

I. Introduction and review.

II. By faith, Moses left Egypt. v. 27

- A. Given that Moses left Egypt twice, of which departure does our text speak? v. 27a
1. When Moses was about forty he fled to Midian after he killed the Egyptian. Ex. 2:14f Acts 7:29,23
 2. Forty years later, he led the children of Israel out of Egypt.
- B. Moses endured because he perceived, by faith, the invisible God. v. 27b
1. The invisible God was more real in Moses' eyes than the visible Pharaoh. 11:1 Ex. 33:18-23 Dt. 4:12 Ps. 97:2 Ro. 1:20 Col. 1:15 I Ti. 1:17 6:16 Jo. 1:18 I Jo. 4:20
 2. He believed God's promise to deliver His people. 11:6 Gen. 15:13-14 50:24
 3. God demonstrated His power and kept His promises. Gen. 15:14
- C. Moses demonstrates the enduring faith desperately needed by the original readers who were being threatened by a world power. 10:35-36,23
- D. We need such a fearless faith in God.
1. We too experience opposition by powerful worldly forces.
 2. Are you afraid of what it may cost you to follow Jesus Christ? Mark 8:34ff
 3. Your power to exercise faith depends upon your perception of God's character.
 4. Christ fully reveals the invisible God to us. John 1:18 Col. 1:15
 5. Your power to exercise faith is strengthened by God's promises.
 6. How then can you strengthen your faith? II Co. 4:16-18

III. By faith, Moses and the Israelites kept the Passover. v. 28

- A. The Passover was the final plague by which God punished Egypt. Ex. 11
1. God fulfills His promise to destroy the oppressors of His people. Gen. 15:14:1ff
 2. Pharaoh's heart was hardened. Ex. 8:15 9:12-17.34 10:1 14:8 Ro. 9:17
 3. It took such a plague to convince Pharaoh to let God's people go.
- B. Why did it take faith for Moses and the people of Israel to keep the Passover?
1. Faith involves an active response to God's revelation. Ex. 12:1-13
 2. The Passover, like Noah's building the ark, was a preparatory act performed in faith to protect from prophesied (yet unseen) judgment. 11:7
 3. The Passover would seem very strange to those without faith.
 4. By faith the Israelites followed God's instructions, trusting in God's appointed provision for deliverance, and were delivered from judgment. Ex. 12:28,31-32
 5. The unbelieving Egyptians were severely punished. Ex. 12:29-30
 6. Does this judgment of God bother you?
- C. The Passover points to Christ.
1. The Jewish Passover anticipated and typified Christ's work. I Co. 5:7
 2. All of us, like the Egyptians, deserve God's judgment. Ro. 3:23 6:23
 3. Jesus is the unblemished Lamb provided by God as the only means to escape judgment. 9:14 Ex. 12:5,46 I Pe. 1:18-19 Jo. 1:29 19:33,36 Ps. 34:20
 4. Through faith in Jesus' blood we are spared from judgment. 9:12-14,22 10:10,14 12:24 John 3:16

5. We are passed over because of God's sovereign grace and mercy.
6. Those without faith will receive the punishment their sins deserve.
7. We remember the saving work of Christ through the Lord's Supper.

D. Our (Christmas) faith seems very strange to those who refuse to believe. I Cor. 1:18
John 1:29 3:16 I John 3:5 4:9-10 14:6

IV. By faith Moses led the Israelites through the Red Sea. v. 29 Ex. 14:21-29

A. God miraculously intervenes in history for His people.

1. Pharaoh's heart again is hardened as he pursues the Israelites. Ex. 14:4-8,17
2. It appears that the Israelites are doomed. Ex. 14:9-10
3. The Israelites initially doubted. Ex. 14:11-12
4. But Moses encouraged their faith. Ex. 14:13-14
5. The people of God believed and obediently passed through the sea. Ex. 14:22
6. God then brings destruction upon the Egyptians. Ex. 14:23-29
7. What appears to be disastrous is actually God working out his plan. Ex. 14:15-18
8. God's people rejoice in His deliverance with song and dancing. Ex. 15
9. Skeptics have tried to debunk this great miracle.

B. The deliverance through the Red Sea has ongoing significance for God's people.

1. This is a picture of later deliverances. Isa. 35:6ff 40:3ff 44:27 Jer. 23:7f
 Ps. 106:9-12 Isa. 43:16-17 44:27 51:10
2. The destruction of Pharaoh and his army is a picture of the final judgment.
 Ex. 14:26-28 15:4-11 Isa. 51:9-11
3. The deliverance through the sea is a picture of the deliverance wrought by Christ.
 I Cor. 10:1-4

C. Remember God's great work of deliverance.

1. What appears to be disastrous is God working out His plan. Ro. 8:28 Gen. 50:20
2. God's past deliverance gives hope in times of trouble. Ps. 106
3. Rejoice and sing because of the deliverance you have in Christ. Ex. 15 Eph. 5:19
 Col. 3:16
4. The Egyptians portray the destiny of those who persecute God's people.
5. Don't grumble or threaten to return to spiritual Egypt. Ex. 14:11-12
6. Trust the God of the impossible. Mark 10:27 Job 42:2 Gen. 18:4
7. Like Moses, we need to encourage one another to trust God. 3:13 Ex. 14:13-14

V. Concluding applications.

Discussion questions

1. When did Moses leave Egypt?
2. Why didn't Moses fear Pharaoh?
3. How can you have a fearless faith?
4. Why did it take faith for the Israelites to partake of the Passover?
5. How does the Passover anticipate and typify the work of Christ?
6. How would you answer someone who objected to God's judging Egypt in this way?
7. Why would our beliefs (including our understanding of the Incarnation) seem strange to unbelievers?
8. What New Testament ordinance replaces the Passover?
9. Why did Pharaoh pursue the children of Israel?
10. How does the deliverance of Israel and the judgment of Egypt picture final judgment?
11. What should be our response to God's deliverance?