(Wednesday 09/09/2020)

**The “Passover”**

(Exodus 12-1-14)

In our series looking at the Old Testament readings for the previous Sunday, we have reached the climax of God’s rescue of his people, the children of Israel, from their slavery in Egypt.

This is a description of the events which will serve to be the way which will always define Israel’s status as God’s chosen ones. As it is celebrated annually, it has continually reinforced their oneness and there is little doubt that it has served as a great source of strength in a world that so often has been horribly hostile to them.

Although it is not a celebration to be shared with those who are not of the Jewish faith, it is the background setting of the Easter story which defines our own faith. John, in his Gospel, describes how John the Baptist introduces his disciples to Jesus, ***“The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world***!” (John 1.29)

In his description of that last Passover meal that Jesus celebrates with his disciples on the night before he dies (John 13.1-17.36), John continually draws out through his description of Jesus’ teaching, and of the setting, that link to the first Passover.

So, this “exodus” story is very much a part of our story and it serves to show us something of the depth of God’s love and care for his rebellious creation.

Why not just sit quietly and think about the way God has always cared for his creation and the freedom he has always given to it. As the God of love, he will never force us because love never operates through force. But he will never abandon us.

These stories of the depth of God’s love for his creation include YOU. You are so special in his eyes that he will go to these kinds of extremes just to draw you back into that right relationship with Him. So, just reflect on that and give thanks? Just read the passage again – nice and slowly!

**Prayers**

(just a few thoughts!)

* Let’s continue to remember those who are suffering from Covid infections at this time and also those who are close to them.
* Pray for folk who are still finding this “lockdown” so difficult to handle and for those who are worrying and trying to care for them.
* Let’s remember those known to each of us who are suffering from other chronic ailments and who are finding it difficult to get their normal care and support.
* Please pray for the teams who are working towards finding a therapy and a vaccine.
* Continue to hold in your prayers those in the NHS who are still very much the “front line”: and for their families who must continue to worry about them.
* Pray for those we know who are not well at this time and who are battling with the slow process of recovery. Continue to pray for Rebecca.
* Remember our government leaders and the scientists who advise them. They clearly need our prayers as they advise on the steps to come out of lock-down. Remember too those who are suffering real financial difficulties as businesses suffer and collapse.