

The FIRST PASSEOVER

"when I see the
blood, I will
passover you"

Exodus 12:13

1

3rd Point - God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of Salvation.

A. Preparation for the Passover:

1. Every household was to participate no matter how small, big, or even if they had a male child or not.
 - Exodus 12:4 And if the **household be too little** for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

2

3rd Point - **God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of Salvation.**

2. A lamb was to be “without **blemish, a male of the first year**”

- Exodus 12:5 Your lamb shall be **without blemish**, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the **sheep**, or from the **goats**:
- 1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb **without blemish** and without spot:
 - Note: A “sheep” was more expensive, so a “goat” was also allowed if one was financially challenged.

Timeline of the event: 10th – “**Picking**” day; 14th – “kill it” – A four-day time frame:

- They were to get the lamb on the “*tenth day*” (Exodus 12:3) *and kill it on the “fourteenth day”* (Exodus 12:6) – four days.

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3rd Point - **God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of Salvation.**

2. A lamb was to be “without **blemish, a male of the first year**”

Why keep the lamb for four days?

- They were not to go out with a long-range spear, kill a lamb, and proclaim, “supper’s ready.”
 - There is nothing **personal** about that.

The father brought this special lamb into the home, and the children would pet it, feed it, and possibly become attached to it.

- This lamb started as “**a lamb**” (12:3) among many lambs, then became “**the lamb**” (12:4) that the family selected, to finally “**your lamb**” (12:5), a **personalized** sacrifice for you.

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3rd Point - **God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of Salvation.**

2. Lamb was to be without blemish – Exodus 12:5

- Exodus 12:6 And ye shall keep it up until **the fourteenth day** of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

That Lamb IS CHRIST!

- 1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious **blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:**

The lamb would die in their stead/place.

- John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.
- John 12:27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

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We must stop here to point out a critical Hermeneutics.

Our last slide argues that the Passover Lamb in Exodus 12, whose blood was placed on the house's doorpost, is a "type" or "pre-picture" Christ.

- This point is rarely argued because of obvious Biblical statements.

Your professor has a problem with many preachers who use the terms "types" or "pre-pictured" without understanding theological problems if they are used incorrectly.

- Studies done on the Tabernacle in the wilderness is one of the worst abuses of this view (See Pulpits Bible Commentary) with such statements as:
 - Wood – Humanity of Christ.
 - Gold – Speaks of the humanity of Christ.
- One author taught that what held up the outer wall of the Tabernacle – wooden stakes in the ground- speaks of Jesus as God, but the part of the stake outside of the ground speaks of his humanity.

6

Bible: Basic Hermeneutics Foundation

To explain the direction of our journey, we must lay out our basic hermeneutical foundation for understanding God's Word.

- Any book written on God's Word that **does not explain the writer's foundational style** has *misled its readers.*

It is a **prerequisite** guide to any Old or New Testament study.

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Bible: Basic Hermeneutics Foundation

“Hermeneutics” - the art and science of (in this case) Bible interpretations.

- It comes from the Greek word “Hermes,” as the Greek god Hermes was responsible for imparting the word of the gods to man.

Therefore, the student of God's Word uses Hermeneutics to bring the Bible to a lost world.



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Different Hermeneutical Styles

One of the more difficult studies for most Christians is trying to understand the different hermeneutical **styles** of Bible study.

- On the “**conservative**” side, Dispensational Premillennial is the view that interprets the Bible **most literally**.
 - There are other *close* doctrinal offshoots such as Historical, Progressive Premillennial, or “Mid-Trib” that follow this framework.

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Different Hermeneutical Styles

On the other side of the ledger is the Amillennial view.

- Similar views of Post-Millennial or Preterism, etc.
- They interpret Scripture with a more **figurative** or **“spiritual” emphasis**.
 - Must be careful as “A/M” does take verses literally – i.e., Lord Supper

Key Point between the two main views: How one interprets **Israel** (Old Testament) and the **“Church.”**

- Your interpretation of Israel and the church is the **line of demarcation!**

We will only explain the two main general views.

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Different Hermeneutical Styles

If one holds to Israel being **replaced** by the “Church” (i.e., a visible or invisible body), then your view of the O/T will be based on the **church’s journey of end times**, not Israel.

- Those who hold to this “**replacement**” view will **not** use this word because of the excess church history baggage.
 - Church persecution of Jews from the Crusades in 1099 AD; Spanish Inquisition - 1490 AD; to Germany’s Nazi Holocaust 1939-1942.
 - They will phrase this way:
 - Israel and the Jewish people **were** the “people” of God, and now it is the “Church” that is **now** the “people of God.”
 - It is “semantics” seeking to connect the two groups.

