

PP Jesus Is...

Part 1-Exodus 12:1-11, *Jesus, our Passover Lamb*

3/25-26/2023

PP (7 Festivals Chart) In Leviticus 23, God gave Israel 7 feasts that they were to keep each year. The first 4 took place in spring and early summer and were fulfilled at the coming of Jesus. The last 3 were fall feasts and will be fulfilled when at the second coming of Jesus. Over the next 3 weeks, we'll look at 3 of Spring feasts, Passover Feast, Feast of Unleavened Bread, and on April 9th when we gather at the State Theater, the Festival of First Fruits. Each of them reveal aspects of the ministry of Jesus, and why He came to us. Look with me at **Exodus 12:26** as God instructed Jewish fathers how to answer their children when they ask, **PP 'What do you mean by this service?' Exodus 12:26**. The service was the 'Lord's Passover' and God's instructions were, **PP "you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, for He passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when He struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.'" Exodus 12:27**. Our aim each week is to unpack that question: **PP 'What do you mean by this service?'**

PP 1-All people are in need of forgiveness

PP "The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you." (1-2)

The Passover is the most important Holy Day for the Jewish people, and in fact God changed their entire calendar to begin their religious year with it.

In it, God made a way to save His people from His judgment and wrath He ent on Egypt.

It's easy to understand God's anger with Egypt, for they had mercilessly enslaved His people. Yet look closely at **PP Exodus 11:5**, for it doesn't say that 'every firstborn [of] the land of Egypt will die', rather 'in the land of Egypt'.

The firstborn of both Egypt *and* Israel had fallen under the judgment of God Who at midnight would visit every home in the land of Egypt to strike the firstborn son.

The terrible truth here is that there are no innocent people, no guiltless people.

Joshua later wrote of the sin of Israel in Egypt: **PP "Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD." Joshua 24:14**

PP "No one is righteous...all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" Rom 3:10, 23

Yet people often wonder, *Why does God make such a big deal of sin?*

Sin is the heart saying, *I will not accept God as My master; I will rule in His place*.

Sin is always most fundamentally, a rebel's warcry against God, the rejection of His sovereignty.

It is a refusal to live life by will of God and a saying goodbye to Him Who is the giver of life.

The result is death: **PP "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23**

God brought that penalty to bear in Egypt: **PP "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." Exodus 12:12**

The situation was bleak indeed for both Israel and Egypt, but **PP 2-God provided a way to save sinners**.

Moses and Aaron were commanded to **PP** *“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. 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.”* (3-4)

By the 1st century, the rule was you must have 10 people per lamb, but in **Exodus 12**, God commanded one household per lamb, but for small families, invite a neighbor family. This is a gospel lesson for the small nation of Israel, that other nations are to be invited into the salvation God would provide when He would offer the Lamb of God, His Son, Jesus. God gave the *‘Lord’s Passover’* to save sinners from *‘the destroyer’* of **12:23**.

He commanded them to select a male lamb of one year old, remove it from the rest of the flock, from the unclean, made holy unto God.

They would bring that lamb into their lives to live with them, in their home, carried on the shoulders by fathers, played with as a pet by the children.

They were to have affection for it, feeling the awful responsibility that it would die for their sins.

PP *“And they slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. And the priests and the Levites were ashamed, so that they consecrated themselves”*

2 Chronicles 30:15

The chosen lamb must have no blemish, selected on the 10th day of Nisan, sacrificed on the 14th

PP (Blood) The father, the family representative killed the lamb, collecting its blood in a bowl.

He then took hyssop, dipped it into the blood and painted the top and sides of his home’s door.

The lamb would be roasted over charcoal and while it was cooking the family was gathering their belongings, putting on traveling clothes because it was soon time to leave Egypt.

PP *“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.”* **Exodus 12:11**

They were to eat the lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

Leaven was often a symbol of sin in the bible, so unleavened bread spoke of the purity of the sacrificial lamb, that it was declared without blemish.

The bitter herbs communicated through the taste buds that the lamb was to suffer an awful death.

It was roasted to convey the fiery wrath of God that fell on the lamb rather than on His people.

God’s wrath and God’s justice met together that night in Egypt in the blood of the lamb.

But the blood of those lambs had no peculiar, sin-atonement power in itself, nor did any of the millions of sacrifices offered throughout the centuries to follow.

PP *“For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”* **Hebrews 10:4**

Yes the Law said in, **PP** **Leviticus 17:11**, *“the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you...to make atonement for your soul”* but the word atonement means covering.

