

Exodus: The Great Departure

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References: Exodus 12-13, Exodus 12:33-51; Matthew 6:33; Exodus 13:1-18; Revelation 22:21

The Necessity of Departure

Well, very good! So nice to see each one here this afternoon. We're going to go back to Exodus chapter 12. And so, this chapter 12, we're looking at the departure of the children of Israel from the land of Egypt, and we're looking at the same time at the establishment of the feasts of Passover and of Unleavened Bread. The fact that the children of Israel went free after having been slaves in Egypt for hundreds of years—that was an absolutely amazing event. Nothing like it has ever happened before, nor since in history. And the fact that it was accomplished in such an amazing way is also an amazing fact. So, there is a lot of emphasis on it here in Exodus, and a lot of emphasis on the parallel facts of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ and the salvation of Christians. That's a big deal in the New Testament!

非常好，非常高兴今天下午看到大家。我们要回到出埃及记第十二章。在第十二章中，我们看到以色列人从埃及地出去，同时也看到了设立逾越节和无酵节的情况。以色列人在埃及被奴役几百年后获得了自由，这绝对是一个奇妙的事件。在这之前和之后，历史上再没有发生过这样的事情。而这件事以如此奇妙的方式完成，同样也是一个奇妙的事实。所以出埃及记里大量强调了这一点，同时也强调了与之平行的事实，即主耶稣基督的死和基督徒的救恩。这在新约中是一件大事！

Remember the story now is simple: they were slaves, and the Lord sent ten plagues upon the Egyptians. We finished off in chapter 12, verse 33 last week, with the last language that says, "We shall all be dead." There comes a point in all of our lives when we say we either follow the Lord and obey Him, or we will be dead. After the ninth plague, the Egyptians as a populace basically said, "We must let these people go. Their God will kill us all if we don't."

请记住，这个故事其实很简单：他们受奴役，主降下十灾在埃及地。上周我们在第十二章三十三节结束，最后那句话说：“我们都成死人了。”在我们的人生中通常也会来到一个点，我们或者选择跟从主并顺服祂，否则我们就死了。在第九灾之后，当时的埃及民众基本上说：“我们必须让这些人走，否则他们的神会把我们全杀了。”

[Exodus 12:33-34 NKJV]

³³ And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead." ³⁴ So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders.

三十三节：埃及人催促百姓，打发他们快快出离那地，因为说：“我们都成死人了。”三十四节：百姓就拿着没有酵的生面，把抻面盆包在衣服中，扛在肩头上。

In a very technical sense, they couldn't put yeast or leaven into their bread because they were moving. So, several significant things happened about that night, and one of them was that they took unleavened bread with them.

从技术的角度来说，由于他们正在行动，所以不能把酵放在面里。在那天晚上发生了几件非常重要的事情，其中一件就是他们带着无酵饼。

Plundering the Egyptians

Another significant thing was verse 35:

[Exodus 12:35-36 NKJV]

³⁵ Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. ³⁶ And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

另外一件重要的事情是在第三十五节和三十六节：以色列人照着摩西的话行，向埃及人要金器、银器和衣裳。耶和华叫百姓在埃及人眼前蒙恩，以致埃及人给他们所要的，他们就夺了埃及人的财物。

Before the tenth plague, at the end of the ninth plague, these people went to their bosses, the Egyptians, and they said, "We would like you to give us something, please." And they gave them gold, silver, and clothing. What did they need the clothing for? Because they were going to be in the wilderness for forty years, and you have to wear something, so they got some good clothing. Why did they ask for gold and silver? Well, they were very valuable, and you could actually carry a little bit with you as you travel. And why did the Egyptians give it

to them? Well, for two reasons. I think, number one, if they didn't favor them, they'd all be dead themselves.

在第十灾之前，也就是第九灾结束时，这些人找到他们的埃及老板说：“请给我们一些东西。”他们就给了他们金子、银子和衣裳。他们要这些衣裳干什么呢？因为他们要在旷野里游荡四十年，总得穿点什么，所以他们要了一些好的衣服穿着。为什么要金子和银子呢？因为它们价值很高，旅行时方便携带。为什么埃及人要给他们呢？我认为有两个原因：第一，如果他们不给，他们自己都成死人了。

And I think the other thing that they might have done is said, "You know, we're wondering about back wages." Some of the older ones would say, "I've been working for you for forty years, and you haven't paid me five cents yet, so I want you to give me some gold—a lot of gold." They might have said, "Actually, my father worked for you, and you never paid him anything either. And my grandfather worked for you, and you never paid him anything either." And so, they kept on giving them gold and silver and clothes and all they needed.

