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Israel's Passover - What Does It Mean To Us?

Exodus 12:11: (NASB) *Now you shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste –it is the LORD'S Passover.*



Today is a special day, for it was on this day over 2,000 years ago Jesus rode into Jerusalem to the adoration of the crowd. This would begin the final series of events that would lead to his death. Today is another anniversary as well, for it was on this day over 1,400 years before Jesus came, all of Israel was to take a lamb into their homes in preparation for the Passover and their miraculous delivery from slavery. Now, either this is a startling coincidence or it is a startling revelation of God's plans and purposes...guess which answer we agree with?

On November 9th and December 14th of 2014, we did the two-part series, "Can We Know the Mind of God?" In it we discussed four of the five ways to study the Bible and have it make sense.

1. Exhaustive Topical Examination: Examination of every Scripture on a given subject. The information age in which we live makes this test far easier than ever before.
 2. The Study of Symbolic Language: Examination of Scripture with an eye for separating those things literal from those things symbolic.
 3. The Study of Time Frames: The examination of Scripture with the understanding that all scripture texts do not apply to all time frames of history.
 4. Study Based on Context: To know the context of a statement is the first step in understanding the statement itself. Biblical context establishes biblical teaching.
- Now we add the fifth:
5. Study by "Type" and "Antitype:" Observing the larger and future meaning of certain events as a means of grasping the breadth of God's plan.

A "type" is an actual event that occurred in the Old Testament. An "antitype" ("anti" meaning "in place of") is another New Testament event that happens as a fulfillment of the first event and as such it makes the meaning of both the first and second events that much greater. Israel's Passover experience - while miraculous and inspiring all by itself - serves as a picture of an even greater New Testament reality!

The Passover event was an Old Testament type or picture of a greater event...Israel was dwelling peacefully in Egypt for a long time after Joseph died until a king of Egypt rose who "did not know Joseph" saw Israel as a threat and enslaved them to keep them from any uprising. They lived in hard slavery for over 140 years... Exodus 3:7-9: What do we see? Hard slavery under an evil task master. But God had a specific way of delivering them to a land of freedom and prosperity. The way they were delivered becomes a type, a picture, of something much greater for us to understand as we look at the New Testament. Moses explains to the people how they must follow specific instructions to protect their firstborn children from the last plague.

Exodus 12:2-14 summarized into key points:

- ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you...on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb...

This was to signal a new beginning and was the first aspect of their new Law. This passing over of the firstborn was taking place on the 14th day in the Jewish month of Nisan, but that was not the first month of the year. How can the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah) be in our September?

(Source: Biblical commentary by Matthew Poole) ...but as to sacred and ecclesiastical matters, this shall henceforth be your first month.

In other words, when it came to spiritual things in the nation of Israel, God wanted them to count differently than they did for physical things. That is how the month of Nisan became their "first" month.

- ...on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household.



Take this one-year old lamb and *keep it (verse 6)* - this singling out would create some emotional attachment. Remember, if any family did not follow the instructions perfectly, they would be liable to that tenth plague.

- *⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.*

The lamb would have perfect physical form and in the early prime of its life.

- *⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight.*

This sacrifice for each household all done simultaneously, specifically at twilight (near the ending of the Jewish day, about 3pm), denotes the personal and national nature of the event to take place.

- *⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.*

The blood surrounded the doorway, being the unmistakable evidence of the sacrifice of that particular lamb, for the life is in the blood.

- *⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.*

Not only was the timing important but God even instructed how the dinner was to be cooked. Roasting was the quickest preparation method and a fitting picture of the true Lamb's experience of "being tried by fire." Roasting has a thorough and direct contact with the fire.

Unleavened bread does not have yeast in it, so it does not rise like regular bread. It is called "the bread of haste," because there was no time to wait for the bread to rise. All of these details would be a picture of something future...

- *¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.*

This would become a standard for sacrifices under the Law to prevent misuse. This meal, this sacrificial lamb, had to be completely consumed. If they were unable to finish eating it, it had to be consumed by fire.

