

BISHOP FELTON HAWKINS

KINGDOM COMMUNITY: THE BIRTH OF A COMMUNITY

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Exodus 1:1-7

1 Now these are the names of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt; every man and his household came with Jacob.

2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah,

3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin,

4 Dan, and Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

5 And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls: for Joseph was in Egypt already.

6 And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation.

7 And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.

- Here we begin to see Joseph's purpose in Egypt evolve and become more visible.
- His brothers are identified as the patriarchs of tribes that will grow rapidly from this point forward.
- This is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham that he would raise up a community out of his loins along with Sarah, his wife.
- We realize it has been a long journey from Abraham to the extension of Joseph's family, but God in his sovereignty remains committed to his plan to organize a community that will represent him in the earth.
- At Joseph's death, his family grew to about seventy people. After Joseph's death the numbers began to explode.
- Of course, this explosion of the Israelites' numbers begins to set in motion an exodus that would be facilitated by Moses.

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- It would be out of suffering and pain that the children of Israel would cry out to God for deliverance from their hard taskmasters.
 - God makes the nest uncomfortable; he will not allow his children to get spoiled any longer by depending on others rather than him.
 - God is ready to push his community out of the community that nurtured them until they were ready to move forward.
 - A major hindrance to God's community is becoming too ingrained and dependent on their enemies for their existence.
 - They had become comfortable and co-dependent on the Egyptian system. Their growth as a people did not reflect in their personal growth.

Exodus 12:25-33

25 And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service.

26 And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service?

27 That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD 's passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped.

28 And the children of Israel went away, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they.

Exodus 12:25-33

29 And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle.

30 And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

31 And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as ye have said.

Exodus 12:25-33

32 Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also.

33 And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, we be all dead men.

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- It was important that God established a memorial of his deliverance of the children of Israel.
 - Communities must have a process of memorializing important historical events that have been critical to the community's existence.
 - The first ritual introduced to the Israelites was the Passover. It was sort of an initiation process to move the people of God from Egypt into their own identity as a nation and community.
 - It is no different from the traditions created to commemorate important events in any nation - Christmas, Resurrection Sunday, Fourth of July, birthdays, and etc.

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- A spiritual God engages with natural man through the means of practices that keep him conscious of his relationship with God. Some people feel that they can be spiritual without engaging in these rituals or practices.
 - Natural things are used to symbolize spiritual things that are important to our relationship with God.

Exodus 12:33-41

33 And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We be all dead men.

34 And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneadingtroughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders.

35 And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment:

36 And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians.

Exodus 12:33-41

37 And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children.

38 And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle.

39 And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought forth out of Egypt, for it was not leavened; because they were thrust out of Egypt, and could not tarry, neither had they prepared for themselves any victual.

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Exodus 12:33-41

40 Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years.

41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

- The children of Israel left Egypt with a leader, economy, a ritual - the Passover, and a mixed multitude of people. There were those who were not Israelites but wanted to leave Egypt and live among the people of Israel.

Matthew 26:17-19

17 Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?

18 And he said, **Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples.**

19 And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover.

Matthew 26:26-30

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, **Drink ye all of it;**

28 **For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**

29 **But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.**

30 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

Luke 4:18-19

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.