

Why Should Christians Care About Israel's Deliverance From Slavery?

Exodus 12:50-51: (NASB) ⁵⁰Then all the sons of Israel did so; they did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron. ⁵¹And on that same day the LORD brought the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their hosts.



In all of human history there has never been an event with the magnitude and drama of the nation of Israel being freed from their harsh slavery in Egypt. Millions of people and countless flocks literally walked away from generations of harsh servitude. God guided them to their freedom after the 10th plague and through the establishment of the Passover. This Passover event was to be remembered and celebrated year after year for all their generations to follow. This whole deliverance-from-Egypt experience was mentioned countless times throughout the history of the Old Testament. Why was this event so vital to not only remember but to appreciate? It turns out that they provide massive insights for Christians as to how God's plan really works!

Let's begin with the preparations for the Passover and Israel's deliverance.

The word Passover signifies to pass by or spare from an affliction. The angel of death "passed over" the houses of the Israelites during the 10th and final plague of Egypt which was the death of the firstborns. This passing over was a miraculous deliverance that would save the entire nation of Israel the following day.

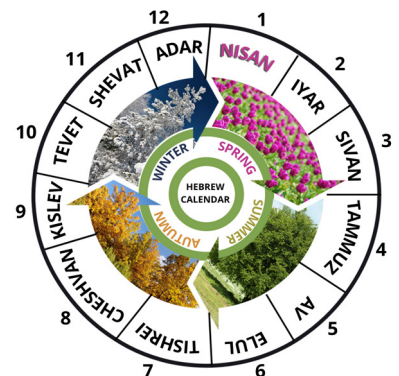
We will first focus on Israel's new sacred calendar and the choosing of the Passover lamb:

Exodus 12:1-2: (NASB) ¹Now the LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you.

Before Moses and Aaron even knew how their deliverance was going to work, God informed them of the generally overlooked but vital change in their calendar.

(Source: Matthew Poole's Commentary on the Holy Bible) It shall be the first month: heretofore your first month for all affairs hath been Tisri, which in part answers to our September, and is the first month after the autumnal equinox; and so it shall be to you still as to civil affairs, as it appears from Exodus 23:16 34:22, Leviticus 25:8-10; but as to sacred and ecclesiastical matters, this shall henceforth be your first month.

The year started with the month called Tishrei near the autumn equinox - around our September. This would continue for their civil calendar. But there would be a change in their sacred calendar for religious rites - now the first month of the Hebrew year would be the month of Abib (Exodus 13:4; 23:15, Deuteronomy 16:1) - later called Nisan (Nehemiah 2:1, Esther 3:7). This corresponds roughly to our March/April and the spring equinox.





This was a dramatic way to say everything was changing! God was instituting spiritual connections with Israel. Deliverance would mean a new beginning. As God delivered Israel, He created a sacred calendar along with their civil calendar (which operated separately) as a way to spiritually draw the nation to Him.

Once God instructed the sacred calendar would begin that very month, the first and most important event on the calendar was getting Israel ready to be delivered from slavery in Egypt. This involved specific steps, starting with preparing the Passover lamb they would eat on the night before they left Egypt.



God explained the Passover and the Passover lamb:

Exodus 12:3: (NASB) *Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, On the tenth of this month (Nisan) they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers' households, a lamb for each household.*

This text introduces the first step - the lamb that would bring their deliverance and the critical timing associated with it. So far, we have a sacred calendar, an important date and a lamb - what is next?

As important as these things were to Israel's deliverance (the most spectacular deliverance in history to that time) they foreshadowed - they explained something so much bigger - the greatest deliverance the world would ever see for all time.



This plainly shows there is MUCH more to learn on this topic:

1 Corinthians 5:7-8: (NASB) *⁷Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. ⁸Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

Some people miss this bridge between the Old and New Testaments. Here is the clue - *for Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed* - to tell us to look closer into the Jewish Passover.



Paul is giving us a very meaningful explanation of the symbolism that God intended with the Passover. Leaven, or yeast, is a picture of sin. He calls it *malice and wickedness*. He is saying the only way to appreciate Jesus as our Savior is to approach with a pure and sincere heart.



Just a little bit of sin will permeate our whole being. Observant Jews to this day extensively clean their homes to make sure every tiny crumb of leavened bread is removed. Some keep separate cooking utensils and pots used only for the days of Passover just to be sure there will not be any leaven anywhere in their home.

We appreciate this diligence. We do not want any sin to creep into our lives, and observant Jews are so careful to remove any speck of leaven from their homes.

