

Several years ago, a movie came out with the title, “Unbroken.” It showed the story of a U.S. WWII prisoner of war in Japan, and how he refused to be broken while enduring severe mental and physical torture in their POW camps. In the end, he chose to forgive those who tortured him.

It’s a powerful story, but that’s not where I really want to focus this morning. It does involve that word, “unbroken” though. Exodus chapter 12 recounts the events when God caused the Egyptians to allow the nation of Israel to stop serving them as slaves and leave Egypt. This was no small thing. Verse 37 mentions there were 600,000 men, besides women and children. Losing so much labor would be a huge deal. That’s probably why it took such drastic plagues to get them to let God’s people go.

God caused every firstborn male (both human and animal) to die in one night in Egypt. God’s people were spared by following specific instructions. This foreshadowed the sacrifice Jesus later made for the sins of all mankind. A one year old lamb or kid (young goat) was sacrificed. They put its blood on the top and both sides of their door frame, and ate the meat. Here’s where the detail comes in, in Exodus 12:46 “Do not break any of the bones”

No explanation was given as to why this was important. But it was repeated in Numbers 9:12 when the requirements for keeping the Passover were told to the next generation.

“They must not leave any of it till morning or break any of its bones. When they celebrate the Passover, they must follow all the regulations.”

The idea shows up again in Psalm 34:20

<sup>19</sup> The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all;

<sup>20</sup> he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. <sup>21</sup> Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned. <sup>22</sup> The Lord will rescue his servants; no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

This same detail is noted as important when Jesus died on the cross.

It’s in John 19:33, and the reason it was important is given in verse 36.

<sup>31</sup> Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. <sup>32</sup> The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other.

<sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

<sup>36</sup> These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,”

I’ve heard the saying, “God is in the details.” It’s very true in this case. Though they may not have looked like it at the time, these passages in the Old Testament were predicting Jesus’ death, to give people like us who weren’t there to see it happen even more reason to believe.