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Different Hermeneutical Styles

A significant challenge of any Bible study is ensuring one stays **true to their style of interpreting Scripture**.

- If Israel is not the church (It isn’t), and the O/T never saw the church age (It didn’t – It was the “mystery”)...
 - Romans 12:5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.
 - Ephesians 4:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;
 - Ephesians 3:2-6 If ye have heard of the **dispensation of the grace of God** which is given me to you-ward: (3) How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, (4) Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the **mystery of Christ**) (5) **Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed** unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; (6) **That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:**

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Different Hermeneutical Styles

...Then, when one explains O/T teachings, it **cannot**, by its foundational hermeneutical style, make it mean **that it is for the church**.

- 2 Timothy 3:16 **All** scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
- This verse does NOT state that the Old Testament is now only for the “church” but to **learn from Israel’s mistakes**.

Unfortunately, church history is littered with different leaders who struggled with apologetics (defending the Christian faith to unbelievers and Jewish people), which resulted in this view of Israel being **replaced by the church**, which has dominated throughout its history.

- On the other hand, the Messianic Community, which does the opposite and has trusted in Christ, seeks to be **part** of Israel.

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Different Hermeneutical Styles - Other interpretation styles that go beyond this class:

1. **Double Reference** - Christ’s First Coming – vs. 9 and His Second Coming – vs. 10
 - Zechariah 9:9-10 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. (10) And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.
2. **Law of Recurrence** (Feast of Trumpets) – One Scripture gives information, and a second verse gives additional information about that same event.
3. **Law of Context** (“A text apart from its context is a pretext”).

However, one style of interpretation that *impacts* our discussion is the teaching of **typology**.

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Different Hermeneutical Styles

So, how does one use typology **correctly** without **making things up that sound spiritual?**

- Done by many in past (and present) church history.

The key to understanding **typology**? It **MUST** have a **New Testament identity**.

- The Passover Feast in Exodus is a **KEY** example as one reads that **Jesus is “our passover”** (I Corinthians 5:7).
 - Six of the seven feasts are found and explained in the New Testament, so therefore, we can call them **types**.
 - The one feast that is not literally mentioned by name in the New Testament is the Feast of Trumpets.

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Argument **against** requiring New Testament identity –
Bakers Dictionary of Theology

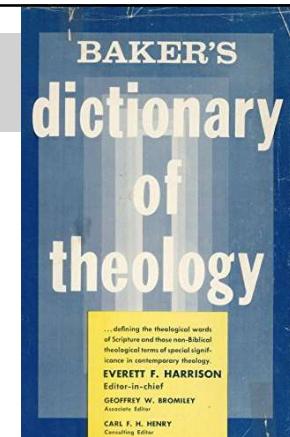
BDT states: “One must be very *cautious* in his study of Bible **types**.”

- There are some dangerous **extremes** to be avoided.

On the one hand...some deny the use of biblical **types altogether** (Prof. - *straw man argument*).

- Obviously, this is a *radical* view contrary to the teaching of the Bible itself.

“Others, though, feel that using types in the Scriptures is quite *limited*. **Accordingly, one can only identify a type when the New Testament specifically does so.**” (**your prof’s view**)



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Argument **against** requiring New Testament identity – **Bakers Dictionary of Theology**

"This is an extreme position. (prof. - according to BDT). If one followed a similar line of reasoning, he might assert that there are no prophecies in the Old Testament save those which are specifically quoted in the New Testament."

- Prof. - This is actually the view of Amillennialism

So, an “extreme position” on types, according to Baker’s Dictionary of Theology, is to **require** a New Testament identity (**Prof’s view**).

- We do not believe it is “extreme” but actually **biblical**.

The *B/D of Theology* author then compares/confuses/builds a straw man by comparing **typology** with **prophecy**.

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Our response to this argument and extreme label!

Unfortunately, these arguments from Non-dispensational scholars like Ladd and *Baker’s Dictionary of Theology* mix two different types of “genre” or Bible studies.

- Typology, by its nature, **requires** an **end match** as it lends itself from a **shadow to fulfillment**, whereas **prophecy is different**.
- How can one know something is a shadow if there is **no match** in the New Testament?
 - So, one can “MAKE STUFF UP” – and call it a “type” or “prefigure”!

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Prophecy is different...Let's illustrate from Bible text:

Isaiah 11:11 is a prophecy because it plainly states that Israel will be regathered a second time in the future.