Jesus is OUR Passover! Just as Israel would find deliverance because the lamb was sacrificed, so WE find deliverance because Jesus gave himself as a sacrifice.



As we follow what happened to Jesus on the very same days that were important in Exodus, let's begin with the 9th of Nisan.

Jesus was with his friends Lazarus, Mary and Martha the day before entering Jerusalem when he was anointed by Mary to prepare for his death:

John 12:1-3,7-8: (NASB) ¹Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ²So they made him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with him. ³Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair...



Powerful life lessons from two friends of Jesus

We recommend listening to this episode in order to have a solid background on this event.

Judas complained about the cost of giving this honor and Jesus responded:

⁷Therefore Jesus said, Let her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.

Sacredness was instituted before the actual event. Jesus was being prepared to be put into the sacred calendar, if you will, through this anointing. Six days before his death, he was anointed for burial. Jesus' life was sacred; he was the Passover Lamb, and this was the preparation for this event that would change the world. A day before the events that the Passover would focus on would have been on the **9th of Nisan**.

Jesus was prepared to be the Lamb:

John 12:9-11: (NASB) ⁹The large crowd of the Jews then learned that he was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom he raised from the dead. ¹⁰But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also; ¹¹because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.

Points of interest:



- Lazarus was a spectacle to the public - there was no doubt he had really been dead for four days and Jesus, through God's power, brought him back to life.

- The chief priests and Pharisees were waiting for Jesus and now Lazarus as well. John 11:53 says they planned together to kill him.
- Word traveled through the multitudes, and they also waited for Jesus. Imagine a day when you could bring hundreds of thousands of people together without any social media!
- Jesus entered Jerusalem and the hearts of the people on the **10th of Nisan**. Jesus was being prepared to enter the calendar on this day. The sacrifice of Jesus was pictured by the lamb of the Passover. While this is relatively easy to see, just wait for the rest!

Connecting the Passover
Lamb and the Lamb of God:



The Passover Lamb: The choosing of a lamb for the Passover was the first event of the first month of the new sacred Jewish calendar.

The Lamb of God: Jesus was anointed as preparation for this same first event of being the lamb chosen by the people. This Lamb would become the sacrifice that would redeem the world.

**Israel brought each Passover lamb into each house on the 10th of Nisan.
How did Jesus fulfill this event?**

Bringing the lamb into each house was a significant gesture and showed a full acceptance of the lamb by the family. Throughout the ministry of Jesus he was constantly met with strife and contradiction. That was, until the 10th day of Nisan when the most dramatic public event of his life up to this point occurred.

We will focus on the value of the Passover lamb and the events of the 10th of Nisan:



First, some more groundwork as God continued with His instructions regarding the Passover lamb:

Exodus 12:4-5: (NASB) ⁴Now if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his neighbor nearest to his house are to take one according to the number of persons in them; according to what each man should eat, you are to divide the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

- The lamb was to be completely consumed during the Passover meal. It was to be just the right size to feed everyone the right portion so each would be satisfied.
- The lamb was to be *an unblemished male and a year old*.
- It was eaten within your own household or that of your neighbor. This was an intimate meal eaten in haste - there was no time for a party to invite your best friends who lived farther away.

Think about these points in terms of the Passover lamb and the release from slavery of Israel.

Now think about how this next text fulfills these physical Passover lamb qualifications on a spiritual level:

1 Peter 1:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸knowing that you were not **redeemed <3084>** with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

Redeemed: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #3084: *lytroō*; to ransom (literally or figuratively)—redeem

They were not redeemed with... things like silver or gold - they were not released upon the receipt of a ransom payment. If someone is held to ransom, an appropriate payment for their value is given to secure their release. Peter is saying that the appropriate payment for the value of humanity was not the greatest amount of silver and gold anyone could amass in the entire history of the world; it was the blood of Christ.

Let's compare these points of interest from
Exodus 12:4-5 to those found in 1 Peter 1:18-19:

• Just as each person partook of the lamb to their fill -	➔ Jesus provided the full redeeming price for the freedom of all humanity.
• Just as the lamb was in perfect condition in the prime of life -	➔ Jesus' life and blood had unblemished and precious value. Both were sacrificed in the prime of his life.
• Remember the lamb was for their own household or closest neighbor -	➔ In <u>Matthew 22:39</u> Jesus told us the second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself.

Even if those ancient Jews did not get along with their neighbors, during Passover they were to eat and worship with their neighbors.

Now we consider the significance of taking the lamb into their homes on the **10th of Nisan** in relation to the life of Jesus.