我想另一件事是，他们可能会说：“我们要补回欠下的工资。”有些年长的人会说：“我为你工作了四十年，你一分钱还没付给我，所以我要你给我一些金子，大量的金子。”他们可能还会说：“实际上我的父亲为你工作，你从来没付过他钱；我的爷爷也为你工作过，你也没给过他钱。”于是，埃及人一直给他们金子、银子和衣裳，凡他们需要的都给了。

Does God remember your need for back pay? Sometimes you work for somebody and he doesn't pay you very much. Other times you work for somebody and he pays you far more than your worth. Why did he give you more than you were worth on one occasion? Probably to pay for the time you didn't get what you were worth. The Lord remembers; that's the wonderful thing. What does Matthew 6:33 say?

[Matthew 6:33 NKJV]

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

神记得你需要的补偿吗？有时候你为某人工作，他付的报酬并不多。另一些时候，你为某人工作，他付的报酬远超过你的价值。为什么他在那个场合多给你呢？可能就是为了补偿你以前没得到应有报酬的时候。主记得，这是奇妙的事情。马太福音六章三十三节是怎么说的呢？“你们要先求祂的国和祂的义，这些东西都要加给你们了。”

So, the Lord is gracious, and the Lord is good. Verse 37 says:

[Exodus 12:37-38 NKJV]

³⁷ Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. ³⁸ A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds--a great deal of livestock.

所以，主是满有恩典的，主是良善的。第三十七节说：以色列人从兰塞起行往疏割去，除了妇人孩子，步行的男人约有六十万。第三十八节说：又有许多闲杂人，并有羊群牛群和他们一同上去，牲畜甚多。

Frankly, that's a lot of people. I'm not sure of the precise total number, but it was somewhere between one million and two million. That's a lot of people to go on a hike! If there were flocks and herds, why would you say "a great deal of livestock"? You think there might have been some donkeys amongst them? It is possible. So, if I were to go to my boss and say, "Boss, I'd like you to give me some back wages," and he gave me ten pounds of gold, what would I do with ten pounds of gold? That would probably weigh a fair amount, wouldn't it? I couldn't just carry that around in my back pocket. So, I might even have had a donkey. I could put some of the gold and silver, the extra clothes, and a few other things on the donkey.

坦率地说，这是一大群人。我不确定精确的总数，但大约在一百万到两百万之间。这么多人一起行军可真不少！既然提到了羊群和牛群，为什么还说“牲畜甚多”呢？你认为里面会有驴吗？是有可能的。如果我去找老板要补偿工资，他给了我十磅金子，我拿这十磅金子干什么呢？那肯定很重，对吧？我没法把它塞在后口袋里背着走。所以我可能需要一头驴，把金子、银子、额外的衣服和杂物都放在驴身上。

The Mixed Multitude

So, they went out, and there was a large number. Verse 38 says it was a "mixed multitude." What do we understand about a mixed multitude? Who would have been in that group? A whole lot of Israelites, of course. But do you think any of the Egyptians went with them? I think so. Why do you think they would have gone? I think a lot of Egyptians would have gone simply because they said, "We believe in this God. He is the Israelite God, but God has blessed them and honored them. It's obvious that God is God, and we're going to follow the God who is there rather than pretend with a god of pretense."

他们出去了，人数众多。三十八节说有“许多闲杂人”。我们对这“闲杂人”有什么了解？这组人里会有谁？当然有一大群以色列人。但你认为有埃及人跟他们一起走吗？我认为有。你觉得他们为什么要跟去呢？我想很多埃及人去是因为他们说：“我们相信这位神。虽然祂是以色列人的神，但神赐福给他们，尊荣他们。显而易见，这位神才是真神，我们要跟随这位真实存在的圣者，而不是守着虚假的神。”

And there were others who went along, I think, not because they really believed in that God, but because they felt, "If this carries on for any length of time, the blessings are all with the Israelites, not with the Egyptians. I'd better change sides. Not because I believe in God, but because if I don't change sides, I'll be in trouble." I think there are those three kinds of groups that go with the Lord to church today.

还有一部分人跟去，我认为并不是因为他们真信那位神，而是觉得：“如果这种情况持续下去，福气都在以色列人那边，而在埃及人这边。我最好换边站。不是因为我信神，而是因为如果不换边，我就有大麻烦了。”我认为当今来到教会的人中也存在这三类人。

Some are people who've grown up in the church. They learned about it when they were children, and as they grew up, they learned more and more and said, "Yes! I believe in the God of my fathers." And I think there are others who say, "Well, I certainly didn't grow up in this. I'm not part of the church going back a generation or two, but I know it's true, and I'm going to trust the Lord as my Savior and become a first-generation Christian."

第一类是在教会长大的。他们从小就学习这些，长大后学得越来越多，便说：“是的！我相信我祖辈的神。”第二类人会说：“我并非在这种环境下长大，我的祖宗几代都不是教会的一员，但我知道这是真的。我要信靠主作为我的救主，成为第一代基督徒。”

Then there are others in our generation who join the church and spend time with the people of God. You would almost think they were Christians. They're there, but not for the goodness of God or the blessing of the people; they're there for themselves. They say, "This is a good place to be. We're better off with the Christians than we would be out in the world." So, this is a "mixed multitude" in two senses: not necessarily all Israelites, but some Egyptians with them; and then those who truly did believe in God versus others who just basically "went along for the ride." I focus on this because later on we're going to read about this mixed multitude. Sometimes they did some bad things because there were some amongst them who weren't true believers.

