

The Origin of the Passover

Exodus 12:1-36

Paving the Way for the Passover

God worked to move Abraham to the Promised Land. God worked through Isaac and Jacob to keep them in the Promised Land. God moved them out of the Promised Land through famine, in order to create a great nation.

That nation grew with the blessing of the current Pharaoh that held Joseph to the number two position in all of Egypt. But, that Pharaoh died and the new one did not know Joseph. He enslaved the nation and they prayed to God to deliver them. God worked in the heart of the Pharaoh's daughter, to raise a Hebrew child as her own. Great knowledge from being raised in Pharaoh's palace would aid Moses' when he would lead the Israelites in the future.

This brings us to the judgment of God on Egypt for their treatment of the Israelites. Ten times Moses and Aaron met with Pharaoh to secure the release of the Israelites so they could worship their God. We know the story:

1. Turn river to blood (7:19)
2. Frogs over the land (8:2-4)
3. Lice over the land (8:16)
4. Flies in the houses of the Egyptians (8:21)
5. Disease of the Egypt's Livestock (9:3)
6. Boils upon Egyptians and their beasts throughout all the land of Egypt (9:8-9)
7. Hail mixed with fire in Egypt except in Goshen, where the children of Israel were (9:18, 26)
8. Locusts over all the land (10:4-5)
9. Darkness upon the land of Egypt, "but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings." (10:21-23)
10. Death of the Firstborn, including the cattle (11:4-5)

Preparation of the Passover

It is at this point that God gives Moses the announcement of the Passover. God is very specific concerning the order of events of the Passover meal.

1. The date and time – A new year is established. The 10th and 14th of the first month were the key dates. (12:2-3)

2. The selection of the lamb – on the 10th, without blemish, a male of the first year. (12:4-5)

3. The slaughter of the lamb – on the day of preparation (12:6)

4. The blood offering of the lamb – applied to the side posts and upper door post (12:7)

5. The preparation and consumption of the lamb – roasted with fire, all consumed that night (12:8)

6. The “sides” to be eaten with the lamb – unleavened bread, bitter herbs (12:8)

7. The leftovers – there were to be no leftovers (12:10)

8. The attire for the meal – everything was the opposite of a normal meal. They were to eat it dressed in their traveling clothes. Shoes were to be worn. Their staff in their hand. Eat it quickly. (12:11)

9. This is to be an annual event (12:14)

I want to dig a little deeper into five of the instructions. God told them that He would “pass over them” on the final judgment against Egypt, but they were required to follow the instructions exactly.

They were to kill the lamb. The head of the family, had the chore to take the life of the innocent animal. They would select the lamb. Have the lamb live with them for four days and then they would take its life.

Jesus, the innocent Lamb of God, would be slaughtered. Jesus would die to bring freedom to those that would believe on him. Jesus is the sacrifice, his blood was shed, His body was consumed.

They were to prepare a meal made from the sacrifice and bitter herbs. Once the animal was sacrificed, they were to prepare a meal. The meal was made up of the sacrificed animal and with bitter herbs. Partly because they were to consume the sacrifice, remembering what the sacrifice was delivering them from [slavery] and partly to strengthen them for the journey about to take place the following morning.

In a like manner, we are encouraged to remember what Jesus death gave us...freedom from the slavery to sin and the bitterness sin brings.

They were to apply the blood to the doorposts. They were to take hyssop, dip it in the blood of the lamb and strike the door posts and the upper door post. This action would be the mark of obedience for all in the house. The death angel would see the “mark” and *pass over* to the next house.

In order for man to pass from death to life, the blood of Jesus must be applied to their life. Belief and faith in Jesus the Christ is not enough. Man must believe that Jesus is the Son of God, sent to this earth to be the savior of the world. They must repent from their sins and ask forgiveness for their transgressions. Salvation frees them from the judgment of God unto the second death.

They were to eat the meal together as a family. This is extremely important, especially as it relates to Christ and the Church. We are not only to get saved, to ask forgiveness, and have the blood applied, but we are to continue to partake of the Lamb. It is also very interesting to me, that, none of the lamb was to be wasted. Nothing was to be kept until morning. We, then, must consume Christ, eat and partake of His substance daily, and not let any of Him go to waste! I want more of Him! I want ALL of Him!

A provision was made if the family could not consume the entire lamb; they were to get their neighbors. Each family was of a different size. Some were large families while others were small. God made provision for them all. Depending on the size, they might want to join with other families in order not to waste the sacrifice.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ should not be wasted. It is to be totally consumed. God's provision is for the whole world. "John 3:16 **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**" Jesus Christ, identified by John the Baptist as "the Lamb of God" freely gave His life to fulfill the desires of God: that all might be saved. We are not to waste the sacrifice of Jesus.

Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

Progression of the Passover

The Jews still celebrate the Passover today. Christians do not celebrate the Passover. In its place we celebrate, not the death of the sacrifice, but the resurrection of the Savior of the World. There is no joy in the taking of the life of Jesus. The joy comes in the fulfillment of prophecies concerning the resurrection of the Savior.

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

As a memorial of the Passover, we participate in the Lord's Supper. It is here that we celebrate the horror and brutality of Jesus' death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

One more point on progression. Please look with me at three verses:

In the third verse, every man is to take "a lamb" from the flock. It is just a lamb.

In the fourth verse, "a lamb" becomes "the lamb." This is the lamb you have selected out of the flock.

In the fifth verse, the lamb is identified as "your lamb". This is the lamb who will die by your hands. This is the lamb that will have lived with you for four days. You are drawn closer to it by its living with you.

There is a progression in each person's heart that must take place concerning Jesus, the "Lamb of God."

To many, Jesus is just another name, another god, another personality. To some He is simply someone they may have heard or read about. He is simply "a lamb."

Some have heard about Jesus and perhaps you might be sitting in this congregation today and Jesus is simply "the lamb." It is not personal with you. You have not made a profession of faith. He is just a Lamb that was slain.

Still, others have moved from Jesus being "the lamb" to "your lamb." You have a personal relationship with Jesus. You understand what Jesus sacrifice accomplished for you and you have faith believing that Jesus sacrifice is your salvation.

My prayer is that each person today will move from Jesus being "a lamb" to "the lamb" to "your lamb."

Accept the sacrifice Jesus gave and be made free.

Bob Crowder