

**Intro**

- ~ Context of the Passover Meal is Exodus 12
- ~ The Passover is a Gospel before the Gospel.
- ~ Passover meal is a type of Christ as our Passover meal

**Holman Illustrated Dictionary on Passover**

- ~ The first of the three annual festivals was the Passover. It commemorated the final plague on Egypt when the firstborn of the Egyptians died and the Israelites were spared because of the blood smeared on their doorposts (Exod. 12:11,21,27,43,48). Passover took place on the 14th day (at evening) of the first month (Lev. 23:5). The animal (lamb or kid) to be slain was selected on the 10th day of the month (Exod. 12:3) and slaughtered on the 14th day and then eaten (Deut. 16:7). None of the animal was to be left over on the following morning (Exod. 34:25). The uncircumcised and the hired servant were not permitted to eat the sacrifice (Exod. 12:45-49).
- ~ The Passover was also called the feast of unleavened bread (Exod. 23:15; Deut. 16:16) because only unleavened bread was eaten during the seven days immediately following Passover (Exod. 12:15-20; 13:6-8; Deut. 16:3-8). Unleavened bread reflected the fact that the people had no time to put leaven in their bread before their hasty departure from Egypt. It was also apparently connected to the barley harvest (Lev. 23:4-14).
- ~ During NT times large crowds gathered in Jerusalem to observe this annual celebration. Jesus was crucified during the Passover event. He and His disciples ate a Passover meal together on the eve of His death. During this meal Jesus said, "This is My body," and "this cup is the new covenant in My blood" (Luke 22:17,19-20 HCSB). The NT identifies Christ with the Passover sacrifice: "For Christ our Passover has been sacrificed" (1 Cor. 5:7 HCSB). Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary.

**Text**

1 The context is Israel getting ready to leave the Egypt (the land of bondage)

- Joseph brings his family into Egypt in Gen
- The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for years 430 years
- Exodus 12 is set to occur on the heels on the final plague God inflicts on the Egyptians
- 1. Water Turned to Blood 2. The Plague of Frogs 3. The Plague of Lice 4. The Plague of Flies 5. The Plague of Murrain 6. The Plague of Boils 7. The Plague of Hail 8. The Plague of Locusts 9. The Plague of Darkness 10. Death of the Firstborn

2 (V1,2) It's the establishment for the principle for the Passover Meal = It's to be done continuously to commemorate God freeing Israel from Egypt. We celebrate the Lord's Supper to commemorate that Christ has freed us from sin

- he Jews called their first month Abib (Exo\_12:2). After the Babylonian captivity they renamed it Nisan (Neh\_2:1; Est\_3:7). It corresponds to our March-April. Abib means "ear-month" referring to the month when the grain was in the ear.
- So we have three new beginnings
  - This new Calendar for the people of God as they celebrate the Passover (which points to Christ)
  - Christ was crucified during this time of the Passover – A new beginning as Christ provided salvation and new life
  - When we come to Christ it's a new beginning in our relationship with God
- So, this is to be done annually as a reminder of what God did for Israel in delivering them from bondage
- In Ex 13 4 times God delivered Israel from Egypt by his strength offhand
  - V3 remember you came out of Egypt by the strength of hand of the Lord
  - V9 it will be a sign and memorial to your eyes that with a strong hand has God brought you forth
  - V14 when your son asks you what this Passover is about it's by Lord's strength of hand
  - V16 it will be a token to your eyes the Lord's strength of hand you came out of Egypt

3 (V3) A lamb was involved = that lamb would represent JC

- Jn 1:29 – lamb that takes away the sin of the world

- Is 53:12 – lamb bares the sin of many (taketh away)
- An animal is required because there's going to be a need to put blood from the animal on the doorposts

4 (V4) A lamb was required for each family = this speaks to the fact that the lamb is individual for each person. We're all accountable to God to take the lamb for ourselves. Some kids grow up in the church and don't appropriate the lamb JC for themselves

- If the family was small they shared the lamb with their neighbor who was also a small family