We left off with Jesus in the home of Lazarus, six days before Passover:

John 12:12-15: (NASB) ¹²On the next day (the 10th of Nisan) the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet him, and began to shout, Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel. ¹⁴Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, ¹⁵Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt.



This is the shortened rendition of Jesus riding into Jerusalem - several of the other Gospels go into more detail. See the Bonus Material for the full account put together.



This is quite the dramatic scene. People are flocking in. They are laying palm branches from the trees on the road in front of Jesus, throwing their cloaks down, shouting, *Hosanna, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*

Why all of this dramatic activity? A few side points:

(Source: Matthew Poole) Their laying the garments upon the (donkey), and throwing them in the way, was a custom they used towards princes, as appears not only by many records out of profane authors, but from 2 Kings 9:13, where the like was done to Jehu, upon his being anointed king over Israel. For the acclamations, they were also such as were usual to princes.

This was a princely, even a kingly welcoming of Jesus into the city. In verse 12, *the large crowd* (or *very great multitude* depending on the translation) gathered. The crowd was unified behind Jesus, the son of David.

(Source: John Trapp's Complete Bible Commentary) Matthew 21:8. And a very great multitude - Bondinius saith, he was met at this time by 300,000 Jews, some whereof went before Christ, some followed after, according to the solemn rites and reverence used to be given to earthly kings in their most pompous triumphs. This was the Lord's own work.



300,000 people! A full stadium for football, baseball or soccer might hold 50,000-70,000 people, and that is an amazing thing. My daughters and I have gone to Yankee Stadium many times down through the years. When the stadium is full, there is an electricity throughout the place, especially when people get excited about something. You can feel the vibration of the people around you, and that is with 50,000 people. This is six times bigger! There were all of these people shouting - this is an incredible acclamation towards Jesus.

Let's think of how the Pharisees felt. They were fearful and losing control of the people. If Israel proclaimed Jesus as king, they would lose their positions of authority. In John 12:19 *the Pharisees said to one another, the world has gone after him!*

They felt doomed because *the world has gone after him!* Their response to that was not that Jesus was somebody special, but that he was someone to get rid of. This was the tragedy of their misconceptions and conclusions about Jesus and his miracles, his teachings and the fact that he was the son of God. We see that incredible joyous acclamation, but then that contrast of anger and frustration. It was truly dramatic.

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. When Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, here is what he said:

John 11:4: (NASB) *But when Jesus heard this, he said, This sickness is not to end in death, but for the **glory <1391>** of God, so that the son of God may be **glorified <1392>** by it.*

Glory: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #1391 *doxa*; glory (as very apparent), in a wide application (literal or figurative, objective or subjective):
- dignity, glory(-ious), honour, praise, worship

Glorified: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #1392 *dox-ad'-zo*; to render (or esteem) glorious (in a wide application): - (make) glorify(-ious), full of (have) glory, honour, magnify

Jesus KNEW raising Lazarus would create massive excitement among the people but **OUTRAGE** among the leaders. He went to the home of Lazarus for the **9th of Nisan** and word spread about both he and Lazarus! The actions of Jesus and his location drove the people to seek him and Lazarus out (John 12:9-11).

God was glorified in all of this. Glorified means “to be esteemed glorious.” For that day, for those hours, Jesus was esteemed glorious, only to have many turn on him and yell, *Crucify him!* days later. There was a subtle fulfillment of what Jesus knew would happen by the raising of Lazarus as he spoke about it. He knew he would be esteemed glorious, then crucified to be glorified for all of eternity.



Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem, embraced and heralded by the massive crowds.

Why enter Jerusalem this way? Prophecy had arranged it to be so:

Zechariah 9:9-11: (NKJV) *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

This is an unmistakably clear prophecy of the main event of the **10th of Nisan**.

¹⁰*I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; the battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth.*

This is a microcosm of the consequences of the Messiah's rejection by the people, mixed with the broad spectacle of his all-encompassing *dominion from sea to sea*.

¹¹*As for you also, because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.*

Here is a continuation of the dominion of Jesus - releasing the *prisoners...from the waterless pit* is talking about releasing Israel from the disfavor and rejection Jesus proclaimed upon them when he said, *your house is left unto you desolate* in Matthew 23:38. This dramatic prophecy in Zechariah gives us a big picture.

IMPORTANT POINT

Though his triumphant entry into Jerusalem was prophesied about 500 years earlier here in Zechariah, this event happened spontaneously because of the person Jesus was. Unless he sent out invitations to the 300,000 people gathered, this could not have been staged! He did not force this prophecy to come true.



The Old Testament and Jesus: Script, fiction or choice?

