

The Passover: The Lamb and the Lamb of God – Exodus 12:1-13

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Having covered the 5 major sacrifices and looked at the priests who made the sacrifices for the people, we will shift focus to the 3 major feasts: **The Unleavened Bread, The Firstfruits, and The Ingathering.**

We will begin to look at the **Passover** today, the first feast instituted as the Jews were about to be delivered from Egyptian slavery. But you might ask, where is the Passover in the 3 feasts listed above? The **Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are treated as one** both in the Old and New Testaments. The **Passover was the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.** It was on the first day of the week and was followed by 7 days of eating unleavened bread.

After Israel entered Canaan, mostly the Jewish men would gather at the tabernacle yearly to celebrate the Passover, but their families back home would continue to eat the unleavened bread...so they were not left out totally. So let's now focus on the highlight of the Feast of the Unleavened bread – the Passover.

Our headings are:

The Preparation

The Participation

The Protection

Our goals are that you **will gain a better appreciation of Christ suffering and death for you so you would love and serve him better.**

The Preparation

1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 "This month shall be your **beginning of months**; it shall be the first month of the year to you.

1. God made it clear Israel's redemption from Egypt was so important the Jews had to change their calendar, literally restart it.

This Passover ceremony marked the beginning of new life for the Israelites.

3 "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.

2. On the 10th day of the first month, Abib, the Israelites were to select an animal and separate it from the rest of the flock.

Jesus is the Lamb of God, set aside by the Father to be your Passover Lamb. Listen to John when he saw Jesus!

John 1:29 ... "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

3. The lamb was set apart for almost 4 days.

Jesus' ministry rounded off according to Jewish counting was 4 years.

Jesus was also examined for 4 days in Jerusalem – the Holy Place - before he was crucified.

4 'And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb.

4. If the lamb were too large for the household, they were to invite neighbors to join them.

Why? God did not want to waste the animal's meat.

The lamb was a picture of Jesus Christ. Christ could not and would not die uselessly. **He only died for his elect!**

5 'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

5. The lamb or kid (sheep or goat) had to be without blemish, outwardly clean not showing any of 50 signs of blemishes.

Christ is your Lamb unblemished by sin...not a single sin...

1Peter 1:18-19 - ...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a **lamb** without blemish and without spot.

6. The lamb had to be a male of the first year – in the prime of life.

Jesus was killed in the prime of his life...not as a baby nor as an old man.

7. Lessons:

a. Your Passover sacrifice – Jesus Christ – is most important because when he died it marked new spiritual life for all eternity for you. It is your real beginning – your true birthday. Everything before him was slavery. Now you have freedom. Israel's lamb was a picture. You have the reality.

b. So that Jesus would not die in vain, you are to evangelize and welcome others to receive his blessings. Work as if you were trying to avoid his death from going to waste.

The Participation

6 'Now you shall keep it **until the fourteenth day** of the same month. Then the **whole assembly** of the congregation of Israel shall **kill it at twilight**.

1. The animal was killed at twilight – just before it got dark – by the male head of the family.

Being the Lamb of God, Jesus died at twilight.

Notice the progression of doctrine regarding the sacrificing of a lamb. In Genesis the lamb was **slain for the individual** (Genesis 4:4). In Exodus the lamb was **slain for the family**, (Exodus 12:3–4). In Leviticus the lamb was slain for **the nation** (Leviticus 16). In the New Testament the Lamb of God was **slain for the sin of the world** (Jn 1:29). What a wonderful expansion!

Just as the Jews killed the lamb themselves, they also killed the Lamb of God.

7 'And they shall take some of the blood and **put it on the two doorposts** and on the **lintel** of the houses where they eat it.

2. The Jews would take some of the blood of the Passover lamb and spread it over the door posts and lintel of the door.

Why door posts? The door posts pointed to the public profession of faith in the one in whom they believed. The blood was painted on in the **form of a cross**, according to Jewish tradition.

Just as the lamb was substituted for the firstborn, thus protecting him from death, so the Lamb of God was for you!

Hebrew 9:22 - Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

3. The Jews had to take a bunch of hyssop to paint the blood.

Hyssop was from the mint family and was used to cleanse people of internal diseases, so it is used here as a picture of faith.

By faith man professes belief in Jesus.

8 'Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; **roasted in fire**, with **unleavened bread** and with **bitter herbs** they shall eat it.

4. The Jews ate roasted meat with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

a. Roasted meats. This is a forerunner of the whole burnt offering (Leviticus 1:3-13), which represented complete surrender to God. This was a pleasing aroma.

