

OT Feasts: Part 2 of 8; Leviticus 23:5; Exodus 12:1-14

How Did the 1st OT Feast of Passover Point Ahead to Jesus' First Coming?

Third Wednesday of Lent, March 19, 2014 at 11 AM & 7 PM

Wednesday Services during Lent at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Our focus today is on the **first** of the spring feasts which is **Passover**. The LORD appointed it as a way for the people to look back and remember, but *especially* as a way for them to look forward and believe!

1. **Just Before the Passover:** What was the situation? The descendants of Israel (Jacob) had been enslaved in Egypt for 400 years. Then, ♦*to show His great power* and ♦*to convince Pharaoh to set the Israelites free*, the LORD sent ten plagues upon Egypt – which judged the idolatry of the Egyptians; for example: river to blood—*showed the weakness of their god of the river*, while hailstones—*showed the weakness of their sky goddess!*
2. **The Actual Passover:**
 - a. **Exodus 12:1-6:** The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ² “This month is to be for you the first month [Nisan], the first month of your year. ³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵ The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month,

when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight.”//

- i. Why keep the lamb for four days (from 10th to 14th of Nisan)? ♦One day for each 100 years in slavery. ♦To help the family members, *who had become attached to the lamb over the four days they cared for it*, understand the *awfulness of their sin* when they killed it.
- ii. Why males without defect? They were acceptable sacrifices, *but they especially pointed ahead to Jesus*: The angel said to the shepherds outside of Bethlehem: *“This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”* (Luke 2:1 NIV) According to the book, Unlocking the Secrets of the Feasts, some priests assisted the shepherds in the birthing of the lambs for sacrifice. *“As soon as [a] lamb was born, they would wrap the lamb with strips of cloths made from old priestly undergarments...to keep the lamb from getting blemished. They would then place the lamb onto a manger to make sure it would not be trampled... [When the shepherds] saw the baby Jesus wrapped in cloths, lying in a manger, they must have exclaimed, ‘This is the Lamb of God...!’”*¹
- iii. What about the naming of lambs? Families may have done so at Moses’ time, but 2,000 years ago *“...each Jewish family would put the family name around the neck of their lamb that they took to the Temple to be sacrificed...to make sure they received their*

¹ Michael Norten, Unlocking the Secrets of the Feasts (Bloomington, IN: West Bow Press, 2012), 17-18.

own lamb back for the Passover dinner.” (18)

Now, think about the sign on Jesus’ cross; it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek; it said: Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews (John 19:19-20). The letters **INRI** are the *first letters* of each *main Latin word*; the letters **YHVH** (an alternative for **YHWH**) are the first letters of each Hebrew word. Those letters form the Hebrew name for God, so we could say that *“God put His name on His Lamb for His family.”* (Ibid., 19) *Out of great love for us, God gave His Son to be our Savior!*

- b. **Exodus 12:7-13**: “Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸ That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹ Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire--head, legs and inner parts. ¹⁰ Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD’s Passover. ¹² On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn--both men and animals--and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. // As lamb blood in Moses’ day saved the firstborn from physical death, so *Jesus’ precious blood saves us from spiritual death!* Peter wrote: ¹⁸ “...you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed... ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” (1Pe 1:18-19 NIV)

3. **Commemorating the Passover:** [Exodus 12:14](#): “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD--a lasting ordinance.”
- a. Was the Passover commemorated? Yes, as recorded in Numbers 9, Joshua 5, 2 Kings 23, 2 Chronicles 30, and Ezra 6; however, *the people were very unfaithful*. Therefore, as recorded in [2 Kings 23:21](#), “The king gave this order to all the people: ‘Celebrate the Passover to the LORD your God...’”²² Not since the days of the judges who led Israel, nor throughout the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah, had any such Passover been observed.²³ But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, this Passover was celebrated...” (NIV) Even today *many are unfaithful*; see [Hebrews 10:24-25](#).
 - b. Did Jesus commemorate the Passover? Yes; He perfectly fulfilled the Law for everyone! Do you remember when Jesus was 12 and His parents could not find Him, *that was in connection with their trip to Jerusalem to commemorate the Passover*. And what is the Last Supper? *That was Jesus commemorating the Passover*, thus eating the Passover meal with His disciples.
 - c. Do we commemorate the Passover? Yes! As the Passover pointed ahead to the shedding of Jesus’ blood, now we *remember* Jesus’ sacrifice and *receive His body and His blood in His Supper!*

Conclusion: As the OT believers looked back to the first Passover and ahead to Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice, so we look back to Jesus’ finished work and ahead to the fullness of eternal life – *which we have freely received by grace through faith in Jesus! Amen!*

Next Wednesday: We focus on the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

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