Connecting the Passover Lamb and the Lamb of God:



The Passover Lamb: The chosen Passover lambs literally lived at the homes of the people, thus forming a special kind of attachment to the animal. Each provided a completely sufficient meal for all. **It was the best of the flock, and it was the key to that household's deliverance.**

The Lamb of God: On the 10th of Nisan, Jesus was overwhelmingly accepted into the hearts of the people as the Passover lamb had been accepted into the homes of the people. **Jesus as the Lamb of God redeemed humanity by providing full satisfaction and redemption for all.**

These connections between the preparation for the original Passover and Jesus being accepted by the people are startling!

With so much hidden meaning in just the preparation of the Passover, what can we learn from the actual event?

Because it is so obvious that God used the Passover in all its stunning detail and magnitude to point to Jesus, we need to pay ever closer attention to the actual sacrifice of the lamb and the subsequent deliverance. These things will show us hidden details about how God's plan was, is and will unfold. The Passover gives us a glimpse into the entire plan and the mind of God.

We will focus on the power of the blood of the lamb to save the firstborn and deliver the people. These are two different things:

Exodus 12:7,12-13: (NASB) ⁷Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ¹²For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Now, if you were a Jew living as an Egyptian slave, this ritual was very meaningful. And if you were a firstborn, it was even more significant. Without the lamb's blood sprinkled on the door posts of your house, you would die, as the Egyptians learned the hard way. Exodus 12:30 says, *...and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead.*

Sometimes people look at this and think God is cruel. But nine prior plagues brought us to this point. Each time Pharaoh said, *no, no and NO!* This final plague was what got through to Pharaoh's hard heart. He finally let the people go.



It came down to the blood of the lamb. Why blood?

As soon as man sinned, the sacrifices of animals became a necessary part of sinful human life. In the first generation from Adam and Eve we see this necessity of a blood sacrifice. Cain's sacrifice of plants was not a blood offering and was therefore rejected.



Here is the “why” behind the need for blood:

Leviticus 17:11: (NASB) *For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.*

Israel knew that *life... is in the blood* because God told them. The only salvation available as a deliverance from slavery for Israel and as a deliverance from certain death of the firstborn was the blood of the lamb. This blood was to cover them completely, as symbolized in the striking of it on the two doorposts and the lintel.

This means the door frame, the top and the two sides. Think how easy it is to make a cross by placing the two side posts together and bringing the top piece down two feet. Just as there was blood on the doorposts, there was the blood of Jesus on the cross.



In God's eyes, the lamb took their place, and the blood on their doorposts was an outward visible profession that their family was following the directions of God for deliverance. This shows the ransom sacrifice of Jesus for Adam - a life for a life. The blood was a marker of the sacrifice, of the life given up.

Life is of great value in the sight of God. He even knows when a sparrow falls, as we see in Matthew 10:29. In 1 Timothy 2:4 God will have ALL to be saved and come to the knowledge (meaning full discernment) of the truth. So, the sacrifice of the lamb for Israel came with a cost - a precious life.



Why blood?

To show the justice needed in order to reconcile great sin.

All sacrifices in the Old Testament - including the blood of the Passover lamb - draw us to the one true and eternal sacrifice:

Hebrews 10:1-7: (NASB) *¹For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. ²Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?*

The Passover and Israel's deliverance from slavery signaled the necessity of blood sacrifices for the entire nation. This was the first national sacrifice to God. However, such sacrifices had to be offered continually year-by-year to “buy time” for being cleansed, allowing their relationship with God to continue.

Even with this magnitude of atonement, there is still a deeper meaning coming:

³But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. ⁴For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵Therefore, when he comes into the world, he says, sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶In whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, Behold, I have come (in the scroll of the book it is written of me) to do your will, O God.

Hebrews 10:4

For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.



Jesus is the final and complete fulfillment of all the Old Testament sacrifices

While the Israelites needed to “buy time” to maintain a “sinless” standing with God, Jesus actually bought back the sin of Adam and all subsequent generations. He paid the price once for all, insuring a resurrection to life for all in the future kingdom.

As powerful as all of this is, the deliverance of the Passover goes deeper. The firstborn of Israel was subject to death and protected by the blood. Remember, the blood of the lamb delivered the firstborn and, as a result, the rest of the nation was also delivered.

TWO STAGES OF DELIVERANCE

THE FIRSTBORN



THE REST OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL

That night was special to their families. Because not only were the firstborn delivered, but on the very next day, the entire nation left the slavery they had known all their lives. Deliverance was not just for the firstborn! God gave both the firstborn AND the entire nation of Israel a reason to remember that night and keep a perpetual memorial.

