

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

Exodus 12:1-14

Sunday, February 7, 2016

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What might be some reasons why many weekly calendars today begin with Monday instead of Sunday?

Monday is now chosen as the first day of the week for many because the most important day of the week for them is their business day or the beginning of their business week (or school day or week, etc.). Might this

indicate something about the new god that many people worship; such as, money or career, instead of putting the worship of God in Christ as their most important way to begin a new week and live a life?

2. In what way during Passover is the head of the household similar to a priest? Why would this be important in later years?

During Passover, the head of the household would kill the lamb that serves as a reminder of the lamb that was sacrificed before the first Passover meal. Under the Law of Moses, the priests are appointed to offer all other sacrifices at the tabernacle or temple. The rule for Passover would be important in later years when the Jews were scattered and after the temple was destroyed. The Jews did not need an official priest in order to obey God in the celebration of Passover. The fact that an official priest or religious leader was not needed to celebrate the Passover teaches believers a great deal.

3. What type of lamb or goat were the Israelites commanded to use in the celebration of Passover? In what way is this Passover lamb similar to the Messiah?

A lamb without blemish, a male lamb for everyone in the house, a young lamb (a year old) that represented the future of what the lamb could have become someday if not sacrificed, a lamb whose blood was put on the door frame of a house to protect those inside. The Lamb of God is without sin; Jesus was a male who died for everyone, and Who saves everyone who believes in Him; Jesus died as a young man (between 30 and 33 years old, many believe),

and He rose again to an eternal future as Lord of lords and to give an eternal future to all who would trust in Him as Lord and Savior.

4. Why would the Israelites eat their first Passover in peace instead of fear?

They ate in faith, believing that the blood of the lamb would save them from death.

5. Why do you think the Israelites obeyed God in faith and did what God told them through Moses at their first Passover, even though they might not have understood all of God's reasons for His commands? Why is knowing this important?

They had seen God work many miracles and nine plagues that succeeded. They were about to experience a tenth plague, and God could save them if they obeyed Him in faith. They had seen God distinguish them from the Egyptians in some of His plagues, and He had told them that He would distinguish them again from the Egyptians, but this time they would need to put the Passover lamb's blood of the door posts and lintel of their houses in faith that He would save them. Knowing this is important because when we think about the facts we know, we know that God has given us good and sufficient reasons to believe in Him and believe Him whatever He tells us, even though we might not always understand every reason for what He does or asks us to do—remembering always that God will never tell us to do anything contrary to what the Bible teaches about right and wrong, good and evil, faith and unbelief.

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