

Lecture 9

The Last Plague – Marching Orders- The Passover (PESACH)

The 10th Plague holds a special place in the Exodus narrative.

1. The final, dramatic scourge which `convince the Egyptians of God's mighty power.
2. The event which gives the Hebrews an open door to freedom
3. Provides the story of the beginning of Israel's most prominent, oldest and important religious festival.

The feast was not ``Brand new`` at the time of the Exodus. It originated as a thanksgiving for the birth of new lambs at the first full moon of spring. The ritual came to be explained in terms of the ``Passing Over`` or sparing of the Hebrew households by the destroying angel in Egypt.

The nation Israel incorporated this into a commemoration of their historic deliverance. (Yahweh is the God of History)

The Pesach meal ,with its traditional elements of roasted lamb, bitter herbs and unleavened bread makes a memorial of the final preparations for Israel's hasty departure.

We will see roots of other festivals in the Passover story .

Notes to note!

The captors of Israel urged them hurry their departure, and begged them not to stop until they have left the country.

They provided them with great wealth , clothing and provision

They gave them weapons for their journey .

Exodus says that about six hundred thousand men on foot left that night, along with women, children, and others. Scholarly estimates would suggest that the number was closer to a few thousand in total.

They took droves of livestock , and their animals were carried sufficient water, food, and supplies, for at least a week of desert travel.

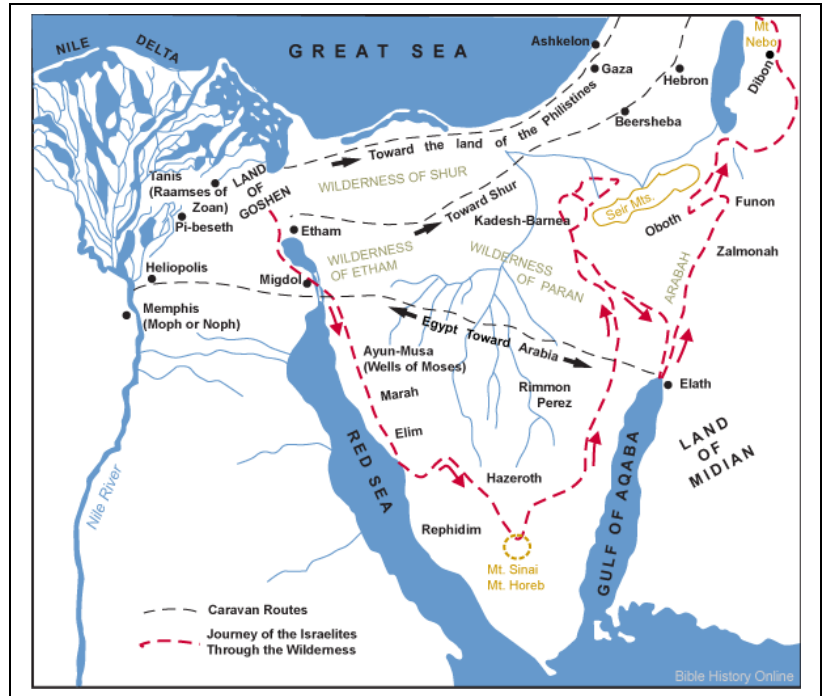
The Reed Sea

From the very beginning we understand that Yahweh was the engineer of the entire event.

He leads them, showing the way in a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night.

They avoid the coastal route which is the land of the Philistines
Exodus 13:17 explains that God made them avoid this route because it was occupied by warring people, and if Israel witness the unrest they would become afraid and want to return to Egypt.

Through the eyes of Salvation History, the event at the Red Sea marks a crucial turning point for the nation.



Before this event, they were only a mixed and diverse group of slaves who had nothing in common but memories of captivity. They were scared and disorganized.

After the event they existed as a unified people.

Their shared experience of being claimed and delivered by God gave birth to an entire nation.