Next, we will see the comparison of the deliverance of Israel to the deliverance of the entire world of mankind - not just believers. We know this was all part of God's plan, according to Scripture.

The sacrifice of Jesus bought ALL of humanity back from sin:

Romans 5:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. ¹⁹For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous.

In other words: Everyone is born in sin because of Adam. Therefore, everyone is covered by Jesus.



John the Baptist had it right when he was announcing Jesus:

John 1:29: (NASB) *The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

It does NOT say he takes away “the sin of the believers,” or “the sin of his followers.” It says, he *takes away the sin of the world!*

Are we going to believe John the Baptist, or are we going to make up another story to suit what we think is right? We must believe what the Scriptures tell us about the depth of the sacrifice of Jesus.

Here is another powerful Passover reference that many of us miss:

Hebrews 12:22-23: (NASB) *²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, ²³to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,*

The *church of the firstborn* directly suggests that the rest of humanity will follow in deliverance.

The firstborn of Israel pictures the faithful followers of Christ who are given a heavenly resurrection - which is the *first* resurrection. Since there is a *first* (born), there is a *second*. The nation of Israel pictures the whole world of mankind and their future earthly resurrection.

TWO STAGES OF DELIVERANCE

THE FIRSTBORN



THE REST OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL

THE FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST



THE REST OF MANKIND

If there is a “firstborn,” it means there are other children.

The blood of the lamb delivered the natural firstborn in Egypt and the blood of the Lamb, Jesus, delivers the spiritual firstborn - the followers of Christ.

Connecting the Passover Lamb and the Lamb of God:



The Passover Lamb: The blood of the unblemished Passover lamb provided **deliverance from certain death for the firstborn** in each household. This deliverance guaranteed that the entire household - and therefore the entire nation - would also be set free.

The Lamb of God: The blood of the perfect man Jesus **delivers the church of the firstborn**, first and through that deliverance all of humanity will be granted freedom from Adamic sin.

In both cases, salvation is in two parts. The firstborn are the first to receive salvation (saved by the blood) by the Lamb, Jesus, taking their place in death, and then the rest of the people - the “everybody else” - are delivered. The Passover explains this in detail if we pay attention!

The Passover lamb explains in picture form, and in a smaller context, the greatness of the work of Jesus. It is not by accident - God designed this so we could appreciate the magnitude of His plan.

God's emphasis on the power of sacrifices and blood makes so much more sense now. It all pointed to Jesus!

What should be our biggest takeaways from Israel's deliverance from slavery picturing the sacrifice of Jesus?

There are many lessons here and most of them are startling in their clarity. Our biggest take away should be individually determined. Having said that, there is great assurance and hope in the fact that God, the Creator of all things, had all the details of how the sacrifice of Jesus would work in place thousands of years before it actually happened! God gave us the picture so that we could have the encouragement and assurance that God is a God of order.

(Source: David Guzik's Bible Commentary) Almost one-half of John's Gospel is given to this last week before the death and burial of Jesus. Matthew used more than 33 percent of his Gospel to cover that week, Mark nearly 40 percent and Luke over 25 percent to cover only seven days of Jesus' entire life.

This shows us the magnitude of these events. This is why the Passover was the first event on that sacred calendar, and why it was mentioned throughout the Old Testament again and again.

God is saying: *Pay attention to this because I am showing you My plan!*



We will focus on the total consumption of the lamb and the role of the firstborn delivered first:

Exodus 12:8,10: (NASB) ⁸*They shall eat the flesh that same night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ¹⁰And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall burn with fire.*

They had to eat unleavened bread because there was no time to let the yeast rise. **Deuteronomy 16:3** calls it the *bread of affliction*. Remember we talked earlier about leaven being a picture of sin. Bitter herbs were eaten with the lamb. This was a symbol to remind them of the bitter experiences they had to endure as slaves.

A look at the sacrifice of Jesus in light of this description of being totally consumed along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs:

Hebrews 5:7-9: (NASB) ⁷*In the days of his flesh, he offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save him from (out of) death, and he was heard because of his piety.*

Here is the *unleavened bread* represented in Jesus - there was no leaven (sin) in him. It is necessary to have that sin-lessness. Jesus was entirely dedicated to the will of his Father.



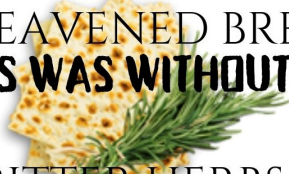
⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience *from the things which he suffered*.

The bitter experiences of his suffering were represented by the **bitter herbs** from the original Passover.