- Isaiah 11:11 And **it shall come to pass in that day**, that the Lord shall set his hand again the **second time** to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

The text **demands** it to be understood as prophecy.

- One does **NOT** need a New Testament match!

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Prophecy is different...Let's illustrate from Bible text:

Isaiah 11:11 is a prophecy because it plainly states that in the future, Israel will be regathered a second time.

One might not know the exact time, but it *will* happen!!

- The N/T never states/quotes Isaiah 11:11 directly, so we have **no confirmation of** when it actually takes place.
- It does **NOT** have to as prophecies from Old and New must be **joined together to forge one history**.

Prophecy, by its very style, reveals that it will happen and, therefore, does not **need** another direct text to prove or explain it.

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Our response to this argument and extreme label!

An Amillennialist (or non-dispensational) position switches this around in understanding typology and prophecy.

- They (A/M) see typology as not needing N/T connection but will state that prophecy **must** have a New Testament explanation.
 - They would argue that any O/T verse that dealt with prophecy **must** be explained in light of the New Testament explanation.

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Our response to this argument and extreme label!

Many O/T verses of prophecy have no New Testament connection.

- Example: The 70th week of Daniel chapter 9 (Matthew 24:15 alludes to it) or any prophecy dealing with the land of Israel.
- They conveniently **throw out** those O/T verses with the argument “who can interpret that particular verse[s]”:
 - “It confesses that it cannot be sure how the Old Testament prophecies of the end are to be fulfilled.”
 - *The Meaning of the Millennium: Four Views* by Robert G. Clouse, IVP, 1977, pg. 27

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Key: What did the Old Testament see?

O/T did not see the Church (“mystery”), which includes the Rapture.

- Ephesians 3:2-6 If ye have heard of the **dispensation of the grace of God** which is given me to you-ward: (3) How that by revelation he **made known unto me the mystery**; (as I wrote afore in few words, (4) Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the **mystery of Christ**) (5) **Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men**, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; (6) **That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:**

O/T did see:

1. The coming Messiah (Gen. 3:14, Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 53) – His birth, death, Resurrection (There are other verses, to name just a few.)
2. Tribulation (Daniel 9/ Jeremiah 30:7 – Time of Jacob’s Trouble - TJT),
3. Millennial Kingdom (Ezekiel 40-48)
4. New Jerusalem (Garden of Eden – Temple).

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“Proper Way” to interpret O/T quotes found in the N/T

(Adapted from Fruchtenbaum – *Israelology*)

Four different styles of interpretation:

1. O/T prophecy is **literally fulfilled** in the N/T.
2. A **type** made by the N/T writer **from the O/T**.
3. An **application** from the O/T.
4. **Summary** of what the prophets actually said in the Old Testament, which is then said to be fulfilled *literally* in the New Testament.

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3rd Point - **God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of Salvation.**

1. Every household was to participate no matter how small, big, or even if they had a male child or not.
2. Lamb was to be without blemish – Exodus 12:5
3. All **leaven** was to be removed (symbol of **corruption** – Leviticus 2:11).
 - Leviticus 2:11 No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto the LORD, shall be **made with leaven**: for **ye shall burn no leaven**, nor any honey, in any offering of the LORD made by fire.

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3rd Point - **God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of Salvation.**

B. Procedure in the Passover – Notice the added steps by the rabbis)

1. **Blood** was put on the two side post and on the upper door post - *“a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood”* (Exodus 12:7,22; Hebrews 9:22).
 - Exodus 12:7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the **two side posts** and on the **upper door post** of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.
 - Exodus 12:22 And ye shall take a **bunch of hyssop**, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.
 - Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

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Hyssop – Old Testament Teaching of forgiveness of Sin



27

Hyssop



1st Passover (10th and final plague) - Exodus 12, the blood of the lamb was placed on the door post so when God passed over, your oldest born would be saved from death.

- How did the blood get placed on the door?
 - “And ye shall take a bunch of **hyssop**, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.” (Exodus 12:22)

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Hyssop

- The “hyssop” plant is an excellent sponge and was used in different sacrificial rites.
- It began with its use in the applying of the blood on the door at the Passover but did not stop there.



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Hyssop



It was used to **cleans the leper** in the day of his cleansing:

- “Then shall the priest command to take for him that is to be cleansed two birds alive and clean, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and **hyssop**:” (Leviticus 14:4)

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Hyssop



It was also used to **purify the people**:

- “And a clean person shall take **hyssop**, and dip it in the water, and sprinkle it upon the tent, and upon all the vessels, and upon the persons that were there, and upon him that touched a bone, or one slain, or one dead, or a grave:” (Numbers 19:18)

Hyssop is used in the Bible **12 times** and 11 times it occurs in the **context of purification** (as Solomon in his wisdom describes the trees in I Kings 4:33)

- 1 Kings 4:33 And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the **hyssop that springeth out of the wall**: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.

