

## THE FEAST OF PASSOVER

The Feast of Passover – This is the first of the seven Feasts of the Lord; see Lev. 23:4-10; Exodus 12:1-43; 23:14-30. It is associated with two other feasts: the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Firstfruits. These spring feasts are both historical and prophetic; they teach us about our personal relationship with God and how to walk with Him. All seven feasts together reveal the complete plan of God. Each feast or festival, centers on a particular theme in GOD’S PLAN, which is to:

A. Bring us out of Egypt – Egypt is the place of bondage, the condition of being a slave. It is Pharaoh (satan) who rules over Egypt, and afflicts the people; Exod. 1:11-14. Egypt is symbolic of the world and our slavery to sin. God says that we must leave Egypt (the world) completely. He wants us to come out from under the control of its values and its influence. Friendship with the world makes me an enemy of God; James 4:4; Eph. 4:27.

- a. We have to leave the LAND of Egypt; Exodus 6:11.
- b. We have to abandon the PAGAN PRACTICES of Egypt; Exodus 23:24; 1 John 5:21.
- c. We cannot wear the FALSE COVERINGS of Egypt; Josh. 7:21; Isaiah 30:1; 31:1.
- d. We cannot trust in the SHADOW of Egypt; Isaiah 30:2-3.

B. Take us through the Wilderness – Refers to “an uninhabited place, wandering, desolation, loneliness”. It is symbolic of trial, testing, discipline, purification and humiliation. Israel was in the wilderness 40 years before they could enter the land of promise. Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days before He entered His public ministry.

C. Lead us into the Promised Land (Canaan) – Symbolic of walking in the reality of the Kingdom that is within us. It speaks of the overcoming, spirit-filled life. We are exhorted to pursue all of God’s promises, to obtain our full inheritance; Deut.6:23; Ephesians 1:3.

1. PASSOVER – is called “The Feast of our Freedom”, and it is symbolic of the New Birth, the beginning of a New Covenant. The Blood of Jesus, our Passover Lamb, is applied upon our hearts by faith, and saves us from the destroyer. This feast takes us out of Egypt; we are BROUGHT OUT OF BONDAGE so that we can be LED INTO FREEDOM. We must leave the kingdom of darkness and all that is associated with it.

2. UNLEAVENED BREAD – speaks of a holy and sanctified walk after conversion, separation from the corrupting influences of sin and the flesh. This involves searching for and removing all “leaven” from the “House”. Leaven is a type of sin; 1 Cor. 5:6-7; Gal. 5:9, 19-21. This is allowing the Holy Spirit (the candle of the Lord) to reveal to us by His Word and His presence, any sin or defilement. God is purging all leaven from His House.

3. FIRSTFRUITS – is symbolic of the first grain (barley) that ripens. Jesus was the Choice One redeemed from among men; the “Sheaf of Firstfruits”, a holy One who is waved before the Lord; Lev. 23:10-12; John 12:24. Jesus was “waved” before the Father in His resurrection and ascension. He is the Firstborn among many brethren, Who arose from the dead; 1 Corinthians 15:20. A separated few will arise to walk in newness of life, in the power of His Resurrection. Those who follow the Lamb wherever He goes are a “firstfruits” unto God and to the Lamb; Rev. 14:4; James 1:18.

PASSOVER = PESACH, which is interpreted “to pass over or hover over”; Exodus 12:3-13, 21-29, 38-43, 51.

We Have Passed From Death And Sin To Life In Jesus:

- a. The Blood “speaks” for us and gives us divine protection from the destroyer; Genesis 4:10; Hebrews 12:24; Colossians 1:14
- b. Through Moses, God freed His people from the rule of Pharaoh (satan) and the bondage of Egypt (the world system). Because of fear or instinct, freed slaves can fall back into old practices. God’s people need to think and act like they are free; our minds must be renewed; Ephesians 4:23.
- c. Even though Moses physically led God’s people out of Egypt, it takes a while to remove the ways and the practices of Egypt from the people; Colossians 3:1-10.

The Egyptian Passover Pointed To Jesus Who Brings Deliverance For His People:

1. Israel was told to sprinkle blood on the door posts of the houses; they ate the Lamb’s body along with unleavened bread; Exodus 12:7-10. Jesus is revealed as the “Bread of Life”, the unleavened Bread, the Heavenly Manna; John 6:31-33, 41, 48-58.
2. The Lamb must be “eaten in haste; Exodus 12:11:
  - a. Believers must “quickly leave Egypt”, and its influences; 2 Corinthians 6:17-18.
  - b. God’s people were told to eat with “your loins girded”, with a willingness to eagerly serve and obey God. “Loins” also speak of the ability to spiritually reproduce the very life of Christ. Our spiritual loins are the truth of the Word of God; Eph. 6:14.
  - c. “Shoes” must be on our feet. This speaks of our willingness and readiness to “walk out” our life with God, taking the Gospel message where He leads us; Eph. 6:15
  - d. A “staff” must be in our hand. This speaks of the believer’s authority in the Kingdom of God. A crook at the end of the shepherd’s staff was used to bring the sheep back onto the pathway, in the event that it lost its footing by falling over the edge; Mark 6:7-8.

Jesus Is The Lamb Of God:

- a. For the Passover, the lamb that was to be slain by the high priest was led into the temple and put in a prominent place of display. It was led into the city through streets lined with thousands of pilgrims. The people waved palm branches (symbolic of praise and victory), as Jesus rode into the city on a donkey in fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:4-9.
- b. Jesus was questioned (examined) in front of the religious leaders and Pontius Pilate, showing Himself to be without spot or blemish, fulfilling Exodus 12:5; John 18:38; 19:4.
- c. Jesus was crucified in the morning on a Wednesday (a special Sabbath, preparation day of Passover), and was buried before 6:00 pm that day (when the Jewish day began). The women brought the spices on Friday, rested on Saturday and went on Sunday morning after 6:00 am and found that He was resurrected; (He was raised from the dead sometime after 6:00 pm Saturday). He was 3 days and 3 nights in the grave; Matt. 12:40; Mark 8:31
- d. Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross reveals that He was the Lamb of God, who was slain for the sins of the world; Genesis 22:8; John 19:14-30; 1 Peter 1:19.