⁹And having been made perfect, he became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

He was *made perfect*, meaning “made complete.” He was already a perfect man, so he could not be made “more” perfect. He was developed by his experiences in order to become the mature Lamb of God.

UNLEAVENED BREAD
JESUS WAS WITHOUT SIN




BITTER HERBS
THE BITTERNESS OF HIS SUFFERING

The sacrificed lamb in Egypt was mature, one year old. Jesus was mature at the age of 30 years old when he began his ministry. It is one thing to be perfect; it is another thing to be mature in that perfection in order to fulfill what it was going to cost.

A mature man had the experiences to round out his character, having empathy for those around him and the strength to endure adversity.

Hebrews 5:7-9



LOUD CRYING AND TEARS
 + REVERENT SUBMISSION
 + LEARNED OBEDIENCE
 = THE SOURCE OF ETERNAL SALVATION

Jesus was fully consumed over his three-and-a-half-year ministry and poured his heart out for all people. He gave and gave up to the end when he died on the cross. The Passover lamb shows us that he gave the ultimate gift of his life for the sake of the release of others.

Another Passover detail that was clearly fulfilled in Jesus' own death:

Numbers 9:12: (NASB) *They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break a bone of it; according to all the statute of the Passover they shall observe it.*

There was a total consuming of the lamb (that was why if the household was small, they combined with a neighbor to eat all the lamb) and **they were not to break any of the bones of the animal.**

This sounds odd. But listen to what happened to Jesus:

John 19:32-33: (NASB) ³²*So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with him; ³³but coming to Jesus, when they saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.*



No broken bones, just like the Passover lamb of the Israelites. Only God could supply all these details. If we are not overwhelmed with reverence and awe, then we are missing something! There is so much detail that precisely fits together. God is showing us His plan that He had from the beginning. It illustrates the depth of God's wisdom and the depth of the sacrifice of Jesus.

The sacrifice of Jesus was complete! No other sacrifice for deliverance is needed - *ever*. We celebrate this memorial because Jesus told us in [Luke 22:19](#) to *do this in remembrance of me*. We look at it as a [picture](#) of him offering his body. We must be careful not to think this sacrifice needs to be recreated over and over. In repeating it, we undo the value of his one complete sacrifice. His blood was shed once for all ([Hebrews 9:12](#)). The price was paid; it is finished.

Exodus 13:1-2: (NASB) *¹Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me.*

The saved firstborn were then sanctified; meaning, set apart for a holy purpose. They would go on to be represented in the priestly tribe of Levi - remember Israel was divided into 12 tribes.

Numbers 3:12-13: (NASB) *¹²Behold, I have taken the Levites from among the sons of Israel instead of every firstborn, the first issue of the womb among the sons of Israel. So the Levites shall be Mine. ¹³For all the firstborn are Mine; on the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, from man to beast...*

They were sanctified just like the followers of Christ:

Hebrews 10:10: (NASB) *By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

We see from this picture of the firstborn that they represent the true followers of Jesus. Through their deliverance comes the deliverance of the rest of the world.

We are referring to the book of Hebrews a lot because it was written to Jewish Christians. It was written to show them how the old Law would lead them to Christ.

If we are truly seeking Christ as the firstborn class, it is necessary to LIVE “under the blood” - under the protectiveness and deliverance of the blood:

Hebrews 10:19-22: (NASB) *¹⁹Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way which he inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

We enter *the holy place by the blood of Jesus*. Going through that veil is passing through his flesh - the value of his offering of his life every day for us - the shedding of his blood to seal that covenant. He is our great high priest. This is how we live under the blood. We appreciate and live in accordance with what Jesus said and did. We follow in his footsteps.

We are not perfect, but when we sin, we have an advocate who will stand by us before God:

1 John 2:1-2: (NASB) ¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.



Advocate = One who pleads the cause of another before a judge

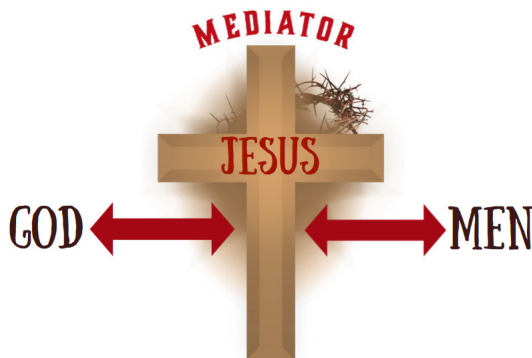
In case it is not clear by this point, the faithful followers of Christ are considered the firstborn.

They are treated differently and have Jesus as their *advocate* sitting by their side. To the rest of the world, Jesus is described as the *mediator* (1 Timothy 2:5-6), sitting between them and God.