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Hyssop



David (understanding the impact of this word) used the word “hyssop” as a **metaphor** that indicated the means of his forgiveness was through the blood of a sacrifice:

- “Purge me with **hyssop**, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.” (Psalms 51:7)

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Impact/fulfillment of understanding of “hyssop” taught in the OT:



The word **hyssop** is used just before Jesus died on the cross at the Passover Feast:

- “Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon **hyssop**, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.” (John 19:29-30)

33

Impact/fulfillment of understanding of “hyssop”



His last act on the cross showed the fulfillment of hyssop.

- **As** the blood was placed on the **hyssop** at the 1st Passover in Exodus 12 and applied to the door as the means for forgiveness through the blood of a sacrifice (in this case, a spotless/pure lamb),
- **So, hyssop** was used at the **crucifixion** of our Saviour to be applied to all who accept Him as Saviour and final sacrifice, will have atonement for their sins thus **confirming** David’s statement:
 - “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”(Psalms 51:7)

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3rd Point - **God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of Salvation.**

4. Flesh (roasted with fire) of the lamb was to be eaten, nothing to remain. They were to eat unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
 - Exodus 12:8-10 And they shall eat the flesh in that night [14th of Nisan], roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. (9) Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance [*entrails or internal parts*] thereof. (10) And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.

Notice what was supposed to be eaten on the Passover:

1. Flesh of the lamb that had been “roasted with fire”
2. Unleavened bread”
3. Bitter herbs.

The Rabbis have added several other elements, which we will explain later.

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3rd Point - **God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of Salvation.**

5. Loins were girded, shoes on your feet, staff in your hand - ate in haste (Exodus 12:11).
 - Exodus 12:11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the **LORD'S passover**.

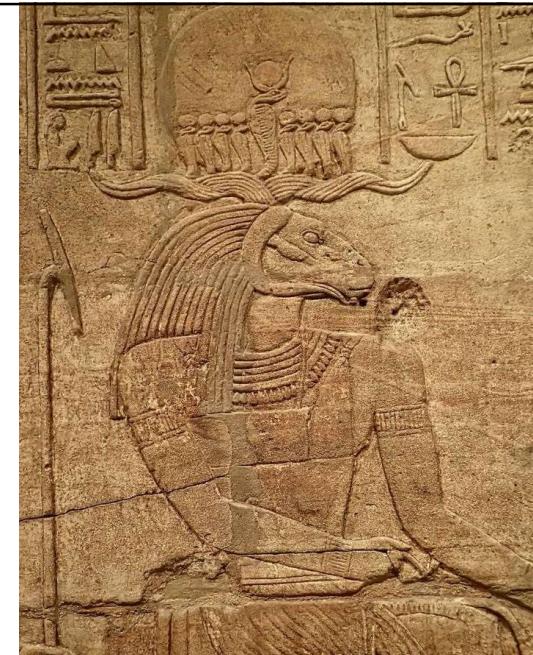
Passover was all about Freedom.

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3rd Point - God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of **Salvation**.

To the Egyptians, the lamb was a “god” (Amen Re), and to kill it meant death.

- One had to take a stand before all and confess that the Jehovah God of Moses, and not the Egyptian “gods,” would save them.
 - The blood was placed outside of the home so that **all** could see!
 - Exodus 12:7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the **two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses**, wherein they shall eat it.



Ram-headed Amun-re on the Shrine of the 25th dynasty pharaoh - Photographed at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, United Kingdom.

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3rd Point - God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of **Salvation**.

The lamb pictured the coming Messiah, teaching Israel that their redemption lay not in their own hands (works salvation), but in an innocent, perfect substitutionary lamb.

- John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the **sin** of the world.
“sin’ - αἵματία – hamartia (noun) – **Singular**

This speaks of the Passover Lamb (offered once a year) **and** the lambs offered daily and nightly for Aaron and his son's sanctification.

- Exodus 29:38-39 Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; **two lambs of the first year day by day continually.** (39) The one lamb thou shalt offer in the **morning**; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at **even:**

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3rd Point - **God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of Salvation.**

The lamb pictured the coming Messiah, teaching Israel that their redemption lay not in their own hands (works salvation) but in an innocent, perfect substitutionary lamb.