在这一代人中还有第三类，他们加入教会，和属神的人待在一起。你几乎会以为他们是基督徒。他们在那里，但不是为了神的美善或属神之人的福气，而是为了他们自己。他们觉得：“待在这里挺好，和基督徒在一起总比在世界上混要好。”所以从两个层面看这都是“闲杂人”：第一，不全是以色列人，还有埃及人；第二，有真心信神的，也有纯粹是想“搭顺风车”的。我特别强调这一点，是因为稍后我们会读到这群闲杂人。他们中有些人因为不是真正的信徒，后来干了不少坏事。

Divine Timing and Deliverance

Verse 39 says:

[Exodus 12:39 NKJV]

And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves.

三十九节：他们用从埃及带出来的生面烤成无酵饼。这生面原没有发酵；因为他们被催逼离开埃及，不能耽延，也没有为自己预备什么食物。

This is a picture of the Christian who trusts the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and starts to move. Just like they started to move without making adequate provision for the future, they simply couldn't cook leavened bread. When a person first becomes a Christian, it's often like that. He doesn't fall into sin right when he first gets saved. Some of my friends got saved at a Bible camp. Not only did they become Christians, but because they spent several days there, they weren't able to commit the sins they would normally do, because there were no facilities for sin at the Bible camp! Very often, when you first become a Christian, it's easier to stay away from sin than it is later when you get tempted again.

这是一个画面，描绘了一个信靠主耶稣基督为救主并开始行动的基督徒。就像他们开始行动时没有为将来做好充分准备一样，他们当时根本没法准备有酵饼。一个人刚成为基督徒时通常也是这样，他刚得救时不会立刻陷入罪中。我的有些朋友是在圣经营得救的，他们不仅成了基督徒，而且在那待了好几天，没法去做以前常做的错事，因为圣经营里没有犯罪的条件！通常当你刚信主时，避开罪恶比后来再次受到诱惑时要容易得多。

[Exodus 12:40-42 NKJV]

⁴⁰ Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. ⁴¹ And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years--on that very same day--it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. ⁴² It is a night of solemn observance to the LORD for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.

四十节：以色列人住在埃及共有四百三十年。四十一节：正满了四百三十年的那一天，耶和华的军队都从埃及地出来了。四十二节：这夜是耶和华的夜；因耶和华领他们出埃及地，所以当向耶和华谨守，是以色列众人世代该谨守的。

Does God care about how long they'd been in Egypt? Yes, and there were certain prophecies indicating how long they would be there. How long were they there? Four hundred and thirty years—not four hundred and thirty years, three months, and thirteen days. It says four hundred and thirty years precisely. Not one day more, not one day less.

神在乎他们在埃及待了多久吗？在乎，而且有特定的预言指示了期限。他们在那待了多久？四百三十年——不是四百三十年零三个月十三天。经上说是精确的四百三十年，不多一天，也不少一天。

I've got a friend who is doing a work for God, and his prayer is this: "Lord, I want to serve You in this work for exactly as long as You want. Not one day too much, not one day too little. I want to do it exactly on Your schedule." I tell you that because I'm in a prayer group with him, and he prays that prayer often. Remember, God has got a very accurate calendar. He's got your name on it in many places, and what's going to happen is going to happen at the right time, at the right moment, in the right way. So very often in the Bible, you'll find that phrase "on that very day" or "the selfsame day," just to prove that God is in charge of all the details. On that very day, you will be delivered from your problems. At that very day, God will move on your behalf. And you say, "Thank You, Lord. I'm glad that You're in charge."

我有一个朋友在为神作工，他的祷告是这样的：“主啊，我愿意在这份工作中服侍祢，时间完全照祢的旨意。不多一天，也不少一天。我要完全按照祢的时间表行事。”我告诉你们这些，是因为我和他在一个祷告小组里，他经常这样祷告。记住，神有一个非常精准的时间表。祂在很多地方都写着你的名字，该发生的会在正确的时间、时刻，以正确的方式发生。所以在圣经里，你会经常发现“正当那日”或“就在那一天”这样的短语，这证明神掌管所有的细节。在那一天，你将从麻烦中得救；在那一天，神会代表你采取行动。你会说：“主啊，感谢祢。我很高兴祢掌管一切。”

A Memorial for Generations

How solemn a day was it? This was about fifteen hundred years before Christ—about thirty-five hundred years ago. Was it important to these people, the Israelites who were delivered? Yes. And for the Jews in Israel today, and for the Jews all over the world, they still remember the Feast of Passover and the Unleavened Bread. Over thirty-five hundred years later, and they still remember it.

