

Passover 1 of 2

Introduction

We are starting our series called Appointed Times where we look at the Feasts of The Lord.

When we think of feasts we think of food...but God's term really means a time appointed for us to be together.

The entire story of the Bible is all about God wanting a relationship with His creation. He created us in His own image. He designed us to commune with Him. To Share Life with Him. To share His creation with Him.

When that relationship broke because of Sin....God set in motion multiple reminders that our separation would only be temporary. He wanted to make sure that we knew that one day all would be restored. He would be our God and we would be His people....forever. But that day...is a day yet to come.

So in the meantime, God wanted to make sure that His Children knew they would one day come home. He promised it through the Prophets....Revealed it in Jesus...and manifests it in us through the Holy Spirit. We are His and He is ours.

For those in the Old Testament He reminded us that the Messiah to come would restore our relationship with Him. There was an appointed time for the Messiah to come. There is an appointed time for Jesus to return. These times....are ordained by God...promised by God....and are certain because of God. His love is displayed in many ways...but one of them was that He ordained the feasts...The Feast of The Lord...His feasts...Each one containing a promise. Pointing to a moment.

The feasts are the shadow....Jesus is the fulfillment.

For those in the Old Testament....4 Spring Feasts....Beginning with the Passover.

For those in the New Testament....3 Additional feasts....ending with the Feast of Tabernacles. The Final feast where we all share our eternal home together.

Appointed Times Seven Feasts 4 Fall..3 Spring All tell a complete story of the Messiah Spring feasts happened in Jesus' First Coming to Earth Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits and Weeks Fall feasts will happen at His second coming Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles

But not only did He give us the Feasts....He filled our world with signs....promises...certainties...

Signs in the heavens, signs on earth, Signs among people, Signs in the hearts of people He gave signs recorded in Scripture through the Prophets Signs recorded in Scripture by Jesus Himself... Then He gave His followers the Holy Spirit...to reveal and teach all things... Including awareness of the times. Signs Signs everywhere a sign. God did not want us to miss the promise to restore

our relationship. He didn't want anyone to miss out on the restored relationship with Him for all of Eternity.

So today...we begin looking at the individual feasts...starting with Passover

My prayer is that by studying these feasts.... We will together understand God's plan for redemption We will build our confidence about God's promises in the future We will see and understand what Jesus did and why He did it...in a fresh and new way

We will have a better understanding of our Jewish friends and their story And that during this study...our motivation to reach those that don't know about Jesus will intensify That we will be moved to action.. to reach those who are Jewish and those who are not

Across the ages, God has sought after the People of Israel... In order to bless them and through them bless others He gave Israel a sacred trust The bear His name The manifest His redemptive plan to the world That redemptive plan...is outlined in 7 feasts The word feast means Appointed Time In a sense, these times represent God's agenda With His redeemed people

Ultimately they provide a Biblical and Historical foundation for faith in Jesus.

Exodus tells the story of the Hebrew Nation's flee from Egyptian bondage...9 Plagues had failed to change Pharaoh's heart

Imagine you and your relatives have been in slavery for 430 years. You have been through every atrocity imaginable... You wondered if God ever heard your cries or cared about your tears Then one day a man shows up...named Moses He says God has sent him there to free you from slavery

It almost seems to good to be true But Pharaoh will not listen to this man But then God begins to do something miraculous God sends plagues...any one of which should have been enough But God sends 9 of them and Pharaoh is still refusing...

But now the 10th plague...is the one God says will break his will Tonight death will pass over and kill all the firstborn of the people and the cattle

This death sentence is not just for the Egyptians...It will all on anyone who does not believe Him

God rescues and saves only those who are willing to do what He has commanded. So imagine that tonight...you must do something to save your oldest son.... Think how carefully you would listen to and obey these words...

Now I want us to remember that this story is very familiar to us today. Often stories we know well need to be interrogated as we study them.

I want you to think about this question. Why did God choose a lamb? Blood across the door? The death angel passing over?

Why not just drop every firstborn of the Egyptians with the nod of a head? It would have had the same impact on Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

Yet God chose the sacrifice of the Lamb...the blood....the Passover.....why would He do such a thing? Let that question percolate a bit and we will come back to it.

Exodus 12:1–4 (ESV) 12 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2 “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. 3 Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household.

Exodus 12:1–4 (ESV) 4 And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb.

This commandment is given to the congregation of Israel Every household connected to a lamb on the 10th day of the Month No excuse for not having a lamb...share if you need to.

Exodus 12:5–6 (ESV) 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, 6 and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight

Note that it is not longer a lamb...But YOUR lamb It is to be without blemish.... One year old...taken at the beginning of its prime You shall keep it for 4 days until the 14th. Then note...The WHOLE congregation shall kill their lambs at twilight Everyone participates in the slaughter of the lamb

Exodus 12:7–8 (ESV) 7 “Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8 They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it.