- Hebrews 9:26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to **put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.**
Salvation would not rest in their circumcision or nationality.
- Only through the blood of that special lamb was one saved.

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3rd Point - **God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of Salvation.**

C. Old Testament Picture of the Passover Feast:

1. Salvation lay in God seeing the "**blood**": "*when I see the blood*" (Exodus 12:13)
- Exodus 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: **and when I see the blood**, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

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Procedure for the Passover Sacrifice

The blood of the lamb was put on the side posts and upper posts of the door.

- Notice they were not supposed to put the lamb's body on the door.
- It is the death of the specified substitute and the application of its blood that saved –
 - "For the life of the flesh is in the blood" (Leviticus 17:11).
- The flesh (roasted with fire) of the lamb was to be eaten, nothing was to remain.
 - They were to eat unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
- They were to be dressed, shoes on their feet, staff in their hands, and eat the meal in haste (Exodus 12:8-11).

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The Picture of the Passover

Salvation lay in God's seeing the blood:

- "When I see the blood, I will pass over you" (Exodus 12:13).
- Fulfillment:** Shedding Christ's blood for salvation is for all who believe.
 - Matthew 26:28 For this is my **blood** of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
 - Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath **purchased with his own blood**.
 - Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a **propitiation through faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

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The Picture of the Passover

Salvation lay in God's seeing the blood: "When I see the blood, I will pass over you" (Exodus 12:13). **Fulfillment:** Shedding Christ's blood for salvation is for all who believe.

- Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now **justified by his blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through him.
- Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have **redemption through his blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
- Colossians 1:20 And, having made **peace through the blood of his cross**, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.
- Hebrews 9:20 Saying, This is the **blood of the testament** which God hath enjoined unto you.
- Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the **law purged with blood**; and without shedding of blood is no remission.
- 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the **blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**

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3rd Point - **God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of Salvation.**

2. The Passover was to be a "**memorial**."

- "memorial" - Webster Dictionary - "anything meant to help people remember some person or event, as a statue, holiday, etc."

Fulfillment: The Lord's Supper is to memorialize Christ's death.

- "**For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.**" (I Corinthians 11:26)

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3rd Point - **God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of Salvation.**3. It was to be "**forever**!" (Ex. 12:24-27)

- Exodus 12:24-27 And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons **for ever**. (25) And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service. (26) And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? (27) That ye shall say, It is **the sacrifice of the LORD'S passover**, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped.

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3rd Point - **God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of Salvation.**3. Passover Feast - It was to be "**forever**!" (Exodus 12:24-27)

Fulfillment: Just as the Passover celebration was to be a **memorial** of God's salvation and the beginning of a nation, so is the new birth and the eternal potency of the blood of Christ on our behalf.

- Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.
- Ephesians 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of **his promise in Christ** by the gospel:

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The Picture of the Passover

The Passover was to be celebrated **forever** (Exodus 12:14)!

- This is important! Many cults teach their members that they are participating in the Passover and use this verse as their basis of support.
- Because churches are made up of Gentiles, some question why their church does not observe it.

Let me give an illustration and then explain what “forever” means.

- “forever” - עולם - ‘ôlâm - Noun

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Again, let me illustrate this point;

A lady confronted me (after learning that I was a Jewish believer) and asked if I “do the Passover Feast” at my house. She proclaimed how special and spiritual it would be to “do the Passover.” She was surprised to find out that I had never done the Passover in my own home since I became a Christian.

- To illustrate my answer, I asked her, “Which would you rather have, a picture of your husband or your husband standing next to you.”
- She looked teasingly at him for a poignant pause, as only a long-time married couple would, and finally answered that she would obviously want him in person.
- I replied, “Why would you want to ‘do the Passover, which is a **picture** of the Messiah who would die when you can have Him in your heart?’”

I enjoy teaching churches the Passover but let us never forget that it was only a picture of the Messiah to come

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The Passover Feast is “forever” ...

As explained by Matthew 5:17, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to **fulfill**.”

- As the High Priest presented the blood of the sacrifice in the Tabernacle, so Christ presented His blood to God for us.

It was to be a “holy convocation” (Exodus 12:16).

- The word convocation means “an assembly.”
- Moses did not tell the nation of Israel that when they felt spiritual, they should go out into the wilderness and partake of the Passover.

The Passover was given to Israel (as were all the feasts), who would assemble themselves together, and only those who met certain criteria could participate.

- This explains why the “Lord’s Supper,” which is the **completion** of the Passover, was given as an ordinance to the church along with baptism.