这一天有多庄严？这大约发生在基督前一千五百年，也就是距今三千五百年前。对那些被拯救出来的以色列人来说，这重要吗？是的。对于今天在以色列以及全世界的犹太人来说，他们仍然纪念逾越节和无酵节。三千五百多年过去了，他们依然记得。

Canada became a nation way back in the year 1867. We remember that on Canada Day. When is Canada Day? July 1st! Congratulations! What year was it? 1867. Who was the Prime Minister? Sir John A. Macdonald. When the children of Israel came out, who was in charge?

Moses. You remember Moses, but you don't remember John Macdonald? What's the matter with you! If you were to go to Jewish homes today, they could tell you the story of the Passover in great detail. All of them, all over the world, can tell you the story! God intended them to remember this story.

加拿大在1867年建国。我们在加拿大国庆日纪念这一天。加拿大国庆日是什么时候？七月一号！祝贺大家！是哪一年？1867年。当时的总理是谁？是约翰·麦克唐纳。当以色列人出来时，谁在掌管？摩西。你们记得摩西，却不记得约翰·麦克唐纳？你们怎么回事！如果你今天去犹太人家里，他们能详尽地告诉你逾越节的故事。全世界的犹太人都能告诉你！神的心意就是要他们记住这个故事。

Now, the parallel to this story for us is the Breaking of Bread. We get together and we remember the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ died, and because of that, we could believe on Him and He separated us from our sin. He saved us out of sin—not out of Egypt, but out of sin! We say, "Hallelujah!" You might ask someone like Norma, "What did you do on the first Sunday of July in 1967?" No matter what Sunday I refer to, she'd give the same answer: "On Sunday, we remember the Lord and thank Him for all He's done." That's what the Jews did. They remembered these days and thanked the Lord for what He'd done.

现在，对我们来说，与这个故事平行的是擘饼。我们聚在一起，纪念主耶稣基督受死的事实，正因如此，我们可以信靠祂，祂将我们与罪分开。祂救我们脱离了罪——不是脱离埃及，而是脱离罪！我们说：“哈利路亚！”你可能会问像Norma这样的人：“1967年7月的第一个礼拜天你在做什么？”不管我提到哪一个礼拜天，她都会给出同样的答案：“在礼拜天，我们纪念主，并为祂所做的一切感谢祂。”这就是犹太人所做的。他们纪念这些日子，为着主所行的事感谢主。

Ordinances of the Passover

You remember that on the night of the Passover, they ate the lamb quickly, with their shoes on, with their staff in their hand, and they ate it for the glory of God.

[Exodus 12:43-46 NKJV]

⁴³ And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it. ⁴⁴ But every man's servant who is bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then he may eat it. ⁴⁵ A sojourner and a hired servant shall not eat it. ⁴⁶ In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones.

四十三节：耶和華對摩西、亞倫說：“逾越節的例是這樣：外邦人都不可吃這羊羔。四十四節：但各人用錢買的僕人，受了割禮就可以吃。四十五節：寄居的和雇工人都不可吃。四十六節：應當在一家之內吃；不可把一點肉從家里帶到外頭去。羊羔的骨頭一根也不可折斷。”

So, it isn't just who shall eat it, but it's also how shall it be eaten and when shall it be eaten. Verse 47: "All the congregation of Israel shall keep it." Now, one of the things we are going to be learning as we go through these stories is this: the children of Israel all were commanded to do the same thing at the same time.

所以，這不僅關乎誰可以吃，還關乎該怎樣吃、何時吃。四十七節說：“以色列全会眾都要守這禮。”當我們讀這些故事時，會學到的一件事是：所有的以色列人都被命令在同一時間做同樣的事情。

Who ate the Passover? All the children of Israel. What about those who hadn't slept much the night before? They ate the Passover too. You didn't have an excuse; you ate the Passover. What happens if you didn't bother putting the blood on the doorposts? The eldest son would be killed. What happened if you didn't bother keeping the Passover and all the children of Israel left in the morning, and you'd been out walking and came home to find them all gone? It's so simple, but it's true—all the congregation did it together.

誰吃了逾越節的羊羔？所有的以色列子民。那些前一天晚上沒怎么睡的人呢？他們也要吃。你沒有借口，必須吃逾越節的羊羔。如果你懶得把血塗在門框上會怎樣？長子就會被殺。如果你不守逾越節，結果第二天早晨以色列人都走了，你散步回來發現他們全不見了，那又會怎樣？這道理很簡單，但事實就是如此——全会眾是共同進退的。

We live in a land which basically says, "I can pretty much do what I want, when I want, and everything's going to be fine. I can't do it today, I'll maybe try next month. I'm okay; you go your way, I'll go my way." I want to remind you—and you're going to see it often as we go through these studies—all the congregation went together in obedience to the Lord. You didn't say, "That's okay for you, but I can't be there today."

