

Introduction:

- The feast of Passover was a week long including Feast of unleavened bread. Within it was the feast of unleavened bread. And, when the 7 days were finished, you celebrated first fruits.
- My first experience with a Passover celebration happened when I was about eight. It was at a Reformed Presbyterian Church and I went with my cousins expecting to have a meal. Of course, when we left home, we were all hungry and when we saw the meal that was on our plates, we ‘hated’ church even more. Now I had heard about the bitter tears of Jew slaves but it wasn’t until I ate the horseradish that my heart grew bitter as to why you would serve something like this to people at church.
- Ex 12:14, 24-27.

1. Understanding Passover

- a. Passover is the beginning of a new year. Ex 12:1-ff. Nissan
 - i. It is designed to get us back on course, draw us closer to God and bring us into a fresh experience of his glory.
 - ii. In the life of the early church, the Passover was considered the most important celebration of the year.
- b. Most Christians today know very little about Passover. For a people who brag about being ‘grafted in’ we know so little about what we have been grafted into.
 - i. Passover can be summed up in this one sentence: “Passover is the celebration of God’s love and power in delivering His people out of the hand of their enemy” A memorial, a remembering.
 - ii. Passover should not be just a religious holiday. It really is a time set by God for spiritual transactions to take place. It is a time to:
 - 1. To praise God for His work of deliverance in the past.
 - 2. To seek Him for a fresh release of deliverance today.
 - 3. To gain faith for His work in the future.
- c. To the Jew, Passover is a celebration of God’s power in setting them free from slavery in Egypt. They had been in bitter slavery and in crying out to God He delivered them through Passover.
 - i. So the question is—What was passed over at Passover? Answer: The Israelites were passed over!
 - ii. The time had come for God’s judgment to be released, and it was to fall upon everyone for all were guilty. All had sinned. It was to fall upon all the land yet God provided a way of escape for His people who were slaves in Egypt. He was not going to save them with a mighty army. It was going to be done through a pure, spotless LAMB!
 - 1. Each family was to kill a lamb, drain the blood and place the blood on the doorpost and lintel of their home. Note: That motion makes a cross much like the Catholics do.
 - 2. When they did that, God accepted the death of the lamb in place of the Israelites first born. Therefore, all who were in that home were ‘passed over’ when death angel came by.
 - iii. So what happened at Passover?
 - 1. By the blood of the Lamb, Israel was redeemed.
 - 2. The judgment of God was turned away from them.
 - 3. The gods of Egypt were judged and their power broken.
 - 4. Israel was released from bondage and oppression.
 - 5. They were now free to enter into God’s promise!

2. Why is Passover Important to Us?

- a. Passover is important for several reasons.

- i. Judaism is the roots of our Christian faith. God began the plan of salvation with the call of Abraham and bringing him to the place in which he was prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac.
- ii. It is important to us because we are grafted in and therefore spiritually united with Israel.
 1. Ro 11:17 *But some of these branches from Abraham's tree—some of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God's special olive tree.* NLT
 2. Being grafted in we share in the blessings that God gave to Israel. Eph 2 says that we were once excluded but now we are fellow citizens with them.
- iii. Passover is important because it is part of God's plan of salvation for us. Without the Exodus, there would be not people of God; and without the people of God, there would be no Jesus. And, without Jesus, we would all be lost.
- iv. Passover is important because God designed Passover as a celebration of Jesus.
 1. 1 Cor. 5:7 says, "*Jesus is our Passover lamb.*"
 2. God could have had Him die at any time of the year but he chose Passover. Passover was given to teach us about Jesus. Through Passover, we understand what His death accomplished. Passover is all about Jesus.
 - a. He came as the Lamb of God.
 - b. His blood redeemed us.
 - c. By his death, judgment was turned away and the power of the enemy was broken.
 - d. We too were released from bondage and oppression.
 - e. We too are set free to enter God's promise.

3. The Message of Passover

- a. Before Passover could be celebrated, the people were to cleanse their home from impurity. Today it is mostly to remove anything of yeast. 1 Cor 5:7-8 *Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.* NLT
 - i. Dedicate your home to the Lord.
 - ii. Take spiritual inventory of your home and cleanse it of ungodly objects. Sun Gods, Dream weavers, astro charts, etc.
 - iii. Consecrate your home to God. Joshua 24:15 "*But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.*" NLT
- b. Through Passover, Jews became the people of God. And, by the Passover is also how we became the people of God.
- c. Another powerful message from Passover is "I am redeemed by the blood of the Lamb out of the hand of the enemy!" At Passover God wants us to experience the reality of this deliverance.

Conclusion:

- "Behold the lamb" was what the priest would say when a lamb was brought before him at the Passover.
- Isn't it interesting that when John the Baptist sees Jesus he says, "Behold the Lamb... (but he adds) who takes away the sin of the world."