49

3rd Point - **God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of Salvation.**

4. It was to last **seven days** (Exodus 12:15) “Seven” is the number of completeness.

Fulfillment: Jesus' final words, “**It is finished**” (John 19:30).

5. All leaven was to **removed**.

Fulfillment: “...For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice, and wickedness: but with the unleavened bread of **sincerity and truth.**” (I Corinthians 5:7-8)

- “truth” - Jesus said: John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the **truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

50

3rd Point - **God Would Show Israel & the World Who He is by the Way of Salvation.**

6. *“holy convocation”* (Exodus 12:16) - an assembly.

Fulfillment: The local church was given two ordinances - Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

- **Note:** The Passover was not given to a mythical group in which anyone could participate. It was given to a local group that met certain criteria.

51

Fulfillment: Shedding of Christ’s blood for salvation is for all who believe.

- Matthew 26:28 For this is **my blood of the new testament**, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
- Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, **which he hath purchased with his own blood.**
- Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a **propitiation through faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
- Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now **justified by his blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

52

Fulfillment: Shedding of Christ's blood for salvation is for all who believe.

- Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have **redemption through his blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
- Colossians 1:20 And, having made **peace through the blood** of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.
- Hebrews 9:20 Saying, This is the **blood of the testament** which God hath enjoined unto you.
- Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law **purged with blood**; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

53

Fulfillment: Shedding of Christ's blood for salvation is for all who believe.

- 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**
- Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and **washed us from our sins in his own blood,**
- Revelation 12:11 And **they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb**, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

54

Hymn – What Can Wash Away My Sin?

Music and Words: Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

1. What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
- Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
2. For my cleansing this I see—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
For my pardon this my plea—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
3. Nothing can my sin erase
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
Naught of works, 'tis all of grace—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
4. This is all my hope and peace—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
This is all my righteousness—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!



His best-known hymns include "Shall We Gather at the River", "Christ Arose!", "How Can I Keep from Singing?" and "Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus."

Born in Philadelphia, Lowry studied at the University at Lewisburg and entered the Baptist ministry in 1854.

The New Testament Application of the Passover

The Lamb of God! Upon seeing Jesus (John 1:19), John the Baptist proclaimed that Jesus was “the Lamb of God”!

- This showed that John strongly understood the Old Testament concept of “the lamb.”
- John had been preaching righteousness so that the nation of Israel might realize they were sinners.
- This was the purpose of the law and of John’s message.
- He wanted the people to understand that the lambs, slain repeatedly in the Old Testament, were done to bring them to see that Jesus was that final “Lamb of God.”

The **New Testament** Application of the Passover

It was also at this time that John's disciples, who had been saved under his ministry - Andrew, Simon Peter, Philip, and Nathaniel - followed Jesus,

- “And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus” (John 1:37).
- There ought to be a special relationship with the individual who brought you to Christ.
- Yet, we must keep our eyes and hearts on the Saviour - not on man!

57

Lamb of God – For an **Individual** – **Adam understood it!**

God teaches and illustrates, so all mankind can understand from the very beginning, the known:

- Sin caused a separation from Him.
- God also began to teach how sin was to be forgiven.
- Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, God informs us that there is a need for a sacrifice as a sin payment. God killed an animal and “clothed them” with the outer skin (Gen. 3:21).
- He also promised that because of this sin, there would be a need for a Messiah who would be that final sacrifice for the world (Gen. 3:15).

58

Lamb of God – For an Individual – Adam understood it!

The death of an animal was to show the **known** –

- The need for a death not of Adam's making, to this **unknown**, the final sacrifice of the Messiah to all the world.
- Because of Adam's fall, all mankind died spiritually,
 - "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive," (I Corinthians 15:22).

Christ the Messiah was to be the last Adam –

- "The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." (I Corinthians 15:45).

In Adam, we take on his sinful nature; in Christ, we receive His covering, an imputed spiritual nature.

59

The offering of Abel and Cain in Genesis 4 - **Continues** this picture of the Messiah

Abel was a "keeper of sheep" (vs.2), and his sin offering ("sin lieth at the door"—vs.7) was accepted because it was to picture the future "final sacrifice."

- Abel's offering was not of his own making and was given by faith.
- "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous" (Hebrews 11:4).

Yet this picture was never to supersede the final sacrifice, as the Jewish leaders had decided.

- "And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel" (Hebrews 12:24).
- Cain's offering lacked both blood and faith, as was required.
 - Cain was a "tiller of the ground" (Genesis 4:2).
 - He brought "the fruit of the ground" as his sacrifice and offering demonstrated his inner thoughts.

60

Cain did NOT understand it!