5 (v5) the lamb had to be without blemish = JC was the perfect lamb of God

- "Freedom from blemish and injury not only befitted the sacredness of the purpose to which they were devoted, but was a symbol of the moral integrity of the person represented by the sacrifice. It was to be a male, as taking the place of the male first-born of Israel; and a year old, because it was not till then that it reached the full, fresh vigour of its life." [Note: Keil and Delitzsch, 2:10.]
- Lev 22:19 it shall be a male without blemish
- The Lord questioned Israel in their offering animals that weren't without blemish in Mal 1:6-8 "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, 'How have we despised your name?' 7 By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, 'How have we polluted you?' By saying that the LORD's table may be despised. 8 When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts.
- Heb 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.
- 1 Pet 1:18,19 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot

6 (v6) the animal was selected the 10 day and kept until the fourteenth day

- Being selected from the rest of the flock, it was to be separated four days before sacrifice
- The lamb without blemish carefully chosen and kept for four days, till it had become as it were part of the household, and then solemnly slain by the head of the family, was their representative. *McClaren*

7 (v7) There's blood involved from the lamb

- Something is done with the blood, it's applied to the door posts of the house
- Note that God said that when He saw the blood He would pass over the Jews (Exo\_12:13). He did not say when they saw it. The ground of their security was propitiation. The blood satisfied God. Therefore the Israelites could rest. The reason we can have peace with God is that Jesus Christ's blood satisfied God. Many Christians have no peace because the blood of the Lamb of God does not satisfy them. They think something more has to supplement His work (i.e., human good works). However, God says the blood of the sacrifice He provided is enough (cf. 1Jn\_2:1-2).
- The blood was shed on the cross
- The spotless blood of Christ

8 (v8-11) There were specific descriptions in how to eat this lamb

~ The Israelites were not to eat the parts of the meal again as leftovers (Exo\_12:10). It was a special sacrificial meal, not just another dinner.

~ They were to eat it dressed ready to leave Egypt

- Moreover they were to eat it in haste (Exo\_12:11) as a memorial of the events of the night when they first ate it, the night when God provided deliverance for His people.

~ Unleavened bread and bitter herbs

- The unleavened bread was bread that had not risen (cf. Exo\_12:34). The bitter herbs-perhaps endive, chicory, and or other herbs native to Egypt-would later recall to the Israelites who ate them the bitter

experiences of life in Egypt. However the sweetness of the lamb overpowered the bitterness of the herbs.

- *Smith Bible Dictionary* (Leaven) the ordinary leaven consisted of a lump of old dough in a high state of fermentation, which was mixed into the mass of dough prepared for baking. The use of leaven was strictly forbidden in all offerings made to the Lord by fire. During the Passover, the Jews were commanded to put every particle of leaven from the house.

~ They were to roast it

- The method of preparing and eating the lamb was also significant (Exo\_12:8-11). God directed that they roast it in the manner common to nomads rather than eating it raw as many of their contemporary pagans ate their sacrificial meat (cf. 1Sa\_2:14-15). They were not to boil the lamb either (Exo\_12:9).
- Roasting enabled the host to place the lamb on the table undivided and unchanged in its essential structure and appearance (Exo\_12:9). This would have strengthened the impression of the substitute nature of the lamb. It looked like an animal rather than just meat.

9 (v12-14) If the blood wasn't applied the family inside the house died because the angel came and judged the firstborn inside the house. Firstborn animals would also die

- Those inside were safe from the judgement of death

10 Why would the Lord destroy the first born males in Egypt, whether it be an animal or a human being?

- In slaying the king's son and many of the first-born animals, God smote the gods of Egypt that these living beings represented (Exo\_12:12). This was the final proof of Yahweh's sovereignty.
- God was doing this in part to execute judgment against the gods of Egypt
- In doing so, God would demonstrate he's THE TRUE GOD
- "The firstborn of Pharaoh was not only his successor to the throne, but by the act of the gods was a specially born son having divine property. Gods associated with the birth of children would certainly have been involved in a plague of this nature. These included Min, the god of procreation and reproduction, along with Isis who was the symbol of fecundity or the power to produce offspring. Since Hathor was not only a goddess of love but one of seven deities who attended the birth of children, she too would be implicated in the disaster of this plague. From excavations we already have learned of the tremendous importance of the Apis bull, a firstborn animal and other animals of like designation would have had a tremendous theological impact on temple attendants as well as commoners who were capable of witnessing this tragic event. The death cry which was heard throughout Egypt was not only a wail that bemoaned the loss of a son or precious animals, but also the incapability of the many gods of Egypt to respond and protect them from such tragedy." [Note: Davis, p. 141.]
- The Egyptians had to acknowledge the death of Pharaoh's son, however, as an event that Yahweh had brought to pass.

