

# Passover— Why It Was Instituted!

#3109 0204 24C Luke 22:7-20

NKJV Luke 22:7-10 “*Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. 8 And He sent Peter and John, saying, ‘Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat.’*”

9 “*So they said to Him, ‘Where do You want us to prepare?’ 10 And He said to them, ‘Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters.*”

11 “*Then you shall say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, ‘Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’ 12 ‘Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready.’*”

13 “*So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover. 14 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.*”

15 “*And he said unto them, ‘With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: 16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.*”

17 “*And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, ‘Take this, and divide it among yourselves: 18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.*”

19 “*And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, ‘This is my*

*body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. 20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new testament [covenant NKJV] in my blood, which is shed for you.’*”

We celebrate Passover because we must always be reminded of what Jesus did for us when He gave Himself as a sacrifice on the Cross. When we recall the *promise*, we can claim our *rights*—of Atonement through that sacrifice! AV Exodus 12:14 “*And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; Ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.*”

We begin at the time Passover was celebrated in the first century. Jesus comes into Jerusalem on what is called Palm Sunday for the Jewish feast of Passover.

Every Jewish male age 21 and over is required to be in Jerusalem for 3 major Jewish feasts no matter where they are in the world. Passover is one of the three major feasts.

Jesus and His disciples make their way from the northern part of Galilee to Jerusalem—a walk of about 90 miles. They have come to share the Passover meal—but the disciples are not aware that this will be the *last supper* with Jesus before the crucifixion.

They recline around a U-shaped table (triclinium—couches on three sides). NIV John 13:23 “*One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him*” (on His right). Judas Iscariot is to His left and shared the same bowl with Jesus when dipping the bread.

Passover can be called: Communion, Last Supper, or Eucharist (Greek; thanksgiving). Communion then, is derived from the Passover in Egypt. Jesus links the ancient feast of Passover to His present sacrifice on the Cross.

History of *Why Passover was Instituted*—In 1,880-1,900 BC, there was a group of 70 Israelites—which was the entire Jewish nation at that

time. They were the descendants of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob and his twelve sons—the total being about 70 at that time.

As the Bible records, there happened a severe famine in Israel, and to escape the famine, they make their way to Egypt—where they are reunited with one of Jacob’s sons, Joseph—the younger brother of the twelve.

By God’s providence Joseph had been promoted to the second most powerful position in Egypt. Jacob’s twelve sons have a wonderful reunion with Joseph—he offers forgiveness for the terrible treatment he had been given by these older brothers.

These 70 Israelites receive favor from the Pharaoh because of Joseph’s high standing in Egypt.

Eventually, however, that pharaoh passes on, and the next Pharaoh does not look on the 70 Hebrews with the same favor as the previous Pharaoh. He resents their presence in Egypt—thinking they have stayed too long and number too many.

Egypt uses the Hebrews as slave labor for 430 years. During these 400-some years, the initial group of 70 Hebrews becomes a few million who still live in Egypt. The Pharaoh uses them to build the great cities and structures of Egypt.

Because they have been mistreated, oppressed, and overworked, they cry out to God for the deliverance they needed. God hears their prayer and raises up Moses to lead them out of Egypt and to the promised land. A land which none of these millions of Hebrews have ever seen—as they have only known Egypt for 400+ years.

Moses confronts pharaoh to let the people go, but he is reluctant to let a free slave-labor force go.

God brings on 9 plagues to force pharaoh to let the Hebrews go. Pharaoh still does not relent until the 10<sup>th</sup> plague, which causes the death of the first-born of all Egyptians—humans and animals.

All the first-born of the Hebrews have God's protection, as He instructed them to take hyssop (brush) and paint the blood of a slain animal on their doors and lintels.

When God saw the homes with the blood of the lamb over their doors, He "*Passed Over*" that home. Because of the severity of the plague, Pharaoh orders the Hebrews to leave Egypt.

The Passover was actually an 8-day feast. God said they were to always remember the deliverance He gave them. The first of the eight days was called Passover (Hebrew: Pesach) the day on which the lamb was killed and eaten as a family meal.

The 7 days that followed is called the feast of unleavened bread. They left so quickly, they could not add leaven to the bread, so they ate bread *without* leaven—Matzo.

Jewish families all around the world gather and eat a Passover meal called a Sedar—Symbolizing freedom, and to just be together as a family.

They serve various foods at this meal; they will recite prayers; and they sing songs to remind them of the miraculous deliverance from slavery in Egypt that God gave them.

Now we fast-forward to Jesus, who describes an even greater deliverance—bringing a new meaning to the Passover feast. The Israelites have done this for over 400 years.

Jesus takes the Matzo and *breaks* it and *shares* it with His disciples. He says: NKJV 1 Corinthians 11:26 "*For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*"

Jesus offers this prayer before the cup—"*Blessed art Thou O Lord our God, King of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine;*" and adding: AV Luke 22:19 "*This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you. Drink this in remembrance of Me!*"

Jesus takes the ancient feast of Passover—that gave the Hebrews freedom and deliverance from Egypt, and which they celebrated for centuries by *looking back*—and He now celebrates a much *greater* freedom and deliverance from slavery to sin by *looking forward* to the Cross.

The disciples were only looking *back* to the suffering of the Hebrews in Egypt and how Moses led them out of that oppression. They did not yet understand the crucifixion, the cross, and the resurrection to life, so were not looking *forward*.

The bread without *yeast* points to our life without *sin*—Jesus says. *My* life without sin was offered for you on a cross, so that through faith in Me, *My* broken body and shed Blood provides for you a much greater deliverance and redemption than they experienced in Egypt.

Today, this cup symbolizes the animal blood on the doors in Egypt, so that through faith in the shed Blood of Jesus, you can have a much greater deliverance and freedom from slavery to *sin* than they had from slavery in *Egypt* centuries ago.

God will now *pass over* any sinner who repents, so they do not have to suffer the consequences of their sins.

NIV 1 Corinthians 5:7 "*For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed [for us] only AV NKJV.*"

NKJV John 1:29 "*Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*"

### 7-points from the lesson

1. The *lamb* was selected/inspected on the 10<sup>th</sup> Nisan Jewish calendar Exodus 12:3;  
*Jesus* was selected/inspected on the 10<sup>th</sup> Nisan Palm Sunday Luke 19:28-48.
2. The *lamb* was "*year old male*" in the prime of its life Exodus 12:5;  
*Jesus* was sacrificed in the prime of His life.

3. The *lamb* was "*without defect*" Exodus 12:5;  
*Jesus* was without "*spot or blemish*" Eph 5:27—a *sinless* sacrifice 1 Peter 1:19.
4. The *lamb* was sacrificed on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan at "*twilight*" Exodus 12:6;  
*Jesus* was crucified on the 14<sup>th</sup> Nisan "*at the ninth hour*" Matthew 27:45.
5. The *bread* (matzah) of Passover was without yeast Exodus 12:8;  
*Jesus* was the "*bread of life*" without sin John 6:48; Hebrews 4:15.
6. The *lamb* was to be sacrificed without breaking a bone Exodus 12:46;  
*Jesus* was crucified and "*not a bone was broken*" John 19:36; Psalm 34:20.
7. The *blood of the lamb* was God's gracious provision to save the Jews in Egypt;  
The *blood of the Lamb of God* was His gracious provision to save the world.

### Summary:

Passover *PAST* through Moses—commemorates the deliverance of all *Jews* from slavery in Egypt.

Passover *PRESENT* through Christ—commemorates the deliverance of all *believers* from slavery to sin in the world.



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