Passover 1: Old Endings and New Beginnings sermon for 3-26-17

Many people around the world will celebrate Easter on April 16. It is to be the celebration of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, but there was a celebration set up by God to be celebrated before Easter was ever thought up by church fathers—Passover.

Jesus celebrated Passover and is even called in 1 Corinthians 5:7 that He is our Passover. Since we typically do not celebrate Passover every year, we lose out on the true meaning and consequences of God’s eternal plan of redemption.

Passover is the end of the old and the beginning of the new. And today, we are going to read through the major sections of the Passover story of the ancient Israelites and discover that God had always planned on Jesus being the end of your old life and the beginning of a new one.

**God halts Abrahams current life and leads him into a new one.**

There were no “Israelites” at this point. God is promising Abraham to create a nation from his descendants—the nation we now call Israel. So, the Israelites’ new beginning started with a promise before they were even born.

# Genesis 12:1-4 (NLT)

**12**The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. **2**I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. **3**I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

**4**So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.

**Years later, God halts Abraham’s grandson, Jacob’s life and leads him into a new one.**

A severe famine had hit the land of Canaan where Jacob’s sizeable family and servants lived. But God had established his son Joseph before the famine as second in command over a well-stocked Egypt, and that Pharaoh invited them to move to Egypt.

# Exodus 1:1-11 (NLT)

**1**These are the names of the sons of Israel (that is, Jacob) who moved to Egypt with their father, each with his family: **2**Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, **3**Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, **4**Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. **5**In all, Jacob had seventy[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+1%3A1-11&version=NKJV;NLT#fen-NLT-1538a)] descendants in Egypt, including Joseph, who was already there.

**6**In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died, ending that entire generation. **7**But their descendants, the Israelites, had many children and grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land.

**Then God halts the easy life of the Israelites in Egypt and leads them into a new one.**

**8**Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done. **9**He said to his people, “Look, the people of Israel now outnumber us and are stronger than we are.**10**We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don’t, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+1%3A1-11&version=NKJV;NLT#fen-NLT-1543b)]”

**11**So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labor. They forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply centers for the king.

**God halts the easy life of Moses and leads him into another one.**

Moses was an Israelite who was smuggled into the princess of Egypt’s home as a baby and the princess adopted him.

# Exodus 2:11-15 (NLT)

**11**Many years later, when Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his own people, the Hebrews, and he saw how hard they were forced to work. During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrews. **12**After looking in all directions to make sure no one was watching, Moses killed the Egyptian and hid the body in the sand.

**13**The next day, when Moses went out to visit his people again, he saw two Hebrew men fighting. “Why are you beating up your friend?” Moses said to the one who had started the fight.**14**The man replied, “Who appointed you to be our prince and judge? Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?” Then Moses was afraid, thinking, “Everyone knows what I did.”**15**And sure enough, Pharaoh heard what had happened, and he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in the land of Midian.

**God halts the life Moses built in the wilderness and lead him into a new one.**

# Exodus 3:16-22 (NLT)

**16**“Now go and call together all the elders of Israel. Tell them, ‘Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me. He told me, “I have been watching closely, and I see how the Egyptians are treating you. **17**I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.”’

**18**“The elders of Israel will accept your message. Then you and the elders must go to the king of Egypt and tell him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So please let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord, our God.’

**19**“But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand forces him.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3%3A16-22&version=NKJV;NLT#fen-NLT-1599a)] **20**So I will raise my hand and strike the Egyptians, performing all kinds of miracles among them. Then at last he will let you go. **21**And I will cause the Egyptians to look favorably on you. They will give you gifts when you go so you will not leave empty-handed. **22**Every Israelite woman will ask for articles of silver and gold and fine clothing from her Egyptian neighbors and from the foreign women in their houses. You will dress your sons and daughters with these, stripping the Egyptians of their wealth.”

**God halted the Israelite’s enslavement and lead them into a new life.**

# Exodus 12:21-33 (NLT)

**21**Then Moses called all the elders of Israel together and said to them, “Go, pick out a lamb or young goat for each of your families, and slaughter the Passover animal. **22**Drain the blood into a basin. Then take a bundle of hyssop branches and dip it into the blood. Brush the hyssop across the top and sides of the doorframes of your houses. And no one may go out through the door until morning.**23**For the Lord will pass through the land to strike down the Egyptians. But when he sees the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe, the Lord will pass over your home. He will not permit his death angel to enter your house and strike you down.

**24**“Remember, these instructions are a permanent law that you and your descendants must observe forever. **25**When you enter the land the Lord has promised to give you, you will continue to observe this ceremony. **26**Then your children will ask, ‘What does this ceremony mean?’ **27**And you will reply, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt. And though he struck the Egyptians, he spared our families.’” When Moses had finished speaking, all the people bowed down to the ground and worshiped.

**28**So the people of Israel did just as the Lord had commanded through Moses and Aaron. **29**And that night at midnight, the Lord struck down all the firstborn sons in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sat on his throne, to the firstborn son of the prisoner in the dungeon. Even the firstborn of their livestock were killed. **30**Pharaoh and all his officials and all the people of Egypt woke up during the night, and loud wailing was heard throughout the land of Egypt. There was not a single house where someone had not died.