There is this difference illustrated even in the Passover. The firstborn were delivered because of the blood on the doorposts - the sacrifice of the lamb. The nation was delivered because of the deliverance of the firstborn, because of the blood. *Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!*

Being of the *church of the firstborn* means we are given many roles to fulfill in serving God through Christ, each other, and the world as well:

1 Peter 2:9-10: (NASB) ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.



Mediator = A go-between to effect reconciliation

The death and resurrection of Jesus mean more to this world than most people realize, because it will affect everyone who has ever lived.

Description of the true followers of Christ:

- a chosen race
- a royal priesthood
- a holy nation
- a people for God's own possession
- who were "not a people" (many of us were Gentiles), but now we are the people of God

We have responsibilities. Being a *royal priesthood* means we serve someone. This is what the *ministry of reconciliation* (2 Corinthians 5:18) will be for - helping to bring mankind back into a relationship with God.



This brings us back to understanding the answer to: *Why the Passover, why Jesus, why the blood, why a lamb, why the doorposts, why did all of these things have to happen that way?*



Because they showed us Jesus. They were parts of the greatest release from slavery the world HAD ever seen. At the same time, they show us the greatest release from the slavery of sin and death that the world WILL ever see.

Israel was given a sacred calendar to mark their deliverance.	Jesus was anointed six days before his death to mark his readiness to deliver.
The Passover lamb was unblemished and in the prime of life.	Jesus was a perfect man and in the prime of life.
The Passover lamb was taken in on the 10th of Nisan.	Jesus was received as king (taken into the hearts of Israel) on the 10th of Nisan.
The Passover lamb was slain on the 14th of Nisan.	Jesus was crucified on the 14th of Nisan.
The Passover lamb was slain "at even" = late afternoon.	Jesus died at 3pm = "the 9th hour."
The blood of the lamb delivered the firstborn.	Jesus' blood first applied to his true disciples.
The nation of Israel was delivered from slavery the next day.	The world will soon be delivered from sin at resurrection.

All the connections are here. It is God's will being described long before it actually is put in place.

For additional study on this topic:



Episode 859:
Israel's Passover -
What Does It Mean To Us?

How the Passover shows Jesus' ransom

Soak in the depth of the pain and suffering that Jesus went through to be that Passover Lamb:

Isaiah 53:4-5: (NRSV) *4Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. 5But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.*

Here is our Lord, the Lamb of God.

Connecting the Passover Lamb and the Lamb of God:



The Passover Lamb: The Passover lamb was fully consumed and the first born that it delivered would become sanctified (set apart) for God's purposes as a result.

The Lamb of God: Jesus emptied himself in the sacrificing of his life for humanity. *The church of the firstborn are set apart for God's holy purposes both now and in their heavenly resurrection.*

We find a dramatic lesson that shows us the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Thousands of years before he lived, God put His plan in place and gave us scriptural clues for our understanding.

Revelation 5:12: (KJV) *Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*

Worthy is the Lamb of God who is shown to us in the Passover. Let us take what we learned in this lesson and go to the throne of grace with great appreciation and praise. We are grateful that the timing, events, meanings and the conclusion that Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world were all so precise.

Praise God, thank our Lord Jesus - the world is saved!

*So, why should Christians care about Israel's deliverance from slavery?
For Jonathan, Rick, Julie and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

All quoted scriptures are from the 1995 version of NASB unless otherwise indicated.



Join us next week for our podcast on April 18, 2022

Ep. 1225: Can Jesus' Resurrection Revive
My Faltering Faith?

Bonus Material and Study Questions

The following is a compilation of [Matthew 21:1-11](#), [Mark 11:1-11](#), [Luke 19:28-40](#) and [John 12:12-19](#), the 10th of Nisan event of Jesus riding into Jerusalem:

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, why are you doing this? just say this, The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately. This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey. His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, its owners asked them, what are you doing, untying the colt? They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields... (among them was) the whole multitude of the disciples and the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. ... (they) began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven! Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven! Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, Teacher, order your disciples to stop. He answered, I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out. As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God. When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, Who is this? The crowds were saying, This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee. The Pharisees then said to one another, you see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!