我們生活在一個基本上崇尚“我想做什么就做什么，想什麼時候做就什麼時候做”的地方，覺得一切都會沒事的。“我今天做不了，下個月再試吧。我沒問題的；你走你的路，我走我的路。”我要提醒大家——在我們的查經中你會經常看到這一點——全会眾是一起順服主的。你不能說：“你們去做吧，我今天沒空。”

[Exodus 12:48-51 NKJV]

⁴⁸ And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. ⁴⁹ One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you."

⁵⁰ Thus all the children of Israel did; as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. ⁵¹ And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the LORD brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt according to their armies.

四十八节：若有外人寄居在你们中间，愿向耶和华守逾越节，他所有的男子务要受割礼，然后才领他前来遵守，他也就像本地人一样；但未受割礼的，都不可吃这羊羔。四十九节：本地人和寄居在你们中间的外人同归一例。五十节：耶和华怎样吩咐摩西、亚伦，以色列众人就怎样行了。五十一节：正当那日，耶和华将以色列人按着他们的军队，从埃及地领出来。

One Law for All

We live in a world which basically says you can go from country to country and keep your own laws when you get there. But that was not true in Israel. When you came to the nation of Israel, you had to follow the laws of the nation of Israel. Many people say, "Oh, I'm a new Christian, I can come and go, I can do what I want." No, you can't. We are to walk together in the truth of God.

我们当今的世界基本上是说，你可以从一个国家去到另一个国家，并在那里保留你自己的法律。但在以色列并非如此。当你来到以色列这个国家，你必须遵守以色列的法律。很多人说：“哦，我是个新基督徒，我可以随心所欲，想干什么就干什么。”不，你不能。我们要一起在神的真理中行走。

It should be that if somebody walks into 16th Avenue Gospel Chapel and asks a question, every person they ask would give the same answer. We all study so that we know the truth of God the same way, so that we can answer questions the same way. When I was a younger boy, if I didn't know the answer to a question, I would go to my dad and say, "Dad, what do I think about that?" And he would tell me what I think about that! And I would say, "You're right, that's what I think, because I think what you think." Do you know that makes life often easy?

应该是这样的：如果有人走进第16街福音堂问一个问题，无论他问谁，得到的答案都应该是一样的。我们学习是为了以同样的方式认识神的真理，从而能以同样的方式回答问题。我小时候，如果不知道某个问题的答案，我会去找我爸爸说：“爸爸，我对那件事是怎么想的？”他就会告诉我，我应该是怎么想的！我会说：“你是对的，我就是这么想的，因为我想的就是你所想的。”你知道这会让生活变得容易很多吗？

They were marching. "Where are you going?" "I'm going straight ahead." "Why are you doing that?" The answer is simple: "Because Moses is leading us and God is leading Moses, and I'm just marching along behind." One law for the native born and for the stranger—we're all going in the same direction, all going together, and all singing the same song as we go. Thus,

all the children of Israel did as the Lord commanded. They went together; they were together. What a wonderful situation that is!

他们在行军。“你要去哪儿？”“我一直往前走。”“你为什么要那样做？”答案很简单：“因为摩西带领我们，神带领摩西，我只是跟在后面行军。”本地人和外人同归一例——我们都朝着同一个方向，一同前行，一路唱着同一首歌。就这样，以色列众人都照着主的吩咐行了。他们一起走，待在一起。那是多么美妙的情景！

How many went out that day? Six hundred thousand men, plus children and women. They all went out the same day. There must have been a bit of traffic congestion on the road! Absolutely amazing. I think they sang on the way out; I think it would be beautiful to listen to. In unison, in harmony.

那天有多少人出去？六十万男人，加上妇女儿童。他们都在同一天出去了。路上一定会有交通阻塞！绝对是奇妙的。我想他们在路上一定歌唱了，那听起来一定非常优美。齐声合唱，和谐一致。

There are two English words that every student of English should learn. One is the word "symphony." It's where all the instruments and choirs get together for a performance. The suffix "-phony" means "sound" (like phonetics), and the prefix "syn-" means "together." So, a "symphony" is beautiful music where everybody is together. The opposite is "cacophony"—noise where everyone says something different and you can't hear anything clearly. Israel was a symphony. They all came out on the same day the Lord led them. It was a day of fulfillment, but also a day of one hundred percent obedience.

有两个英语单词是每个学英语的学生都应该知道的。一个是“symphony”（交响乐）。它是指所有的乐器和合唱团聚在一起表演。后缀“-phony”意思是“声音”（如语音学），前缀“syn-”意思是“一起”。所以，“symphony”就是大家聚在一起演奏的美妙音乐。反义词是“cacophony”（杂乱的声音）——大家各说各话，什么也听不清。以色列人就是一场交响乐。他们在主带领的那天一同出来。那是预言应验的日子，也是百分之百顺服的日子。

Consecration and First Fruits

According to their armies—have any of you ever been in an army? Most of us say no. I am glad I have never been in an army, but I've been learning a little bit about them recently. What I've learned is that when you're in the army, you do what you're told when you're told. You eat at the right time, you eat what's put before you, and it's "Yes, sir!"

