

Remnant Life Church  
December 22, 2019  
**Preparing for the New Year**  
Exodus 12:1-11

- I have just finished the first of a 4-week break between my courses as I enter into what, hopefully, will be the last year of the final leg of my academic journey and will be finished by this time next year.
- At the end of this last class I asked the professor how I should spend my time during this break in preparation for the next class
  - Gave me good direction that will put me ahead of the curve in the next course
  - It does not provide a guaranteed outcome but better prepares me for whatever comes

That is the purpose of preparation, is it not?

- It readies you for what is to come
- It places you in a better position to be successful
- It prevents you from being caught off-guard

Can we do the same thing for a coming New Year?

Is it possible to prepare our lives for 2020 and, if so, what should our focus be?

- That questions could be answered in a host of ways
- It would depend on where you are in life
- All of the factors that impact any important decision of your life would be in play here as well

Let's look at an account in the OT that provides what I believe are important considerations for each of us as we head into a new year

**READ – Exodus 12:1-11**

In Preparation for the New Year...

1. Be More Precise (vv1-3)
  - a. God changed the calendar of the Jewish people in preparation for the creation of their new nation
    - i. The Jews, until that point, had used Tisri (our September) as the first month of year believing that it was the time God created the universe and the earth was formed in all of its beauty
    - ii. God says to them here in the first verse, it will now be Abib (our March into April) as God was putting away the old and ushering in the new
  - b. How do we do that in our lives?
  - c. One way is to tighten up or become more specific in the way you do things
  - d. God was very precise with His people

- i. In **Genesis 6** God gives Noah instructions on what the dimensions of the ark are to be
  - 1. Very detailed
  - 2. Exactly what would be required to survive for the next nearly 1 year spent on the ark
- ii. In **Exodus 40** God tells Moses how to set up the Tabernacle
  - 1. Not only where every piece in the Tabernacle was to be placed
  - 2. But what each was for and how they would be used
- iii. In **Numbers 2** God tells Moses and Aaron how the camp of the people is to be arranged by their tribes
  - 1. This is the placement of every person in the nation
  - 2. Over 600,000 men (not including women and children)
- iv. In **I Kings 6** God gives Solomon very specific directions on how the temple is to be built
  - 1. In the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter, all of the furnishings and temple objects are built to very great detail
- v. The list of examples goes on and on
- e. Should we not perhaps also be more precise in how we live our lives?
  - i. The way we spend our time
  - ii. How we live in our homes
  - iii. How we handle our money
  - iv. How we take care of ourselves
- f. When you are organized, when you pay attention to what you do, when it matters, ...you will see your life in a different way, and it will glorify God because there is order in how you live.

## 2. Be More Giving (v 4)

- a. God is not only precise, but He is caring
  - i. How was a “family” or “household” determined?
- b. The division of the nation was very exact, and you see this laid out in **Joshua 7**
  - i. Back in **Genesis 35**, Jacob had 12 sons and they became the 12 Tribes of Israel
  - ii. Each tribe was divided into clans
  - iii. The clans were divided into families or households
  - iv. The family was then divided into each individual man
- c. The Passover meal was not to be wasted in any way
  - i. If a family was not big enough to eat an entire lamb, they were to join with other families
  - ii. There were to be a minimum of 10 people per lamb cooked, but no more than 20
    - 1. Practicality (too much food versus too little)
    - 2. Teaching them how to live wisely knowing how they were going to have to live for the next 40 years
- d. What we see is the principle of caring for other people
- e. What prevents that from happening in the life of a Christian?
  - i. Selfishness/Greed

- ii. Unaware of a need (too focused on themselves)
  - iii. Laziness
  - iv. But didn't Jesus say in **Matt 5:40-41** – if someone wants your shirt, give them your cloak as well and if someone wants to walk a mile with them go for 2 miles?
- f. To be more giving means taking your eyes off of yourself, your needs, your wants, your desires and seeing the people around you through the eyes of Jesus
  - i. There will always be people who are struggling more than you
  - ii. We cannot, as followers of Jesus Christ, ignore those God brings into our paths to help, bless, or minister to

First, be more precise in the way you live

Second, be more giving (and more aware of those in need)

### 3. Be More Obedient (**vv 5-10**)

- a. The people were to care for the lambs for 4 days before sacrificing them
  - i. How did they deal with this strange requirement?
  - ii. Did they come to care for the lamb (cute, normal animal to have around, children...?)
  - iii. Could this also have been a precursor to the ultimate sacrifice to come in the person of Jesus Christ?
    - 1. Jesus showed nothing but love for those He encountered
    - 2. Yet they still killed Him
  - iv. A warning to the depth of the depravity of man's heart?
  - v. Recognizing the powerful love of God?
- b. And the people did all of this together at the same time – twilight – **12:6**
- c. They were then instructed not only what to do with the meat but also with the blood (**12:7**)
  - i. Down the side of the doorway (lintels)
  - ii. Across the top of the frame
  - iii. Creating the three marks of the cross
    - 1. Where the final sacrifice would be made
    - 2. Not just to celebrate the Passover of the death angel but the salvation of sins for all mankind
- d. This was a strange request
  - i. Did the people obey unquestionably?
  - ii. Don't forget these are the same people who would, just 2 weeks from this very night, claim that they wish they were still back in Egypt?
- e. By all accounts they did obey God and were set free from the bondage they had been living under for over 400 years

How did these three things prepare them for what God was going to do?

How did God tell them to eat the meal? (How and not when?!?)

**V 11** – *This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste, it is the Lord's Passover.*