For nearly 1400 years, untold numbers of sacrifices, and all they could do was cover the sins of the people, never able to take them away, a band aid on sin if you will.

They had to be repeated again and again because the people would sin again and again.

Every one of those innocent animals, killed, shouting to anyone who had the faith to hear:

A better Lamb is coming, the Lamb of God Who will take sins away forever

PP *“And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God...For by a single offering He has*

perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.” Hebrews 10:11-14

It is with this in mind that John the Baptist, when he saw Jesus, proclaimed: **PP ‘Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world!’ John 1:29**

PP 3-The way to be saved is by faith in Jesus Christ

Jewish people all over the world will be celebrating Passover start the evening of April 5th
But what does the word ‘*Passover*’ actually mean?

PP ‘Passover’ means to spread wings over, with the understanding that God protects His people
“He will cover you with His feathers. He will shelter you with His wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection.” Psalm 94:1 NLT

It was not merely that the angel passed by blood painted houses, but that the Lord Himself stood at each door to guard and protect and shelter His people: *This household is Mine!*

Christian, do you understand that the moment you placed your faith and trust in Jesus, your Passover Lamb, God sheltered you under His wings and stands perpetual guard over you
He never takes a break, never walks away for a while, never fails in His protection, always vigilant, always faithful to you

We have been freed by Jesus, brought into His kingdom, and placed under God’s protection

It would help us to follow the events of Thursday morning, the day before Jesus was crucified as He sent Peter and John into Jerusalem to arrange the Passover meal

PP (Chart) The Jewish day began at sundown, so while the Passover lamb was killed Thursday late afternoon, it was eaten after sundown that evening, the start of Friday

Peter and John went into the city, with a male lamb trailing behind, or with plans to go to the market in the Court of Gentiles to pick up the lamb they selected on Monday, the 10th
They climbed the 15 steps up to the Court of Gentiles with the throngs of people all divided into three shifts of worshipers, admitted one at a time to sacrifice their lambs

The final and third shift was called the Lazybones, for they had waited to the final moment
They took their lamb through the Court of Women, into the Court of Israel separated from the

PP (Temple Pic) Court of Priests

Normally there were 600,000 residents of Jerusalem, but it swelled to 2 million at Passover
Host families were forbidden to charge rent, so visitors would give them gifts instead
The Jewish historian Josephus wrote that 256,000 lambs were sacrifice at a typical Passover
The greatest wish of all Jewish men was to walk in the court of Israel to sacrifice the Passover, to pray and listen to the Levitical choir sing throughout the sacrifice

It was antiphonal singing from Psalm 113-118; the choir sang the 1st line, the people the 2nd
These songs are the Hallel, which means praise in Hebrew, giving us the word *hallelujah*

Included are these prophetic lines of song: **PP “Save us, we pray, O LORD! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!” Psalm 118:25a, 26a**

No clearer song could be more fitting for Jesus, the Passover Lamb, come to save His people
Meanwhile 100’s of priests stood in lines leading to the altar, holding gold and silver bowls
Peter and John arrived at that rail, one receiving a knife, and when the triple blast from a shofar sounded, that knife was plunged into the lamb’s throat while a priest captured its blood in a gold or silver bowl

Once again, the horror that an innocent lamb had to die for sin-guilty people would bring shame

The bowl of blood was passed down the line to be splashed against the base of the altar, where it would flow into a conduit under the wall mingling into the Kidron brook, turning it red. The lamb was hung on hooks and skinned, the entrails removed, the fatty portions taken out and salted before being offered on the altar.

PP (Pic) Then the lamb was wrapped in its skin, and returned to Peter and John who carried it back to the Upper Room to be roasted over charcoal in a portable clay passover oven. The smell of roasted lamb spiced by pomegranate wood went out all over Jerusalem. As evening came, the start of the 15th of Nisan, Jesus and the rest of His disciples arrived and the feast of redemption was about to begin which we will look closely at next week.

For 1400 years, the Jewish Passover Feast foreshadowed the One Who would come to deliver God's people from their greatest bondage.

When Jesus came, He was killed for the redemption of all who would believe in Him.

PP "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." 1 Corinthians 5:7

His blood would be painted on the doors of the hearts of those who would believe.

Today, our children ask, *What do you mean by this service?*, and it is our turn to answer, Jesus is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, and if you place your faith in Him for the forgiveness of your sins, the almighty God will spread His wings over you.

Pray