按照他们的军队——你们有人当过兵吗？我们大多数人都没当过。我很庆幸自己没参过军，但最近我对军队有了一些了解。我学到的是，在军队里，你必须在指定的时间做被要求做的事。你在特定的时间吃饭，给你吃什么你就吃什么，而且必须说“是，长官！”

Joe Reese was a good soldier. When he was in the army, you had to make your bed very fast when you got up. You didn't say, "I'm going to sleep in for an extra twenty seconds." When the bugle blew, you were up! Joe's sergeant used to penalize them if their beds were not made perfectly—completely clear, no wrinkles! Joe used to make his bed at nighttime and then sleep on the floor. When the sergeant came in the morning and looked at his bed, he'd say, "That man has got it right! Look at his bed! What's wrong with the rest of you?" Meanwhile, Joe had sat on the floor all night. That's what happens in an army! They traveled in an organized, collective way.

Joe Reese是个好兵。他在军队时，起床后必须飞快地铺好床。你不能说：“我要多睡二十秒。”号角一响，你就得起床！如果床没铺好——没铺平、有褶皱，Joe的班长就会罚他们。Joe通常在晚上就把床铺好，然后睡在地板上。当班长早晨进来看到他的床时，会说：“这人才像样！看看他的床！你们其他人怎么回事？”而Joe整晚都坐在地板上。这就是军队里的情况！他们以有组织、集体的方式行进。

When you become a Christian, you don't become a Christian to do your own thing. You become a Christian to follow the Lord together with your brothers and sisters. Can you see it in your mind's eye? Six hundred thousand men, plus women and children, marching together in an orderly fashion as an army. If they had drones in those days, a drone would fly over and say, "What on earth is this? They're moving together like an army. This is absolutely amazing."

当你成为基督徒，你不是为了做自己的事而成为基督徒。你成为基督徒是为了与弟兄姊妹一起跟从主。你能在脑海中想象那个画面吗？六十万男人，加上妇女儿童，像军队一样井然有序地行进。如果那个年代有无人机，无人机飞过天空会说：“这到底是什么？他们像军队一样整齐行动，绝对奇妙。”

[Exodus 13:1-3 NKJV]

¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine." ³ And Moses said to the people: "Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out of this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

第十三章一节：耶和华晓谕摩西说：“二节：以色列中凡头生的，无论是人是牲畜，都是我的，要分别为圣归我。”三节：摩西对百姓说：“你们要记念从埃及为奴之家出来的这日，因为耶和华用大能的手将你们从这地方领出来。有酵的饼都不可吃。”

Don't take advantage of the freedom in order to sin; take advantage of the freedom to not sin. Verse 8 says: "And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, 'This is done because of what the LORD did for me when I came up from Egypt.'"

不要利用自由去犯罪，而要利用自由去“不”犯罪。第八节说：“当那日，你要告诉你的儿子说：‘这是因耶和华在我出埃及的时候为我所行的事。’”

[Exodus 13:9-10 NKJV]

⁹ It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the LORD's law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt. ¹⁰ You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year.

九节：这要在你手上作记号，在你额上作纪念，使耶和华的律法常在你口中，因为耶和华曾用大能的手将你从埃及领出来。十节：所以你每年要按着日期守这例。

What do you need a sign on your hand and a memorial between your eyes for? To remind you of what happened. When I was a child, I had a friend who had to go to the store, and he couldn't remember what his mother told him to buy, so he wrote it on his hand! If you put a sign on your hand, you'll see it, right? Some of you put a sign on your finger—a ring—to remind yourself and everyone else that you're not "free," you're married! You've got a wonderful wife or husband, and it reminds you and everyone else.

为什么要在手上作记号，在额上作纪念呢？是为了提醒你发生过的事。我小时候有个朋友去商店，他记不住妈妈让他买什么，就把东西写在手上！如果你在手上作记号，你总能看见，对吧？你们中有些人手指上戴着记号——戒指——以此提醒自己 and 所有人：你不是“自由身”，你结婚了！你有一个美满的妻子或丈夫，这记号时刻提醒着你和他人。

Why put a sign on your forehead? So that when someone sees you, they say, "What's that sign on your head?" and then you tell them! If you're on a team, you wear red shirts or blue shirts so you don't pass the ball to the wrong person. Has the Lord saved you? Has the Lord delivered you? Is there a sign? Do others see it? "Something is strange about you—what is it?" That's the way it was to be with the children of Israel.

