

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson 20: The PASSOVER Lamb

&

Death of the Firstborn

Aim: To show how the Feast of Passover and the Passover lambs point to Christ, the Lamb of God who was sacrificed by Israel for their future redemption.

Key Scriptures: Exodus 12:1-14. John 1:29, & 35. Matthew 3:1; 4:17.

In our last lesson, we looked at the accounts of Joseph and Moses and the wives they took. They both took a Gentile bride whilst separated from their brethren, the Children of Israel. The lesson added an additional facet to the picture of the **Bride of Christ** by showing that she will come predominantly from Christians who were previously Gentiles. Currently, a search is being made by the Holy Spirit for faithful Christians who will make up that Bride (*c.f. Gen.ch.24*).

The wives that Joseph and Moses took, and the timing of when they did so, showed us that the Bride of Christ will be revealed **before the Tribulation** takes place on the earth and **before Christ's return** to the earth to deliver the Jews.

Q: Who was the Gentile bride that Joseph married?

A:

Q: What was the name of Moses' wife and where did he meet her?

A:

Q: Which event in the life of Joseph is a Type of the Tribulation?

A:

Joseph was made second in command under Pharaoh, who gave him Asenath as his bride, **before the 7 years of famine** took place. This type shows us that the Resurrection/Rapture of the church – when Christians will stand at the JSOC and the Bride will be identified - will happen **before the Tribulation** takes place.

Today we will be returning to the writings of Moses to show how the 10th and final plague, before the Children of Israel left Egypt, is another picture of Christ and His crucifixion, a topic we covered in Lesson 8 with the Sacrifice of Isaac.

Throughout our study of Jesus in the Old Testament, we have seen Christ revealed in the lives of many characters. They are types of Christ for various reasons. We know from our definition of types that types are not limited just to people. Let's remind ourselves of our definition:

A Type is something that points to something else,

A Type can be seen in a Person, Place, Thing or
Event from the Bible.

We have already mentioned a type today that is not a person. What sort of type is it?

A:

Today we will look at an Event and a Thing that Jesus could have used to show the two disciples on the road to Emmaus why He had to “suffer before entering into His glory” (*Luke.24:26-27*). We will see how the **Passover** (event) and the **Passover lambs** (things), point to Christ.

Let's read the key verses from Exodus chapter 12, and as we read let's begin to consider how these verses point to Christ. Make notes in the margin:

Exodus 12:1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

2 "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.

3 "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.

4 'And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb.

5 'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

6 'Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.

7 'And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

8 'Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

9 'Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire-its head with its legs and its entrails.

10 'You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire.

11 And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD'S Passover.

12 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

13 'Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

14 'So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations.

Q: What observations or cross references would you like to share?

Q: Re-read **verses 3 to 7**. On which day of the first month were the congregation of Israel to select a lamb for their households? And how long were they to keep it before killing it?

A:

Draw a simple timeline of the Passover here:

Q: What were the requirements for the selecting of the lamb? (v.5)

A:

Q: At what time were the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel to kill the lambs?

A:

Q: What did God say they were to do with the blood of the lamb where they were to eat it?

A:

Q: Re-read **verses 11 to 13**. Why did the congregation of Israel need to put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts and lintel?

A:

Death of the Firstborn Son

Q: What conclusion can we draw from Exodus 4:22 *"Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn."*

A:

If we were to ask the question 'Did Israel die that night, and how many?' we would have to say 'Yes, the whole nation died on the night of Passover'. **Exodus 4:22** states that Israel is 'God's Firstborn Son' and therefore the whole nation died that night, however **a substitute** died in their place. It was to be a lamb without blemish of the first year.

Throughout the rest of the land of Egypt, firstborn sons of man and beast died. After this, the 10th and final plague, we know that Pharaoh called Moses and said that the Children of Israel should leave. Which is why God instructed them to eat the Passover meal in haste, dressed ready to leave (v.11).

The Feast of Passover

Every year the Jews would celebrate the Feast of Passover as given to them in Exodus chapter 12. They would select a spotless lamb without defect and keep it under close observation from the 10th to the 14th day of the first month (known as Abib) and then kill it at twilight. All subsequent generations who then put faith in the blood of the Passover lambs would be saved spiritually. Until....Jesus!