### **Bridge – Christ as our Passover Lamb Substitute**

~ Ex 12:27 it is the Passover of the Lord's sacrifice

~ Is 53:7 he was brought as a lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep before her shearers

~ John 6:53,54 Jesus said unless you eat his flesh and drink his blood you have no life in you

~ Let's connect the OT sacrificial system to what we have in Matt 26

~ John the Baptist in Jn 1:29i says behold the lamb of God

~ John the Baptists comes from a priestly family - his father was Zachariah?

~ He would have been familiar with the animal sacrifices

~ John the Baptist connects the OT Passover to the Lord Jesus who comes on the scene

### **Matthew 26:17-30**

~ Many of your bibles will have an introduction to this section that says something like, "the Passover Meal, Betrayal at the Passover, The Lord's First Supper, The Passover with the Disciples" or something similar

~ Let's consider the similarities of this passage to that of Exodus 12

1 There is reference to the "unleavened bread."

- Called so because during those eight days no bread made with yeast or leaven was allowed to be eaten.
- many other great authorities, hold that he ate it the day preceding, and died on the day and about the time the Jewish Passover lambs were slain. The statements of Joh\_19:14, that the supper was eaten, the Lord betrayed and condemned before the Passover, seem positive.

2 The disciples asked Jesus where he wanted them to prepare for the Passover meal. In verses 17-19 there are three references to the Passover

3 V26 begins to give us the picture of what we've studied in Exodus 12

- Jesus takes the bread and broke it and gave it to the disciples and told them to eat
- Jesus than says to take this bread and says this bread represents his own body that was broken
- Imagine the picture of Jesus taking the bread and breaking it and that is the illustration of what will happen to him and it indeed does

4 V27 Jesus takes the wine and says drink all of it because it represents my blood

- What happened to Christ's blood? It was shed
- What's the significance of Christ shedding his blood? We go back to the OT and look at the sacrificial system and see what happened to the animal that was brought to the high priest? It's blood was brought once a year into the most holy place and presented on the ark of the covenant between the cherubims
- God was able to forgive his people in the OT for their sins because he was looking ahead to the permanent sacrifice Christ would make on the cross
- In Exodus 12 God saw the blood and passed over the house. They wouldn't be judged with death
- So too, the person who believes on Christ is saved because the blood that was shed is not appropriated for them/applied to their account
- Verses on the blood
  - Rom 3:25 Christ was set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood
  - Rom 5:9 Were justified by his blood
  - Eph 1:7 we have redemption thorough his blood
  - Eph 2:13; Col 1:14 Were made nigh by the blood of Christ
  - Col 1:20 Christ made peace through the blood of his cross
  - Heb 10:4 It's not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sin
  - Heb 10:19 We have boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus
  - Heb 13:12 Jesus suffered outside the gate that he might sanctify the people
  - 1 Pet 1:19 We're redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and spot
  - Rev 1:5 Christ washed us from our sins in his own blood
  - Rev 5:9 Christ has redeemed us to God by the his blood
- V28 Christ said this is the blood of the new covenant that is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins
  - Therefore by Christ shedding his blood on the cross there is forgiveness of sins to bring us into judicial peace with God – We're cleansed to be saved and the blood cleanses us in our walk with God also toward maintaining holiness (1 John 1:7)
  - Forgiveness/remission means freedom, liberty and pardon from sin

1Co\_5:7, where Christ, "our Passover," is said to be slain for us; that is, our paschal lamb

## Conclusion

1 Are we born again?

2 Are we walking worthy of the Lord?