为什么要额头上作记号？是为了让别人看见你时问：“你额头上那是啥？”然后你就可以告诉他们！如果你在球队里，你会穿红衫或蓝衫，这样你就不会把球传错人。主救了你吗？主拯救了你吗？有记号吗？别人能看出来吗？“你身上有些不一样的地方——是什么呢？”这就是以色列人该有的样子。

The Lord's law should be in your mouth. When people listen to you, they should say there's something different about that. In a general sense, this is the law of first fruits, and it's especially true of families. The firstborn belongs to the Lord. If the firstborn is right, you say to the rest, "Be like him." If the firstborn is wrong, the second one says, "I'm just doing what Billy did." The first fruits is a wonderful principle.

主的律法应当在你口中。当人们听你说话，他们应当觉得有所不同。从大体上说，这是初熟果子的条例，对家庭尤为如此。头生的属于主。如果长子行得正，你就会对其他孩子说：“要像他一样。”如果长子走歪了，老二就会说：“我只是照着比利做的去做。”初熟的果子是一个奇妙的原则。

The Story of the First Check

Does the law of first fruits work? My friend Steve lives in central British Columbia. He was studying at UBC and didn't come from a wealthy family, so he got a job for the summer as a surveyor on the mountain tops. He calculated how much he needed for the next year at university and how much he would earn, and they were just about equal.

初熟果子的原则行得通吗？我的朋友史蒂夫住在卑诗省中部。当时他在UBC上学，家境并不富裕，所以他找了一份暑期工，在山顶做测量员。他计算了下一年大学所需的费用和他的预期收入，两者刚好相等。

When he got his first paycheck, he thought, "The Bible says the first fruits are for the Lord." He felt he should send that first paycheck to his friend John in Ecuador. But he thought, "If I do that, I won't have enough money to get through the year." This was on his mind day after day. Finally, he wrote to his father: "Dad, this is my first paycheck. Don't put it in my bank account. Send it to John in Ecuador. I don't know how I'm going to get through next year."

当他领到第一份薪水时，他想到：“圣经说初熟的果子要归给主。”他觉得应该把第一份薪水寄给他在厄瓜多尔的朋友约翰。但他又想：“如果我那么做，这一年的钱就不够了。”这念头在他脑海里纠结了好几天。最后，他写信给父亲：“爸爸，这是我的第一张支票。别存进我的银行账户，把它寄给厄瓜多尔的约翰。我不知道明年该怎么过，但就这样吧。”

Anyway, he kept climbing the mountains. One day, he started an avalanche! He came down with all the snow, but he ended up on top, alive. His skis weren't even broken. But he had a problem: his glasses were gone. How can you be a surveyor on top of a mountain if you can't see anything? He looked around but couldn't find them. He started climbing back up the mountain over the avalanche path. About halfway up, he reached over, picked up his glasses, put them on, and kept going!

不管怎样，他继续在山里工作。有一天，他引发了雪崩！他随着积雪一起滚下去，但他最后浮在雪面上，还活着。他的滑雪板甚至都没断。但他有个麻烦：他的眼镜丢了。如果你看不清东西，怎么在山顶当测量员

呢？他到处找也找不到。他开始沿着雪崩留下的路径往山上爬。爬到一半时，他手一伸，竟然摸到了他的眼镜！他戴上眼镜，继续工作。

At the end of the summer, his boss said, "Steve, you've been a good worker. We'd like you to come back next summer. To encourage you, we want to give you a bonus." He handed him a check. How much was the check for? The exact same amount that he had sent to John in Ecuador at the beginning of the summer. That's God! He honors people who honor Him. Absolutely marvelous.

暑假结束时，他的老板说：“史蒂夫，你干得不错。我们希望你明年夏天再来。为了鼓励你，我们要给你一笔奖金。”老板递给他一张支票。支票上的金额是多少？竟然和他入夏时寄给厄瓜多尔约翰的金额“完全一样”。这就是神！祂尊重那些尊重祂的人。绝对奇妙。

Redeeming the Donkey

[Exodus 13:13 NKJV]

But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.

十三节：凡头生的驴，你要用羊羔代赎；若不代赎，就要打折它的颈项。凡你儿子中头生的，都要赎出来。

I call that the "twenty-five cent verse." When I was a child, a preacher gave us this as a memory verse and said if we memorized it, he'd give us twenty-five cents the next week. He came back, but he never asked me to say it. I was disappointed! The next day, I was shopping with my father and we ran into that preacher. My father told him I was disappointed I didn't get to say the verse. He asked, "Harold, can you say it?" I quoted it, and he reached into his pocket and gave me my twenty-five cents!

