover provided

The ancient Israelites

They each had to bear the consequences of their own sin

No one can stand before a holy God

As we'll all have to do

While bearing the consequences of their sin

In the same way

God has provided us

With a Passover Lamb

A lamb who has been selected

And verified as pure and spotless

And with His slain body

And spilled blood
God has delivered us
Through the door that is Christ Jesus

As we end
Let me read a passage
That Jesus would have said to His disciples
On Thursday night
The night *before* He was crucified
The night *before* Passover

John 14:1-3 - Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in Me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

I've always read that to mean
He was going to die
And then ascend to Heaven
And while He was in Heaven
He'd be building a place for us to live

And that maybe what He means

But it hit me a new way this week
What if Jesus is saying

Don't let your hearts be troubled

When you see me get arrested and tried and beaten

Don't let your hearts be troubled

When you see me get nailed to a cross

Don't let your hearts be troubled

When you see them take my lifeless body down

All of that is intentional

Because I am doing that

To prepare a place for you

And if I go and prepare a place for you

I'll come back

3 days later

Alive

I'll come back

Paving the way

For you to live

After you die too

So, do not let your heart be troubled!

Over 3,000 years ago

God instituted a practice

The Passover

To remind His people the price of their sin

And each week

We celebrate this meal

The body & blood

Of our sacrificial lamb

Spotless – verified – crucified

To provide a doorway

To safety & freedom

I'm going to say a prayer

Then if you didn't grab the elements on the way in

The ushers will come down the aisle

Take a moment

To consider the length to which God would go to buy your sin

And then take communion when you're ready