**31**Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron during the night. “Get out!” he ordered. “Leave my people—and take the rest of the Israelites with you! Go and worship the Lord as you have requested. **32**Take your flocks and herds, as you said, and be gone. Go, but bless me as you leave.” **33**All the Egyptians urged the people of Israel to get out of the land as quickly as possible, for they thought, “We will all die!”

# Exodus 14:5-31 (NLT)

**5**When word reached the king of Egypt that the Israelites had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds. “What have we done, letting all those Israelite slaves get away?” they asked. **6**So Pharaoh harnessed his chariot and called up his troops. **7**He took with him 600 of Egypt’s best chariots, along with the rest of the chariots of Egypt, each with its commander. **8**The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, so he chased after the people of Israel, who had left with fists raised in defiance. **9**The Egyptians chased after them with all the forces in Pharaoh’s army—all his horses and chariots, his charioteers, and his troops. The Egyptians caught up with the people of Israel as they were camped beside the shore near Pi-hahiroth, across from Baal-zephon.

**10**As Pharaoh approached, the people of Israel looked up and panicked when they saw the Egyptians overtaking them. They cried out to the Lord, **11**and they said to Moses, “Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren’t there enough graves for us in Egypt? What have you done to us? Why did you make us leave Egypt? **12**Didn’t we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt? We said, ‘Leave us alone! Let us be slaves to the Egyptians. It’s better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!’”

**13**But Moses told the people, “Don’t be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. **14**The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm.”

**15**Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving! **16**Pick up your staff and raise your hand over the sea. Divide the water so the Israelites can walk through the middle of the sea on dry ground. **17**And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they will charge in after the Israelites. My great glory will be displayed through Pharaoh and his troops, his chariots, and his charioteers. **18**When my glory is displayed through them, all Egypt will see my glory and know that I am the Lord!”

**19**Then the angel of God, who had been leading the people of Israel, moved to the rear of the camp. The pillar of cloud also moved from the front and stood behind them. **20**The cloud settled between the Egyptian and Israelite camps. As darkness fell, the cloud turned to fire, lighting up the night. But the Egyptians and Israelites did not approach each other all night.

**21**Then Moses raised his hand over the sea, and the Lord opened up a path through the water with a strong east wind. The wind blew all that night, turning the seabed into dry land. **22**So the people of Israel walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on each side!

**23**Then the Egyptians—all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and charioteers—chased them into the middle of the sea. **24**But just before dawn the Lord looked down on the Egyptian army from the pillar of fire and cloud, and he threw their forces into total confusion.**25**He twisted[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+14%3A5-31&version=NKJV;NLT#fen-NLT-1915a)] their chariot wheels, making their chariots difficult to drive. “Let’s get out of here—away from these Israelites!” the Egyptians shouted. “The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt!”

**26**When all the Israelites had reached the other side, the Lord said to Moses, “Raise your hand over the sea again. Then the waters will rush back and cover the Egyptians and their chariots and charioteers.” **27**So as the sun began to rise, Moses raised his hand over the sea, and the water rushed back into its usual place. The Egyptians tried to escape, but the Lord swept them into the sea.**28**Then the waters returned and covered all the chariots and charioteers—the entire army of Pharaoh. Of all the Egyptians who had chased the Israelites into the sea, not a single one survived.

**29**But the people of Israel had walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground, as the water stood up like a wall on both sides.**30**That is how the Lord rescued Israel from the hand of the Egyptians that day. And the Israelites saw the bodies of the Egyptians washed up on the seashore. **31**When the people of Israel saw the mighty power that the Lord had unleashed against the Egyptians, they were filled with awe before him. They put their faith in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

 **The Hebrew word for Passover *pesach* comes from the word *pacach* which means to halt.**

* **God halted Judgment**
	+ God halted (stopped) His angel from killing the Israelites’ firstborn sons.
* **God halted Bondage**
	+ God halted the Egyptians from enslaving the Israelites by plaguing them until they released His people.
	+ God halted the Egyptian army from destroying the Israelites when they were trapped.
	+ God halted nature from overtaking the Israelites. (the Red Sea being parted)
* **God halted Old Lives**
	+ Abraham became a father through Sarah who was barren.
	+ Jacob had to go to Egypt for help.
	+ Israel had to go into slavery.
	+ Moses had to leave the royal privileges he enjoyed.
	+ Moses had to leave his wilderness home and successful career as shepherd.
	+ Egypt had to part with their mastery.
	+ Israel had to part with Egypt.

In the same way, **God has stopped His judgment from coming upon all of us right now.**

* The blood of Jesus has halted the judgment that your sins deserve—immediate death and eternity in hell.
* That is why people can be good or bad in this life and not be punished by God.
* People who are without Christ reap what they sow—natural consequences—not the judgment of God yet.

But that doesn’t mean that you are free!

 **Just because judgment has been delayed, doesn’t mean that you’re free from the bondage of your sins.**

God longs to stop the sin bondage of every person on this planet!

**God will do whatever it takes to deliver you if you cry out to Him—including mighty miracles of spiritual and physical nature.**

But **you have to be willing to allow God to stop your old life if you want a new one.**