我管这叫“两毛五分钱经文”。我小时候，有个传道人让我们背这节经文，说如果背下来，下周就给我们两毛五分钱。他后来回来了，却没点我背。我很失望！第二天，我和父亲去买东西，正好碰到了那位传道人。我父亲告诉他我很遗憾没能背经文。他问：“哈罗德，你能背吗？”我背了出来，他从兜里掏出两毛五分钱给了我！

He told us children, "You're all like little donkeys. You're sinners, and if you don't trust the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, you'll die. But if you want a little donkey to live, you go get a lamb and offer it to the Lord. That way, you don't have to kill the donkey." I'm just like a little

donkey. Instead of my life being taken, Jesus, the Lamb, died for me. I say, "Thank You, Lord, for dying for me so that I, the foolish donkey, could live."

他告诉我们这些孩子：“你们都像小驴。你们是罪人，如果不信靠主耶稣基督为救主，你们就会死。但如果你想让小驴活命，你就得找一只羊羔献给主。这样，你就不用杀那头驴了。”我就像那头小驴。本该是我被取去生命，但耶稣，那神羔羊，为我而死。我说：“主啊，感谢祢为我而死，让我这头愚拙的小驴能活下去。”

[Exodus 13:14-16 NKJV]

¹⁴ So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, "What is this?" that you shall say to him, "By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ¹⁵ And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem." ¹⁶ It shall be as a sign on your hand and as frontlets between your eyes, for by strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt."

十四节：日后，你的儿子问你说：‘这是什么意思？’你就说：‘耶和华用大能的手将我们从埃及为奴之家领出来。十五节：那时法老几乎不容我们去，耶和华就把埃及地所有头生的，无论是人是牲畜，都杀了。因此，我把一切头生的公牲畜献给耶和华作祭物，但将我头生的儿子都赎出来。十六节：这要在你手上作记号，在你额上作经文，因为耶和华用大能的手将我们从埃及领出来。’

These stories weren't just stories; they were some of the most amazing events in history. Has the Lord saved you? Has He delivered you from the bondage of sin and the devil to be part of His eternal family? Then keep that truth as a sign on your hand and between your eyes, so that others see it too.

这些故事不仅仅是故事，它们是历史上最奇妙的事件。主救了你吗？祂是否把你从罪恶和魔鬼的奴役中拯救出来，让你成为祂永恒家庭的一员？如果是，就请将这真理作为手上的记号和额上的经文，让别人也能看见。

Don't Go Back to Egypt

[Exodus 13:17-18 NKJV]

¹⁷ Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said,

"Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt." ¹⁸ So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.

十七节：法老容百姓去的时候，非利土地的道路虽近，神却不领他们从那里走；因为神说：“恐怕百姓遇见打仗后悔，就回埃及去。”十八节：所以神领百姓绕道而行，走红海旷野的路。以色列人出埃及地，都带着兵器上去。

When you first trusted the Lord, did He lead you exactly the way you expected? Has the Lord answered every prayer exactly as you wanted? The answer is no. Why? In order to keep you from being discouraged and turning back when you see war. The Lord leads each of us different ways, but all for the same reason: to teach us, train us, and prevent us from being discouraged. What's the great truth of all this? Don't go back to Egypt!

当你刚信主时，祂带领你的方式和你预期的一样吗？主是否按你所想的应允了每一个祷告？答案是否定的。为什么？为了防止你在遇到战争时灰心丧气甚至走回头路。主带领我们每个人的路径不同，但原因是一样的：教导我们，训练我们，防止我们气馁。这一切伟大的真理是什么？就是“不要回埃及去！”

You've been delivered from the sins of the past and you now have life in Jesus Christ—don't go back. Egypt is a picture of the world. The activities and people of the world will enslave a Christian. The Apostle says we are in the world, but we are not to be of the world. We have to work with them and live with them, but don't behave like them.

你已经从过去的罪恶中被救赎出来，现在拥有了耶稣基督里的生命——不要回头。埃及是世界的缩影。世界上的活动和人会奴役基督徒。使徒说我们“在”世上，但不“属”世。我们必须与世人一起工作、生活，但不要像他们那样行事。

The children of Israel went up in orderly ranks. You can hardly imagine six hundred thousand people going in such an orderly fashion, but they did. That's a beautiful picture. Why is that detail there? So that we should be like them as we travel for the Lord.

以色列人全副武装、井然有序地上去。你很难想象六十万人能走得如此有条不紊，但他们确实做到了。这是一个美丽的画面。为什么会有这样的细节？那是为了让我们在为主前行的过程中能像他们一样。

The clock says our time has gone again, but this story is not over. Did you know the Bible story is never over? I had a Bible once where the editor put "The End" after Revelation 22. I was a bit offended by that, so I wrote in between those words: "There is no end." The things of God are not over yet. Hallelujah!

时钟提醒我们时间又到了，但这个故事还没结束。你知道吗，圣经的故事永远不会结束。我曾有一本圣经，编辑在启示录二十二章后面写了“全书完”。我觉得这有点冒犯，于是在那两个字之间写道：“永无止境”。神的事工尚未结束。哈利路亚！

[Revelation 22:21 NKJV]

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

愿主耶稣基督的恩常与众人同在。阿们。