

**Exegetical Notes, Exodus 12:43-50**  
**“Picking Up the Story...Leftover Details”**

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen, Pastor, Cornerstone Fellowship  
101 Kyllies Road, Coatesville, PA 19329  
610-384-1375  
charleshjensen@aol.com

**Exodus 12:43-50**

**Verse 12:43a**

*YHWH said to Moses and Aaron, “These are the regulations for the Passover:”*

- In the following verses, God lays down careful instructions about how the Passover is to be observed. These restrictions are specifically from God! Therefore, they are binding on every generation of Passover observers to this very day. When God gives specific instructions, they are to be followed until such time as God, himself, revokes them.
- For more information about the Passover see Exodus 12:1-36.

**Verse 43b, 48-49**

*“No foreigner is to eat of it.... An alien living among you who wants to celebrate YHWH’s Passover must have all the males in his household circumcised; then he may take part like one born in the land. No uncircumcised male may eat of it. The same law applies to the native-born and to the alien living among you.”*

- The first law of the Passover is that those outside of the covenant community may not eat the meal under any circumstances until they have joined the covenant community and received the mark of circumcision. Only those who belong to the community may eat the Passover.
- This is a binding law. There are no exceptions allowed! It applies equally to those who have been born into the community but have not entered the community by receiving the mark of circumcision. No one who has not joined the community is to eat the Passover.

### **Verse 44-45**

***“Any slave you have bought may eat of it after you have circumcised him, but a temporary resident and a hired worker may not eat of it .***

- If a person, even someone of so little status as a slave, joins the covenant community and receives its mark, he is to be invited to eat the Passover. However, those outside of the community are not invited to share this meal.
- This rule violates all of the hospitality issues considered common in that time. Even today the general rule compels us to invite guests to the table if guests are present when we eat. The reason for this exclusionary behavior is to mark the distinction between God’s community and the rest of the world and to call those not of the community to consider their position as outsiders at God’s table.

### **Verse 46**

***“It must be eaten inside one house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones.”***

- The meal is to be eaten privately, not openly. This is an issue of private commitment not a public statement.
- None of the bones of the Passover lamb were to be broken. This verse became the prophetic explanation of why Jesus’ bones were not broken on the cross. See John 19:36 and Psalm 34:20.

### **Verse 50**

***All the Israelites did just what YHWH had commanded Moses and Aaron. And on that very day YHWH brought the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions.***

- At the first Passover, Israel was careful to follow the letter of the law regarding it. They did exactly what God had commanded them to do through Moses and Aaron.
- As a result of their obedience God acted to bring them out of Egypt according to his promise.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Picking Up the Story... Leftover Details*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)