

Wednesdays in the Word
Digging Deeper May 27th 2020
Exodus 12:1-14
Tacking it Down

In this passage of scripture the Lord YHWH instructs Moses on the keeping of the Passover. Pesach to the Jews. Little can be said in addition to our Pastor's sermon from this past Sunday. The subject was covered well and was inspirational. But in digging deeper we do find these few nuggets. In verse 13 God instructs Moses to place the blood of the slain lamb upon their house as a token. The Hebrew word here for token is the word 'oth' which is a signal or a beacon. It is further described as a distinguishing mark of remembrance. In verse 14 the Hebrew uses the word 'zikhron' as translated accurately for our word, memorial. Often a memorial spoke of a physical sign such as the setting of a stone or pillar as a reminder. Genesis 35:14 is one of many examples. In our text, God instructs Moses to use a holiday as a Memorial as we have with our Memorial Day. It is interesting to note that the Israelites themselves had to remember to do exactly as they were instructed concerning this holiday. Modern Jews do not typically put the blood of the Lamb on their doorposts anymore though some prefer to keep a lamb shank bone in a conspicuous location as a reminder of the death of the Lamb. It is up to the individual family how they would remember the significance of the blood. Either way the blood is the central part of the Passover Seder as it is indeed the signal or beacon; a remembrance which prevented the destroying angel from entering their homes and killing their first born. God himself needs no reminders but as a picture of understanding for us the same blood caused the Holy Spirit to remember the faithful act of these Jewish folk causing Him to pass over them. Something interesting comes to mind. When the Passover took place and the firstborn of the Egyptians were all slain, imagine the impression left upon the families of them when they entered the Hebrew villages and found blood on all the doorposts. It had to be an eerie sight and perhaps one which sparked a thought in them that they too could have escaped such horror, if only they had observed this ordinance. Many Jews do place a Mezuzah on their door post speaking of the laws and ordinances of God and their memory of the importance of keeping a relationship with the Lord. See Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21. Looking forward to the night Jesus and his followers kept the Passover we see again the command to remember. In Luke 22:19 Jesus instructs them to remember the breaking of his body and further in 1st Corinthians 11:24-25 Paul recounts that night and emphasizes the importance of remembering Jesus in the giving of His body and His blood.

The great importance in remembering the deeds of the past cannot be understated. We as Elders instruct our youngsters to remember the lives given in the wars that America has endured to win and to maintain her freedom. We remember other heroic times from the Alamo to the World Trade Center. We are often reminded to remember and to instruct our children to do so. Proverbs 4:1, Deuteronomy 6:7 and Psalm 34:11. Without the instruction of Elders the future would turn to waste. We must also constantly refresh our memories of the many who have given their lives in pursuit of the furtherance of the Gospel. Missionaries have died in the field, evangelists have been murdered and executed, Christians in home Bible studies have paid the ultimate price. Let us thank God and the great men and women who served this country that we have freedom from that fear, even though we are now beginning to see that

change. Churches have been burned, lives destroyed and freedoms removed because we have allowed our memory to lapse and have not upheld the values that were so hard fought. We are indeed repeating the failures of the past.

Let us look to American Sign Language for a little insight. The sign for the word remember is to move the thumb of one hand from the forehead and tack it down to the other thumb or palm. The picture here is to take a thought from the mind and tack it down to the hand where it would be prominently displayed. The sign for forget is to swipe the open hand across the forehead and slide it off into a fist. It signifies taking a thought from the mind and swiping it away. Our memories are fickle things. We need to tack down our thoughts and revisit them often to maintain a fresh understanding of the significance of the events in our lives. Our forgetfulness is dangerous. It truly is when we wipe memories from our minds. Sadly this can sometimes be done out of arrogance or ignorance. We choose to forget sometimes. Let us teach our children and we ourselves to choose to remember the great sacrifice of our fallen American heroes, our prophetic holidays and the greatest sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. Never forget. Let's remember the old preacher, Jay Vernon McGee. The introductory song to his preaching on the radio always stirs the memory of the greatest sacrifice of all time. It went like this;

And I hear the savior say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness, watch and pray
Find in me thine all in all
'Cause Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow
Lord, now indeed I find
Thy power and thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone
'Cause Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow
It's white as snow, white as snow
It's washed away, it's white as snow
And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat
'Cause Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

A note to our study partners. Wednesday night bible study will resume this week under CDC guidelines. Please meet with us at FRBC at 7PM. If you are unable to meet with us and still wish to use this online study format please contact me, Duane Kolaya at dkolaya@hvc.rr.com or call or text at 845-283-9373 and these notes will continue for your convenience. May God bless you all.