

CHRIST OUR PASSOVER

A. Introduction

As we approach Easter, let us consider the very special meal that Jesus ate with His disciples the night of His arrest. We refer to it as the "Lord's Supper". We shall see that it is based deep in Israel's history, and that it serves as a wonderful picture of who Christ is and what He would become for us.

B. The Jewish Passover

What was the Jewish feast Jesus ate with His disciples during the Lord's Supper? (Luke 22:1, 7-13)
It was the Passover (which was at the start of the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread). This was one of the three great Jewish feasts (Deut 16:16). It is interesting to note that Jesus began His earthly ministry around the Passover (John 2:12-13), and concluded it around the Passover.

What was the Passover (Feast of Unleavened Bread) all about? (Exodus 12:14-17)
It was a feast that Jewish people were to have every year, in order to celebrate how the Lord delivered them from Egypt; where they were oppressed and afflicted the (Deut 26:6-8).

The original Passover meal is related to the final plague that the Lord brought against the Egyptians. What was this plague? (Exodus 11:4-7)

In judgment, God would strike down all the firstborn of Egypt, including the firstborn of Pharaoh.

What seven things did the Israelites have to do to be spared from this last plague?

1. Exodus 12:3, 5 Each home had to choose an unblemished (perfect) year old male lamb.
2. Exodus 12:6 After a set time (four days), the lamb had to be killed (at twilight).
3. Exodus 12:7, 22a The blood of the lamb had to be applied to the doorposts and the lintel of their door.
4. Exodus 12:22b They had to stay inside the house until morning, under the covering of the blood.
5. Exodus 12:8-11 They had to roast the flesh of the lamb; it was not to be boiled, or eaten raw.
6. Exodus 12:8 Besides the roasted lamb, they were to eat unleavened bread with bitter herbs.
7. Exodus 12:46 They were not to break any of the lamb's bones.

What did God promise the Israelites, if they obeyed Him? (Exodus 12:12-13, 23)

God promised that when He saw the blood on the door of their house, He would pass over them and spare the firstborn in the house. The Israelites did exactly what the Lord had said, and they were spared (v.28).

C. Christ our Passover Lamb

What parallels exist between the Passover lamb and the Lord Jesus? (John 1:29; 1 Cor 5:7)
The blood of the Passover lamb applied to the door of a house delivered the Israelites from God's judgment (the death of the firstborn). This foreshadowed how Jesus, the Lamb of God, who shed His blood on a cross would deliver us from God's judgment and eternal death, if we apply His blood to our lives (by trusting in Him). No wonder Paul refers to Jesus as our Passover (1 Cor 5:7).

Consider the seven points made earlier about the Passover, and compare it with the Lord Jesus.

1. Just as the Passover lamb was chosen, God chose Jesus to be our Lamb (John 1:29) and sent Him to be among us. Like the Passover lamb, Jesus was unblemished; ie, without sin – 1 Peter 1:18-19.
2. Just as the Passover lamb was with a family for a set time (4 days) before it was killed, Jesus was with us for a set time before He was killed. He spent three (plus) years doing ministry among us, and He came into Jerusalem on "Palm Sunday", and was arrested four days later.
3. Just as the blood of the Passover lamb was applied to the door of one's house to deliver from judgment and death, when we apply Jesus' blood to our lives (through faith in Him), we are delivered from God's judgment and eternal death in hell (Rev 1:5).
4. The Israelites remained in their houses under the covering of the blood; we are to remain in Christ, protected under the covering of His blood from judgment and eternal punishment (Col 1:21-23).
5. The Passover lamb was roasted with fire; Jesus endured the fire of God's wrath (Isa 53:5; Rom 5:8-9).
6. The bitter herbs reminded the Israelites of their bitter life in Egypt under slavery; we are to remember the bitter life we had when we were under bondage to sin and Satan (Eph 2:1-3; 1 Pet 1:18).
7. Just as the Passover lamb had no bone broken, the great Passover Lamb fulfilled prophecy (Psalm 34:20) by having no bone broken either (John 19:36).

D. Closing thoughts: As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection this Easter, let us recall how Jesus is the Lamb of God and our Passover. Through what He did for us, God's wrath *PASSES OVER* us (if we trust in Him to save us). He is the propitiation for our sins (1 John 2:2); that is, the One who turns aside the wrath of God from us. Let us appreciate and be truly thankful for what Christ has done for us sinners.