

God's Appointed Times - Part 3

Passover – Feast of Unleavened Bread – Day of First Fruits

Today we are going to look at

Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, & the Day of First Fruits

Leviticus 23:4-14

(4) "These are YAHWEH's appointed times, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times. (5) The **Passover** to YAHWEH comes in the first month, at twilight (*between the evenings*) on the fourteenth day of the month.

[Our Messiah was tortured, beaten, brutalized, and nailed to an old Roman, splintery... cross... (used probably many times before Jesus was nailed to it)... Jesus' (Yahshua's) blood was spilled for our sins... and He died on Passover... at the same time the "National Israeli Passover Lamb" was sacrificed at the Temple in Jerusalem...

This is how Jesus could celebrate Passover with His disciples the night before He was crucified... both being on Passover "day"... the Hebrew day starts at sunset... and lasts until the next sunset... which would begin a new day, etc. thus: "**between the evenings**"]

Feast of Unleavened Bread –

(fulfilled in the crucifixion, death, and burial of our Messiah)

(6) The Festival of Unleavened Bread to YAHWEH is on the fifteenth day of the same month. For seven days you must eat unleavened bread. (7) On the first day you are to hold a sacred assembly; you are not to do any daily work. (8) You are to present a fire offering to YAHWEH for seven days. On the seventh day there will be a sacred assembly; you must not do any daily work."

[1 Cor. 5:6-8

(6) Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast permeates the whole batch of dough? (7) Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, since you are unleavened. For Messiah our Passover has been sacrificed. (8) Therefore, let us observe the feast, not with old yeast, or with the yeast of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

When our precious Messiah died and was buried... what the Feast of Unleavened Bread symbolized... **He accomplished**... by literally and really taking our sins away. Leaven, or Yeast, symbolically represented our sin... our sinful actions... our sinful nature... and the affects of sin in our lives... just like yeast affects a lump of dough.]

Day of First Fruits

(9) YAHWEH spoke to Moses: (10) "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you enter the land I am giving you and reap its harvest, you are to bring the first sheaf of your harvest to the priest. (11) He will wave the sheaf before YAHWEH so that you may be accepted; the priest is to wave it on the **day after the Sabbath**. (12) On the day you wave the sheaf, you are to offer a year-old male lamb without blemish as a burnt offering to YAHWEH. (13) Its grain offering is to be four quarts of fine flour mixed with oil as a fire offering to YAHWEH, a pleasing aroma, and its drink offering will be one quart of wine. (14) You must not eat bread, roasted grain, or any new grain until this very day, and you have brought the offering of your God. This is to be a permanent statute throughout your generations wherever you live.

The Day of First Fruits was to occur on the first day of the week (what we call today "Sunday"... i.e. the day after the Sabbath) after Passover. And we know that our Messiah... died and was buried on Passover... and was raised from the dead on the first day of the week... well before the sunrise... in the dark. Which could have been anytime after sunset of what we call "Saturday"... 7PM 8PM... even 2 AM in the morning... but it was still dark.

Albert Barnes' Notes on the Bible [He lived from 1798-1870]

As it began to dawn toward the first day of the week - The word "dawn" is not in the original. The word there properly means as the first day "approached," or drew on, without specifying the precise time. Mark says in Mark 16:1-2 that it was after "the sabbath was past, and very early in the morning, at the rising of the sun" - that is, not that the sun "was risen," but that it was about to rise, or at the early break of day. Luke says in Luke 24:1 that it was "very early in the morning;" in the Greek text, "deep twilight," or when there was scarcely any light. The Apostle John in John 20:1 says it was "very early, while it was yet dark" - that is, it was not yet full daylight, or the sun had not yet risen. The time when they came, therefore, was at the break of day, when the sun was about to rise, but while it was yet so dark as to render objects obscure, or not distinctly visible.

By the time Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb, the Scriptures are pretty clear.. Christ (**our Messiah**) had already risen. The tomb was already Vacant... There was a VACANT sign in the entrance of the tomb. Joseph of Arimathea could still use his tomb when it was his time to go.

1 Cor. 15:20-23

(20) But now **Christ** (*Messiah*) has been raised from the dead, **the first fruits** of those who are asleep. (21) For since by a man came death, by a **Man** also came the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, so also in **Christ** (*Messiah*) all will be made alive. (23) But each in his own order: Christ (*Messiah*) → **the first fruits**, after that, those who are **in Christ** at His coming...

