

Key Elements to Reading and Understanding Exodus

- The Exodus is the foundational event in the life of the Israelite People
- This is a Story that is retold from generation to generation
- The Story of the Exodus is not just a past event but a living reality
- The Story of the Exodus is ritualized
- Everything in the Old Testament and the New Testament is rooted in the Exodus event
- The Story of the Exodus continues to inflame the hopes and passions of people today

Book of Exodus Class 1 Slide 11 Transcript

Key elements for understanding and reading this is to understand that the Exodus is the foundational event in the life of the Israelite people. That it is a story that is retold from generation to generation to generation and of course the Seder meal retells it again, over and over again. You are going to hear that well we do that too. Right, that's what Mass is. Right, we do the Last Supper. It's the same thing. We tell the story of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus at every Mass. The story of Exodus is not just about a past event but a living reality. And that's one of the things that's very important for us is that in the living of it out – and I will give you a glimpse of this. In the living out of the Exodus, for the Israelite people and for us, the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, as well as the Israelite people – in living it out, we

still experience the saving effects of it today, remembering it, calling to mind.

In our faith, we call to mind, and it's in the Eucharistic Prayer, we call to mind. In the calling to mind of it, we live it and experience the saving effects of it as if it happened today. That's why at Mass I say, you go to Calvary, you go to the foot of the Cross because you receive the saving effects of that grace today. Today, because in God's time there is no time right, in God's world. And so we get to experience it through the Sacraments. They, in calling to mind, that's why on Holy Thursday, when we read the story of the Passover, it says that the youngest child has a statement that he says and it is "why is this night different than any other night?" It's interesting because he does not say why was that night different? And the phrase is "why is this night different than every other night?"

As a matter of fact in the Eucharistic Prayer on Holy Thursday, if you do a certain canon- it use to be in all of them – but you would say "on the night before he was betrayed, that is this night". They have to add that phrase on Holy Thursday to say that, that is this night. This is the night he was betrayed. This is the night. And so we experience this saving effect in retelling of the story. And we relive it and we receive the graces of it.

And how we do that is the story of Exodus is ritualized. You will learn that. They eat bitter herbs, all of that stuff, unleavened bread. We are going to talk about why unleavened bread. Why do we have unleavened bread at Mass? Why would they have unleavened bread? That's all pretty powerful when you start learning it and making it meaningful to you. But it's all ritualized and the same thing we do, but the ritualizing of it where they actually – staff in hand - like their ready for flight. Even though it happened 3,000 years later they still do it

today. Everything in the Old Testament and the New Testament is rooted in this Exodus event. Even the story of Jesus and the whole Passover of Jesus is rooted in this event that we're going to study.

And the story of Exodus continues to inflame the hopes and passions of the people today, so I am going to talk about that.