- *¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly.*

Be dressed and ready to go! This showed the immediacy of their deliverance and the necessary preparedness to take advantage of the moment of escape.

- *It is the passover of the LORD.*

This "passing over" would ultimately leave them unharmed and finally free. It literally meant the angel of death would "pass over" the prepared house and move onto another.

- *¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.*

The passing over would only be possible through the sign of blood on their doorways. The shed blood saved!

- *you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.*

This was to be always remembered! It would be an annual experience.

FIRST CONNECTION: THE TIMING - PASSOVER PREPARATION AND ENTERING THE HOUSE

- *²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you... on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb...*

This was to signal a new beginning and was the first aspect of their new Law. It was to be observed year after year. **God's timing, His times and seasons are precise:** Exodus 12:40-42: This 430-year anniversary was from the day Abram (later called Abraham) left his father's house. The Passover, the beginning of the Jewish Law, was exactly 430 years later. They were slaves over 140 years of that time.



Was the timing of Jesus as precise? John 12:1-8: (NRSV) ***Six days before the Passover...*** The town of Bethany is just outside of Jerusalem. This narrows down the timing. Jesus knows he is going to die and allowed this anointing to happen the Sunday before his death. He was where he needed to be in order to be exactly on time to fulfill all of the elements of the Passover account from Exodus. John 12:9-12: About two weeks earlier, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, who had already been in the tomb so long he started to decompose. The people were fascinated by this - Lazarus was a spectacle to the public. The chief priests and Pharisees were waiting for Jesus, and now Lazarus as well. Word traveled through the multitudes who wanted to see them both. Jesus entered Jerusalem and the hearts of the people on the 10th of Nisan - the exact same day Israel was instructed that all families were to take a young male lamb, without blemish, into their household. That same day, Jesus, at 33 and ½ years old is taken into the city of Jerusalem and into the hearts of the people. On his way in, they proclaimed to him, "Hosanna," meaning "save us now!" Matthew 21:8-10: The Pharisees were watching this lack of order and got upset with Jesus for disturbing the peace. Jesus told them that if the people did not cry out, the very rocks would cry out. Prophecy needed to be fulfilled! When God puts a prophecy in place, this is strong evidence it will happen when and how He says!

- *on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household.*

TYPE: Lamb taken in on Nisan 10. ANTITYPE: Jesus received as a King on Nisan 10. Jesus, as the son of God, came as a ransom to be the deliverer; to have his blood mark those places for freedom, not only for the firstborn, but for everyone else as well.

SECOND CONNECTION: THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAMB AS THE SAVIOR OF ALL THE FIRSTBORN

It was only the firstborn who were liable to death: Exodus 12:12: It is calculated that between one and two million people were delivered from Egyptian slavery, but the liability to death was only upon the firstborn - both man and beast.

After this Passover event, the firstborn became a sacred part of Israel's Law:
Exodus 13:1-2:

We are told that true followers of Christ correlate with the firstborn: Hebrews 12:22-24: Israel's firstborn were liable to death. The Apostle Paul in the book of Hebrews compared the believers of Jesus to the firstborn - what happened back then was a picture of what would come. The firstborn are special. The true followers of Christ are consecrated, dedicated to Him.

We see the firstborn's privilege of redemption. If the blood of the lamb delivered the firstborn in Egypt and it was a type, the blood of the Lamb, Jesus, must deliver the firstborn - followers of Christ. Romans 8:14-17: We are heirs with Christ - sacred to God as in Exodus 13 above - if we follow in his footsteps of suffering. Just proclaiming we are Christian is not enough to be part of the *church of the firstborn*. 1 Corinthians 5:7 So, Jesus was sacrificed for the firstborn! But what about everybody else? Remember, all the non-firstborn were delivered in Exodus through the sacrifice of the firstborn.

TYPE: Lamb slain to deliver the firstborn. ANTITYPE: Jesus slain to deliver his "firstborn."