DOOR BLOOD PHOTO

The blood of the lamb is to be placed on the doorposts and lintel of the house that they are in They are to roast the animal...rather than the usual boiling.... They are to eat with it...unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

Exodus 12:9–11 (ESV) 9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. 10 And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the

morning you shall burn. 11 In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover.

They are to eat this meal..being dressed and ready to go It is to be eaten quickly Then note who the Passover belongs to.

Exodus 12:12 (ESV) 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.

All the first born in the land of Egypt... Not just the Egyptian first borns... God is executing judgment... What is God judging?

He is bringing judgment on those who have kept people in bondage... Those Egyptians who have oppressed the Jewish People He is bringing judgment on their gods...the gods of Egypt

But He is also going to bring judgment... To anyone of the Jewish nation.... Who heard his plan of salvation for them... And refused to trust Him enough.... To put their faith in the blood of the Lamb To save them.

Exodus 12:13 (ESV) 13 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 no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

Note that the blood is a sign...not for God..but for us. God said that the blood was our sign. God didn't need a sign, the death angel didn't need a sign....We needed to make a statement...we needed to place a sign....The blood was for us. Sacrificing the Lamb was not enough They had to put the blood over them... The blood of the Lamb represented their faith in God To say to themselves and others...that their future is in His hands The Blood of the Innocent Lamb is what allowed death to pass over

And it was all based on having enough faith... To believe that God is who He says He is...and He will do what He said He would do.

Exodus 12:14 (ESV) 14 "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

This day shall be special...you shall keep it... Throughout generations...as a statute forever... Keep it as a feast...As an appointed time We hear feast...we think food But God said this is a special day where we will meet It is an appointed time for us...

The Importance of Passover

There was only one Passover when the Lord passed through in Judgment Each Passover up until the Death of Christ was a memorial commemorating the occasion

It is the oldest continuously observed feast in existence today >3500 years Passover is the foundation of the rest of the feasts Today more Jewish people keep Passover than any of the other Jewish Holidays.

Let's start out... By Looking at some key elements of this feast

God gave 3 symbolic foods.

Exodus 12:8 (ESV) 8 They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it.

The Lamb....Unleavened Bread...and Bitter Herbs Lets spend some time..looking at the lamb

The Lamb...PHOTO

The lamb is the most critical element of the Passover Without the lamb...without the sacrifice...without the Lamb's blood There is no Passover Celebration Without the lamb...there would be no deliverance The lamb is the centerpiece of Passover

So let's spend a few moments reviewing what God said about the lamb

There should be a lamb for every household If the house is too small..then share one But everyone must have a sacrificial lamb

The Lamb must be without blemish...perfect In fact the lamb if not without blemish is not acceptable No broken bones..no blemishes...no deformities They examined the Passover lamb Any fault..any blemish...and the lamb had to be replaced

The Lamb must be a male It must be one year old Maybe this age represents perfect innocence Sheep do not reach sexual maturity until 19 months..

The lamb is taken on the 10th Day It was not to be sacrificed until the 14th day 4 days....to observe and make sure it was without blemish...to examine it To feed, take care of it, and grow fond of it.

To recognize its innocence...and the sacrifice it will make for you Now not just any lamb....YOUR lamb

Then it was to be sacrificed... Exodus 12:6 (ESV) 6 And you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

The Slaughter is done on the 14th Day of Nisan between 3-6 pm. Passover foreshadows the future of the Messiah.

Note that everyone participates in the slaughter of the Lamb The whole assembly... All are present...all are responsible...all are involved. Everyone is responsible for the death of the Lamb. But not everyone was saved that day by the blood of the Lamb. They had to have enough faith to believe...to believe in the promise of God...and apply the blood of that lamb to their home...their salvation that night and ours in the future is a personal decision

Also note that the lamb must be completely roasted on the fire They usually cooked lamb by boiling it. This was unusual...and God said make sure none of it is left over

The entire lamb must be sacrificed eaten and destroyed. The sacrifice had to be complete...the sacrificial animal completely invested and completely destroyed...fully given...nothing to remain.

John 1:29 (ESV) 29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John the Baptist...called Jesus the Lamb of God Note that he does not say....who takes away the sins of the Jews His statement is much broader and prophetic... Jesus the Lamb of God...the Jewish Messiah...the Sacrifice... Would be not just for the Jews..but for the whole world.