Let's read Exodus 12:14 again:

*Exodus 12:14 'So this day shall be to you **a memorial**; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as **a feast** by an everlasting ordinance.*

The Passover is described here as a memorial. In keeping it, the Jewish people were to **remember how they were saved** and delivered from certain death whilst the rest of the firstborn of man and beast in Egypt died that night.

Q: What was it that saved them?

A:

We might be asking ourselves "why did God want them to remember every year what He did for them in delivering them from slavery in Egypt?" And why were they to keep the Feast of Passover as 'an everlasting ordinance'?

Up until Jesus came to the earth, the only way that anyone could be spiritually saved was by putting faith in what God said, which was that they would be saved through the death and shed blood of animals, such as the lambs in Exodus chapter 12. You might recall that Adam and Eve were also spiritually saved through God killing animals and shedding their blood to clothe them after the Fall. So every subsequent generation needed to be saved through God's requirement of death and shed blood.

Let's now consider why Jesus may well have taken, the two 'foolish and slow of heart' disciples on the road to Emmaus, to Exodus chapter 12 and God's commands for the ordinance of Passover. The two disciples had failed to see that Christ would need to "suffer before He could enter into His glory", and that meant Him going to the Cross.

The Lamb of God

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 1:35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. 36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

Q: How does John the Baptist refer to Jesus?

A:

John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Jesus, and for the Jews to receive their Messiah. The Jews who heard John's message would have already been eternally saved through the blood of the Passover lambs sacrificed each year at Passover. In order to correctly prepare to meet their Messiah and King, they would have had to respond in accordance with John's preaching. Underline what John's message was:

Matthew 3:1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

And once John was imprisoned by Herod, Jesus gave the same message to the Jews:

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

But we know that the majority of the nation of Israel did not repent, and instead, led by the religious leaders, they crucified their King.

In the days leading up to Jesus's crucifixion He was daily in the temple being examined and closely observed by the people and religious leaders as He taught. These would have been the same days from the 10th to the 14th day of the first month. (*See your previous timeline.*) When they could find nothing wrong with Jesus because He was perfect, they stopped questioning Him and

had to use lies and trickery instead to bring about His death (*Mat.22:46; 26:3-4*).

Christ, the King, was slain outside the city on the very same day that the priests in the temple in Jerusalem were killing lambs to celebrate the Feast of Passover. The feast that they were to keep as a **memorial**, and the blood shed as a **sign** for them (Ex.12:13-14).

However, in killing their King they were also unknowingly killing **THE Passover Lamb**, something God had intended and which John the Baptist prophesied when he said, *"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"* And just as the Passover lambs in Exodus had to be perfect and "without blemish", so we know that Jesus was THE perfect sacrificial Passover Lamb.

What about the Jews today?

In 70AD, the Romans destroyed the temple in Jerusalem, and since then, the Jews no longer kill a perfect lamb when they celebrate the Feast of Passover. But even if they did, it would **not** bring them salvation. Why? Once Jesus Christ, The Lamb of God, was sacrificed, there is only one way anyone can be saved:

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,"

(Acts 16:31).

The nation of Israel did not believe on Him, and most Jews today do not believe. But because Israel is God's Firstborn Son, there is coming a Day at the end of the Tribulation when the nation will be saved. The "Lamb of God" which Israel killed and "who takes away the sins of the world", will take away Israel's sins in that day, including the sin of killing their King! For the blood, which they were required to shed, to be efficacious in their salvation in that day, then they must believe Jesus was their Messiah whom they killed. They must repent, change their minds about who He is. The blood that they shed will be the same blood that saves them, and cleanses them. That is a most remarkable thought! Hallelujah!

Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace

and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

Revelation 1:7 *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*

Matthew 24:30 *"Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

Any comments on these verses or anything we have studied today?

Next lesson, we will look at how the Tabernacle and Priesthood established by God in Moses' day also reveals details about Christ in the Old Testament.

Let's pray...