Year 33	Place	Event	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Nisan 10	Bethpage/Jerusalem	Triumphal Entry	21:1-11	11:1-11	19::28-40	12:12-19
Nisan 11	Jerusalem/Temple	Barren fig tree cursed Temple cleansing	21:18-22	11:12-14 11:15-19	19:45, 46	---
Nisan 12	Jerusalem/Temple	Fig tree withered Jesus challenged	21:20-22 21:23-27	11:20-31 11:27-33	--- 20:1-8, 19-47	12:20-50
"	Jerusalem/Temple	Jesus teaches & gives parables	21:28-25:46	12:1-13:37	20:9-18; 21:1-36	---
Nisan 13	Bethany	Likely a day of rest for Jesus Judas contacts chief priests	26:14-16	14:10-11	22:3-6	---
Nisan 14	Jerusalem	Celebrates Passover institutes Memorial washes disciples' feet	26:17-25 26:26-29 ---	14:12-21 14:22-25 ---	22:7-22 22:14-20 ---	13:1-3 --- 13:4-17
"	Jerusalem	Judas' Betrayal Jesus' upper room sermon	26:47-56 ---	--- ---	22:47-53 ---	13:21-30 13:31-17:26
"	Gethsemane	Prayer in Gethsemane Betrayal and arrest	26:36-46 26:47-56	14:32-42 14:33-50	22:39-46 22:47-54	18:1-11
"	Jerusalem	Before Annas Before Caiaphas , Denied by Peter	--- 26:57 26:69-75	--- 14:53 14:66-72	--- 22:54 22:55-62	18:13 18:24 18:25-27
"	Jerusalem	Before Pilate sent to Herod back to Pilate & Crucified	27:1,2;11-50 --- ---	15:1-37 --- ---	23:1-5 23:6-10 23:11-46	18:28-40 --- 19:1-30

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Study QUESTIONS

Ep.1224: Why Should Christians Care About Israel's Deliverance from Slavery?

See:  CQRewind
SHOW NOTES

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1224-passover/>

1. What does "Passover" mean? What was the tenth plague of Egypt? How did the Israelites escape the horrible effects of the tenth plague? (See Exodus 12:12-13) The first event on the new sacred calendar of Israel was to be what? The deliverance of Israel from Egypt foreshadowed what other greater deliverance?
2. What did the lamb symbolize? What is leaven? What does it symbolize? Why must we remove it as much as possible from our lives? (See Exodus 12:1-3, Esther 3:7, 1 Corinthians 5:7-8)
3. In preparation for Passover, a lamb is chosen on the 9th of Nisan. How was Jesus anointed or chosen as the Passover lamb? What were the requirements for the literal Passover lamb? Why did the chief priests plan to kill Jesus and Lazarus? (See Exodus 12:3-5, John 12:3-11, 11:45-53) Compare the similarities between the Passover lamb and Jesus. Define "redeem." What is the appropriate payment for the value of humanity? (See Exodus 12:4-5, 1 Peter 1:18-19, Matthew 22:39)
4. How did Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on the 10th of Nisan correspond to the Passover lamb? How did the Pharisees view Jesus' popularity? Why did Jesus enter Jerusalem this way? How does Zechariah 9 describe Jesus' role? (See John 11:4, 12:12-19, Zechariah 9:9-11, Matthew 23:38)
5. Why was blood needed for the deliverance of Israel from Egypt? Why did the blood sacrifices have to be offered year-by-year? What was necessary for this? (See Exodus 12:7,12-13, Leviticus 17:11, Hebrews 10:1-7) Who was saved by the sprinkling of the lamb's blood on the lintels and doorposts in Egypt? Who was saved the next day? Who is saved by Jesus' blood? Compare the deliverance of the firstborn and the nation of Israel to the deliverance of the world by Jesus. (See Exodus 12:23,51, Romans 5:18-19, John 1:29, Hebrews 12:22-23)
6. How does Jesus' sacrifice fit with the description of the Passover lamb being consumed completely, along with the unleavened bread and bitter herbs? Does Jesus' sacrifice need to be repeated? (See Hebrews 5:7-9, 9:12, 10:1,4,10,12, Numbers 9:12, John 19:32-33)
7. What does the term "firstborn" mean? If there is a *first* (born), what does this imply? Who were the firstborn in the original Passover? Who are the firstborn of the Lamb of God? What did the deliverance of the firstborn mean to Israel? What does the deliverance of the "church of the firstborn" mean to the world? (See Numbers 3:11-13, Hebrews 10:10)
8. What role does Jesus take with his followers in regards to the Father? What role does Jesus take with the rest of mankind and his Father? What is *our* role as this chosen firstborn race? Why did all these things have to happen this way? (See 1 Timothy 2:5-6, 1 Peter 2:9-10, 2 Corinthians 5:18) Meditate on Jesus and the depth of his sacrifice. Have his selfless actions made a difference in your life? (See Isaiah 53:4-5, Revelation 5:12)