



A Tale of Two Calendars

“The Church Year” Series

Exodus 12

December 8, 2019

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage we learn how God directs his people to use sacred days to direct allegiance and desires.

The Text: Exodus 12

1) Sacred Days are Biblical: God established dates and seasons to direct allegiance and guide desires.

a) OT evidence: Sacred Days are given to God’s people by the specific command of God.

Exodus 12: ¹ The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household. ... ¹⁴ “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. ... ²⁵ And ... you shall keep this service. ²⁶ And when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ ²⁷ you shall say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the Lord’s Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.’” And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

b) NT evidence: Sacred Days are reinterpreted in light of Christ and the larger story of Scripture.

Acts 20: ⁶ but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days. ⁷ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them....

1 Corinthians 16: ⁸ But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹ for a wide door for effective work has opened to me....

2 Corinthians 1: ²⁰ For all the promises of God find their Yes in him [Jesus Christ].

2) Sacred Days are Historical: The church established dates and season to remember God and regulate corporate worship.

a) What? – The church calendar is a rhythmic pattern of celebrations and seasons to direct worship of Christ and reaffirm identity in Christ.

b) Why? – Establishing sacred days is a way of ordering public time and distinguishing the church’s unique identity and mission.

c) How? – The there is no precedent in the church for a uniform application of establishing sacred days, even if key principles can be established.

3) Sacred Days are Cultural: Every culture establishes dates and seasons (holi-days) to direct allegiance and guide desires.

a) The secular calendar is a rhythmic pattern of sacred days that direct worship and identity.

b) The secular (American) calendar directs worship (purpose) & identity in three ways:

(i) Human Kingdom and Patriotism (e.g., Independence Day, Veterans Day).

(ii) Money and Amusement (e.g., Halloween, Christmas, Mother's Day).

(iii) Ambition and Success (the school year).

- 4) Sacred Days are Pastoral: Churches may embrace their Christian liberty and celebrate sacred days to refresh their relationship to Christ and reinforce their identity in Christ.

Response

Hope Church, “you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession” (1 Peter 2:9).

Sunday Text Questions for Exodus 12 (Church Year Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: What special days does your family celebrate, and why?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How might v. 2 suggest that Israel was to have a “calendar” that is different than the culture they are in?
- 4) Why would God want this particular “holi day” (Passover) to be celebrated by both individual families (v. 3) and the congregation (v. 6)?
- 5) What do vv. 7-13 teach us about the history and intent behind the sacred celebration of Passover?
- 6) What applications can we draw from v. 14 regarding God’s desire and purpose for his people to establish “sacred days?”
- 7) While Jesus fulfilled the celebration of the Passover in Exodus 12, how might this text teach us to establish “sacred days” in light of Christ and the New Covenant?
- 8) How might the celebration and practice of “sacred days” help refresh our relationship to Christ and reinforce our unique identity in Christ?
- 9) How does the secular calendar, in America for example, direct our allegiances and guide our desires?
- 10) What “sacred days” do you think would be helpful to keep (like Easter) or add for properly forming disciples of Jesus and citizens of the Kingdom of God, and why?

Further study this week: Deuteronomy 16 on Old Testament sacred days (Mon); Acts 20 on the awareness of sacred days (Tues); 1 Corinthians 16 on the awareness of sacred days (Wed); 2 Corinthians 1 on Christ fulfilling all promises in the Old Testament (Thurs); 1 Peter 2 on the unique identity of Christians/the church (Fri).