Cain: He was educated by the same parents, yet disobedient to their teaching (a chip off the old block - see Genesis 3:1-7).

- He became the poster boy for all who think their own good works are all that is required by a Holy and Righteous God for the forgiveness of sin.
- The world today has this same inner thought that good works will get them to heaven.
- They do not recognize themselves as sinners as defined by a Holy and Righteous God.

It would be interesting to survey your neighborhood and ask, “What is your definition of sin?”

- You will probably hear an assortment of answers: disobedience toward parents, teachers, police, or government.

61

Cain did NOT understand it!

But what is sin?

- I John 3:4 tells us - “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”
- Sin is not what seems good to you or me but what the Word of God, the Bible, tells us it is.

Only through the Messiah, the Christ, are our sins forgiven.

- He has made the way for our lack of righteousness to be supplied (Christ imputed righteousness) and our sin record to be removed.

This is why John the Baptist exclaimed - “Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the **sin** of the World” (John 1:29).

62

Individual: Abraham Understood it!

Abraham understood this concept of the Messiah, who would be sacrificed for the forgiveness of sin (Genesis 22).

- Abraham's salvation was in this same Messiah.
- His salvation, like everyone else's from time and eternity, was based on faith –
 - "He **believed** in the LORD; and he counted it to him of righteousness" (Genesis 15:6).

Salvation has always been by faith.

1. It was by faith in the Old Testament.
2. It is by faith in the New Testament (Ephesians 2:8-9).

63

Abraham Understood it!

3. And despite preachers like John Haggie and Peter Ruckman teaching a work's salvation during the seven-year tribulation period, salvation will be by faith during this time as well.
4. And during the thousand years Millennial Reign of Christ, it will be by faith.

A pastor once questioned me after preaching in a service, "What did Abraham have faith in? Was it in leaving his homeland, his father and mother?" The answer is NO! Paul tells us,

- "Even as Abraham **believed** God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the **same** are the children of Abraham" (Galatians 3:6-7).

64

Abraham Understood it!

Abraham's faith was in the promised seed, who would come from the seed of a woman (Genesis 3:15), die (Genesis 3:21), and be accepted by God (Abel's offering—Genesis 4:4).

- When God commanded Isaac to be offered as a sacrifice on Mt. Moriah (Genesis 22), there was no **hesitation** on Abraham's part.

Others put forth three suggestions:

1. Some have surmised that Abraham was upset by having sent Ishmael and Hagar away to die in the desert (Genesis 16) and may have felt it was only justice that this son receive equal punishment.
2. Other liberals and Bible critics rage at this chapter and question its authenticity. After all, is this not child abuse?
3. Rabbinic commentaries allege that Abraham knew that God did not require a human sacrifice in worship and would stop the execution. So, Abraham only went through the motions to show his faith.

65

Abraham Understood it!

Those groups' blindness to the Gospel misses one of the most illustrative Messianic chapters.

- Understand that Abraham never questioned God when told to kill his "only son" - Genesis 22:2 (this clearly identifies that Ishmael was not the legitimate heir to the Abrahamic Covenant in Genesis 12:1-3).

After all, did Abraham not lie to the Egyptians about his wife, saying she was his sister (Genesis 12:12-13)?

- This half-truth (Genesis 20:12), done to save his own life, shows that he was capable of refusing to do what God had commanded.
- What extraordinary lengths would a father go to save his own son?

The answer to why **Abraham never questioned God**, he knew of the coming Messiah, who was to be from the seed of a woman, to be "bruised" (Genesis 3:15 - i.e., killed), and to be resurrected.

But how did he know?

66

Abraham - Noah - Moses - Isaiah Understood it!

He thought that Isaac was that Promised Messiah! The key to Abraham's obedience was that God commanded Abraham to offer Isaac as a "**burnt offering**."

- Genesis 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a **burnt offering** upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

"**burnt offering**" – Noah Understood what this meant

- The **burnt offering** is first mentioned in Genesis 8:20 after a worldwide flood.
 - Genesis 8:20 And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered **burnt offerings** on the altar.
- Noah personally recognized that his physical and spiritual salvation came from God and his promised Savior!

After Moses entered the Tabernacle (Exodus 40), the book of Leviticus *formalized the burnt offering* and the other four major ones (meat, peace, sin, and trespass) for a nation (Leviticus 1-5).

67

Abraham - Noah - Moses - Isaiah Understood it!

In Leviticus 1, the one who gave the offering was to identify personally with the burnt offering as **his substitute for His death**, the death of the coming Messiah.