The Passover celebration commemorated the Miraculous deliverance of the descendants of Israel out of slavery... out of bondage from the Egyptians. **God used Moses and Aaron, & God's 10 Plagues** as His instruments to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt... victorious I might add.

On the 10th of Abib (Aviv or Nisan – the first month of the Israeli year)... as Exodus chapter 12 states... all of the Israelite families were to take a male lamb (out of the sheep or goats... but by the time they were in Jerusalem... about the time of Christ... it was mostly sheep → lambs)... they were to take that male lamb one year old or younger... without defect... and that lamb was to live with them in their home for 4 days. Then on the 14th day of the month (the first month of their year)... they were to slit its throat, drain the blood and put it on the lintel and door post of the door(s) of their dwelling. Because that night the ANGEL of YAHWEH would go throughout the land of Egypt and kill the first born of man and beast... unless He would see the blood on the outside of the door on the lintel and posts of those doors. When He would see the blood... He would “Pass Over” that house... not inflicting any death. **And so it happened just like God said.** And Pharaoh's first-born was killed... as well as all those in Egypt that did not have the blood on their door posts and lintels, the blood of the innocent lamb.

The Lamb Sacrifice was necessary to keep God's judgment away... it was a covering. **BTW: God also made provision for the Israelites to invite Gentiles to take part, as well. Isn't that like God... to show mercy and grace in the midst of judgment, even to Gentiles? (Exodus 12:43-49) (Amazing Grace...)**

This remembrance, this celebration continued to look back at God's great judgment against the Egyptians and the tremendous Mercy and Grace given to the Israelites because of the Blood of the Lamb. They were Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb and delivered from the bondage of slavery from Egypt... **victoriously.**

Today... God's Messiah... the Lamb of God... who was sacrificed on **Passover Day**... was buried and took away our sin (**like the feast of Unleavened Bread portrays**) → He took away our sin - once for all... forever... paid for our sin and redeemed us... was raised from the dead Victorious over death, sin, hell, the Devil, and the grave... was raised on **the Day of First Fruits**... the first fruits of those who have been raised from the dead...

Our Messiah... our Redeemer... He has set the captives free from the penalty of sin... the Righteous, Holy Judge... God rightfully should punish all of us for our sin... but GOD in His Great Mercy and Grace... sacrificed His only unique SON... as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world... and set us free from the bondage and slavery to sin... forever more... at the Cross... and through His burial and Resurrection.

God says... **“the wages of sin is death...”** that’s the bad news... we have all BROKEN God’s Righteous and Holy LAWS... & without the blood of the LAMB we are toast (a blow torch to a slice of bread) before a **HOLY, Righteous and JUST GOD...** **BUT** in that same verse... **God gives the GOOD NEWS...**

“but the FREE Gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Rom. 6:23

Peter hits the target with the following:

1 Peter 1:18-19

(18) knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, (19) but with **precious blood**, as of a **Lamb** unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ (*our Messiah*).

Yahshua H'Meshiach (*Jesus Christ*), said the following in

John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, **has** eternal life, and does not (*no, will not ever*) come into judgment, but has **passed out** of death into life.

God’s Punishment of Death has **passed over** that person... the person who **Believes in** Jesus Christ. The blood of the innocent Lamb of God has been applied to the door posts and lintel of the heart of each believer in Christ (in the Messiah of God).

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things **passed away**; behold, new things have come.

Since **God’s WRATH** has **passed over** the believer... the old things have **passed away**... in Christ... in our Messiah... if you are truly in Messiah... and He is in you.

If we are truly in Christ and Christ is truly in us... His blood cleanses us from all sin. God wants us to have relationship with Him and with one another... we see this in:

1 John 1:1-3,7

(1) The One who was from the beginning, the One whom we have heard, the One whom we have seen with our eyes, the One whom we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning **the Word of Life** -- (2) and **That Life** was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you **The Eternal Life, who** was with the Father and was manifested to us -- (3) the One whom we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have **fellowship** with us; and indeed our **fellowship** is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. (7) ... if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have **fellowship** with one another, and **the blood** of Jesus His Son **cleanses** us from all sin.

Sin has been dealt with... now we can have fellowship with God and one another **Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits... the GOAL → Fellowship with God and one another... & inviting the Lost to that fellowship**