THIRD CONNECTION: THE SAVING POWER OF THE BLOOD OF THE UNBLEMISHED LAMB

- *⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. (Of perfect form and in the early prime of its life) ...⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.*

Remember the blood was the unmistakable evidence of the sacrifice, for the life is in the blood.

1 Peter 1:18-19: TYPE: Sacrifice of an unblemished lamb. ANTITYPE: Sacrifice of Jesus, who was likened to an unblemished Lamb. The literal events in the Old Testament, especially regarding the Passover, showed us what would happen with Jesus and his sacrifice. The Passover picture really gives us an overview of the entire plan of God. More to follow!



Blood is the vehicle that carries all that sustains life: Leviticus 17:11: An important note to understand the magnitude of the picture the Passover shows us is that while the firstborn would be saved from certain death by the blood of the lamb, ALL of Israel would be delivered from certain bondage as a result of the covering of the blood. This blood was to cover them completely, as symbolized in the striking of it on the two door posts and the lintel. Pharaoh finally let ALL the people go - the deliverance of the firstborn (and death of those not protected) was the last straw. Everyone was delivered but not in the same way. Everyone else was delivered through the deliverance of the firstborn. This starts to show us the plan of God fulfilled.

So, there are two aspects of the blood...**First, the service and privilege of the priesthood - the 'church of the firstborn':** Hebrews 10:19-22: This is referring to the Tabernacle in the wilderness, which was a tent used as a portable place of worship. It was a place of sacrifice and a way God used to communicate His will to the people. *We have confidence* = the church of the firstborn (not the "everybody else") As important as the blood of Old Testament animal sacrifices was, it did not solve the long-term problem of sin. **The second aspect of the blood was its application to the whole nation:** Hebrews 10:1-6: A shadow is a picture of the real thing. If you follow the shadow you will get to the real thing. Here the Apostle says the Law was a shadow; it showed us the figure of Christ, the real thing. The Bible reveals the mind of God if we look for it in the right way. If the literal sacrifices did not take away their sins, why did the people of Israel have to do it year after year? It showed their loyalty to God and they wanted to be considered forgiven until the next year. But it did not actually take away sins. Verses 5 and 6 show the antitype of this - the fulfillment of the Passover lamb type in Jesus. No longer would the sacrifice of animals be used. Why Jesus' blood? God's justice had to be fulfilled: Adam sinned and Jesus had to cancel the sin. Jesus as a perfect man had exactly the right price to ransom Adam.

The world and the true Christians - the two aspects of the blood clearly combined: Romans 8:18-22: (NASB) ¹⁸*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (The true followers of Christ; the church of the firstborn)* ¹⁹*For the anxious longing of the creation (humanity; the "everybody else") waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.*

The whole nation walked out of Egypt because of the blood on their doorposts, without exception. They were delivered because the firstborn were delivered. The "everybody else" walking out free is shown to us in these texts.

Israel was in captivity for over 140 years. The moment of deliverance is coming soon but the symbols would have to be put in place and a specific ritual prescribed. Who was delivered from death? The firstborn. Then everyone else was delivered from bondage. The antitype is now...

²⁰*For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, (Through Adam, we are all born in the bondage of sin with no possibility of escape) in hope* ²¹*that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.* ²²*For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.*

The church of the firstborn is delivered from death so the rest of the world can be delivered to freedom. TYPE: The blood delivers the firstborn from death - and then the nation from bondage. ANTITYPE: Jesus' blood delivers his followers from death - and then the world from the bondage of sin. In both cases, there is a deliverance of one group so the rest can be freed. The Passover was instituted to not only show the miraculous deliverance of Israel but of everyone! Humanity will be delivered from this world of sin.

FOURTH CONNECTION: THE TIMING, MANNER AND COMPLETION OF THE SACRIFICE

Please refer to the FULL EDITION REWIND for details about this fourth connection and more!

*So, Israel's Passover - what does it mean to us?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*