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MINISTRIES

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Parashah Points: Beha’alotcha – Why Passover is a Big Deal

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Beha’alotcha, which is Hebrew for “When you set up,” and it goes from Numbers 8:1 to Numbers 12:15.

This Torah portion discusses the consecration of the Levites, the Passover at Sinai, the laws concerning the silver trumpets, the Israelites departing from Sinai, the Israelites grumbling in the wilderness, and a story about Miriam and Aaron speaking against Moses because of his wife.

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to talk about why Passover is a big deal.

Numbers 9:1-4

[And the Lord \[YHWH\] spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, “Let the people of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time. On the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, you shall keep it at its appointed time; according to all its statutes and all its rules you shall keep it.” So Moses told the people of Israel that they should keep the Passover.](#)

As we can see in this passage, this was the second year after Israel was delivered from slavery in Egypt. And God took it upon Himself to command Moses directly to remind everyone to observe Passover. God is basically saying, “Hey Moses, it’s been a year. Remember that very important memorial I told you all to observe? Well, it’s coming up! Remind everyone, again, to keep it in accordance with all the instructions I previously gave!”

Why does God seemingly go out of His way to remind the people to keep Passover? Israel was already told that they were to keep Passover every year. This is like a wife telling her husband, “Honey, don’t forget—our anniversary is next week!” The husband might reply, “How can I forget? We celebrate it every year!”

The simple answer to this question is that Passover is a really big deal to God. This reminder in the Scriptures is meant to emphasize the utmost importance of this festival.

But why is it such a big deal? The reason is that Passover/Unleavened Bread is not *merely* a harvest festival. Again, like a wedding anniversary, this appointed time is a defining memorial for Israel and their relationship with God. The Exodus story—how God delivered Israel from slavery—is at the core of Israel’s identity.

That is why failing to observe certain aspects of Passover comes with the punishment of being cut off from God’s people (Exodus 12:19). That is also why Passover has a fallback holiday a month later, as our Torah Portion teaches us (Numbers 9:9-14). Those who couldn’t partake in eating the Passover sacrifice due to being ritually impure on Nissan 14 got a second chance to do so the next month. This makes Passover unique among all the other biblical holy days.

Not only that, but as we read in the New Testament, Passover is clearly given as God’s model of redemption for all time. The Exodus story is fully realized in Yeshua the Messiah, the ultimate Passover Lamb. Just as God sent Moses to deliver Israel from slavery in Egypt, God sent the Messiah to deliver us from the slavery of sin and death.

So Passover is important ultimately because it reminds us who we are and who God is. God is our deliverer, our redeemer. Passover is not only a memorial of Israel’s deliverance from Egypt but our deliverance from sin and death. We were once slaves, but now we are free in Him.

Therefore, we ought to live as free people. And that is defined for us as keeping God’s commandments, as the first of the Ten Commandments, once again, includes a reminder of our deliverance from Egypt:

Exodus 20:2

I am the Lord [YHWH] you God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

So...don’t forget to keep Passover!

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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