We are going to see throughout this series... That everything in all of these feasts...foreshadows the life of Jesus God went to great detail to give us signs in these feasts...that point to the future Messiah

Let's look at Jesus' life immediately before... His last Passover on Earth

Jesus is the Lamb of God He was perfect and without blemish On the 10th Day of Nisan...as all of the Jews were identifying their lamb Jesus was entering Jerusalem..on what we call Palm Sunday

They had been looking for the Messiah to arrive on that Day... It had been predicted by the prophets Day, date, time and year

John 12:12–15 (ESV) 12 The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" 14 And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, 15 "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

They welcomed Jesus by laying down palm branches. Hosannah means Save us...Save us Now... They were singing Psalm

Psalm 118:25–26 (ESV) 25 Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success! 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Jesus presented Himself as the Lamb of God... To the Temple of God...in direct accordance with the Passover

He spent the next 4 days being examined by the Pharisees and Keepers of the Law They tried to trick Him...and constantly questioned Him Was John's baptism from heaven or from earth? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar? What about marriage after the resurrection

Jesus proves Himself to be flawless and without blemish During those 4 days...many accepted Him as their lamb Mary would anoint him with oil... For them He was no longer the

Lamb of God...their Lamb of God...Their Savior. But the Pharisees...finding no blemishes..began to make them up

Luke 23:14–15 (ESV) 14 and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. 15 Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him.

Pilate declared him as innocent... The Lamb has been presented...examined...and declared without blemish We often know that Peter Denied Jesus 3 Times...Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him 3x... and 3x recorded in John's Gospel...Pilate said "I find no fault in Him"

Note that they all yelled Crucify Him He was killed...sacrificed by the entire assembly... All participated in the sacrifice of the Lamb His crucifixion was done publicly in the midst of all

And..He was sacrificed on the 14th Day of Nisan At twilight between 3-6 pm At the exact same time that all the lambs in the temple.... Were being sacrificed that day.

In addition, contrary to Roman Custom His legs were not broken during crucifixion He remained the perfect sacrificial lamb

For 3500 years...The Jewish People Celebrated Passover...with the hope...that one day The Messiah...the Passover Lamb..would come... And Take away the sins of the world.

Each Passover...pointed to one in the future And then one day...one very special appointed time on the afternoon of the 14th Day of Nisan...at twilight. Jesus...the lamb of God...was sacrificed for all the sins...of all the world

Jesus fulfilled the prophecy...of the Passover. Paul said it this way

1 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV) 7 For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

The feasts are the shadow...Jesus is the fulfillment

The symbolism of Passover is incredible when you understand it in the life of Jesus. It is Jesus that makes Passover incredible.

The lamb of God being sacrificed for the people of God....bringing salvation to those covered in the blood of the Lamb. It is incredible that the Jewish People do not see the fulfillment of Passover in Jesus.

Particularly when you see how they actually celebrate the Passover Feast or Seder.

Everything about the Seder is unique and specific to Jesus. In fact, without Jesus the Passover Seder makes no sense. Next week we are going to study the specifics of how the Passover Seder is celebrated. You are going to see that everything about the Jewish Seder is a foreshadowing of Jesus....Jewish people all over the world...celebrate Jesus every

year...and they don't even know it. The Priests sacrifice a lamb IMAGE each year....focusing on the first Passover when the Israelites were first saved by their faith in the blood of the Lamb and the promise of God that He would deliver them from the curse of death.

They don't realize is why God chose the lamb...the symbolism...the blood...the faith...God could have done anything to save them from the 10th plague...He could have made the first born immune....covered them with anything He wanted...He could have just dropped the first born with a spoke word..But He chose to sacrifice a lamb, pour out its blood and force people to choose in faith to trust Him with their life.....Why? For one reason....It is all one big sign....This Passover.....was the best way to foreshadow the death and sacrifice of the Messiah who was to come....Passover was the only way to show the world....to teach the world..about the Lamb of God. Everything in the feasts is a shadow of things to come....They all always point to Jesus...The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. IMAGE

He was martyred.... so we could be saved. Just like the First Passover....It wasn't blood that saved them...It was their faith in what God promised the blood would do. God told the Israelites that the blood of the Lamb would save them from death. And He tells us that the blood of Jesus will do the same.

We are saved not because Jesus shed His blood for us....but because we have enough faith to allow His blood to cover us. Jesus shed His blood for all....but the blood only matters to those who believe. Passover reminds us of the price....our faith....and God's Promise.

We remember the promise every time we share communion. Taking communion reminds us that we have placed our faith in a promise. A promise that when Jesus returns...when the final death passes over...we will be ushered into eternal life....all because of the blood...God's promise....and our faith in Him. On the night prior to his crucifixion....Jesus took the bread and the wine....and said...this is my body...this is my blood...DO this in Remembrance of Me. Let pray and then the communion tables are open.