This pictures the **great suffering of Jesus when he died**. "Roasting" suggests terrible pain.

b. Unleavened bread was necessary because the people would not be able to wait for yeast to make the bread rise.

This speaks of the **purity of Jesus**, and when he is received in faith, it results in the removal of your sins and your corruption.

c. Bitter herbs reminded them of the bitterness of their slavery in Egypt.

It is obvious this was not eaten by infants (that would have been cruel), and quite impossible – roasted crusty meat, hard unleavened bread, bitter herbs! Surely not!

d. Believing non-Jews were always welcomed to share this meal with the Jews.

9 'Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails.

5. The Jews were warned to eat the meat roasted with all the insides still inside.

Jesus had to be killed with his body in place...

Also, not one bone of the animal could be broken.

Not one bone of Jesus' body was broken.

John 19:33- But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, **they did not break His legs.** **36** For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken."

10 'You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire.

6. The Jews had to eat all the meat, otherwise the remaining meat had to be burned in the morning.

The meat represented Christ...who did not die in vain.

11 'And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD'S Passover.

7. The Jews had to eat the Passover lamb:

a. With a belt on their waist – ready to move to Canaan.

Christian must be belted with girdle of truth, **ready and fit to perform every good work**. Remember the priestly clothes.

b. With sandals on their feet because they were to be ready to leave Egypt to quickly to conquer Canaan.

The Christian's feet must be **prepared to conquer the world** with the Gospel of peace.

c. With your staff in their hand - to support and assist, protect and defend them, in their journey.

The **staff expresses the Christian's faith** in the word and promises of God. Psalm 23:4

d. With haste, ready to leave.

No one is to delay in conquering the world for Jesus.

e. Those who refused to eat the Passover were excluded from God's people.

Those who **refuse the memorial of the Lord are dishonoring him and show themselves outside of Christ.**

8. Lessons:

a. It was your sins that nailed the Lamb of God to the tree, just as the Jew's sins caused the lamb to be killed.

b. You too must make a public profession of your faith. This is a testimony to fellow believers and to outsiders. Only those who made a public profession of faith was allowed to eat the Passover meal.

c. The goal of redemption is freedom from some form of oppression for the payment of a price. Jesus paid it in full. So this would remind you of the **hardness of your life before Christ's redemptive sacrifice.**

d. Just don't look at Christ and say: "He is good." You have to eat of his words. It's your duty. Eat and live. Eat of his sacraments. They will strengthen your faith.

The Protection

12 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. 13 'Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

1. God would pass through Egypt and would strike all the firstborn of Egypt who had no blood protection on their door, but those with blood – the right blood- on the door were protected.

Deuteronomy 16: 1 "**Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover to the LORD** your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night. [3] "You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, that is, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), that you may remember the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life.

God knew, when he saw the blood, there was faith – faith in Jesus, and so passed over them. Today you have similar protection with the blood of Jesus:

Colossian 2:13-15 - And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having **forgiven you all trespasses**, having **wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us...**

2. And God said: "I am the Lord."

These words pointed to certainty, exclusivity, and ability. God was the only God, he was the covenant God, and he was Almighty God. This meant the Jews would know with certainty God would keep his words.

3. Lessons:

a. Just as the Jews were protected from physical death through the Passover lamb, even so Christians are protected from spiritual death through Jesus, the Lamb of God.

b. You don't need to paint blood on your door or have a tattoo of a cross. You need to profess your faith in Jesus and live it.

c. You are to remember and celebrate this great work of Jesus every time you celebrate the Lord's Supper, even though now it is with the non-bloody symbols of bread and wine.

Conclusion:

The Passover lamb had to be sacrificed and God gave the Jews directions how to do it. As a result of the properly sacrificed substitute the Israelites were shielded from God's judgment. They were able to begin their journey to conquer and inherit the Promised Land. **This continued as a yearly celebration – a feast to remember!**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. The bloody Passover lamb did not have the power to clean the Israelites of their sins, but it pictured the Son of God whose blood would cleanse them of all their sins. This One pictured was better than a lamb. He was fully man and had to be. This one was great enough to die for the sins of the whole world – and **had to be God.**

2. Now if you by faith (as the Israelites) accept the blood of Christ as your own, he promises to continue to be with you and to guide you. You can rejoice in this. You can praise him for it. You can tell others about it.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, I urge you to take the time to fully appreciate the work of Christ on your behalf. Then see how meaningless your life is without it. Then ask God to credit his obedience as your obedience and to credit his death as your death. Then continue to feed on him. Then let him guide you.