- "And he shall put his **hand upon the head** of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make **atonement for him**." (Leviticus 1:4).

Unlike all the other offerings, this one was not to be eaten but totally burnt—except for one part...the outer skin (Leviticus 7:8).

- Leviticus 7:8 And the priest that offereth any man's burnt offering, even the priest shall have to himself **the skin of the burnt offering** which he hath offered.

68

Abraham - Noah – Moses - Isaiah Understood it!

Why was the outer skin not **burnt**? Just as the lamb was killed in Genesis 3:21 and its outer skin covered Adam and Eve's sin, this offering pictured the coming Messiah's death.

Through a personal relationship with Him, His righteousness covers us.

Isaiah the prophet spoke of this covering –

- “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with garments of salvation, **he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness...**” (Isaiah 61:10)

69

Abraham - Noah – Moses - Isaiah Understood it!

Notice that Abraham understood all this and believed that when he killed Isaac, God would raise him back to life.

- In Genesis 22:5, Abraham told his servants that...“I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come **again** to you.”

If we had been one of Abraham's servants, we would have asked, “But Abraham, how can both of you come back if you are going to kill your son?” He would have replied, “God will raise him back up!”

- This is why God required Abraham to offer up Isaac as a **burnt offering**.
- He concluded that Isaac was that Promised Messiah that God had spoken about.

The New Testament confirmed this –

- “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered us his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: **Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure**” (Hebrews 11:17-19).

70

Abraham – Noah – Moses - Isaiah Understood it!

Isaac also had an understanding of this offering.

- Once getting to the top of the mountain, he finds his father in an error.
- In this personal exchange, God reveals the most important aspect of the Messiah.
- Isaac reminds Abraham of his previous teaching of the burnt offering by saying:
 - “Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a **burnt offering?**” (vs. 7).
- One could even picture Isaac saying this with a smile, possibly beginning to walk down the mountain as if to get a lamb.

71

Abraham – Noah – Moses - Isaiah Understood it!

He understood the requirements for the offering, but he **missed its meaning or the purpose** behind why it was done.

- Abraham's response illustrates who this Messiah will be.

Scripture already revealed that the Messiah was from a woman's seed.

- He was to die (Genesis 3:21; 8:20) and be resurrected (Genesis 22).

Now, it is revealed that this man, the Messiah, would also be **God HIMSELF!**

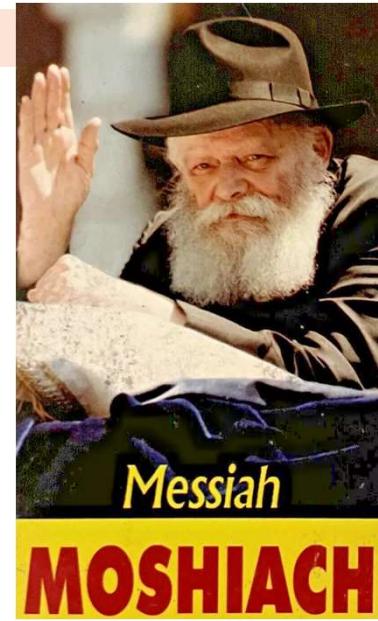
- “And Abraham said, My son, God will provide **himself** a lamb for a burnt offering ...” **The Messiah is to be the God/man!**

72

Let me illustrate this picture with a true-life story.

Years ago (1976), as a second-year Bible college student, my brother Shlomo (a Hasidic Lubavitch rabbi) invited me to visit New York to see him.

- Being a typical student (I had no money), I declined his offer, though I wanted to go. He said if I came, he would pay for the trip. I immediately accepted his offer. That Friday night in New York, I attended the synagogue with him.
- As Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson entered, my brother told me that many Jewish leaders thought this rabbi was perfect, without sin, and the Messiah!



73

Let me illustrate this picture with a true-life story.

Now, the “rest of the story!”

- At this rabbi’s death (June 1994), a large group of rabbis stayed at his graveside, expecting him to resurrect from the grave. Of course, he did not come out, for even if we gave him the benefit of the doubt that somehow, by **their** definition, Rabbi Schneerson **was perfect**, he still could **not** be the Messiah.
- For the Messiah was to be the God/Man - for “God will provide **HIMSELF** a lamb for a burnt offering” (Genesis 22:8).

The Prophet Isaiah also confirms that the Messiah MUST be God/Man

- Isaiah 43:11 I, even I, am the **LORD**; and beside me there is no saviour.
 - LORD – **Tetragrammaton** is the four-letter יהוה - YHWH

74

Note the conclusion to this story in Genesis 22.

After stopping Abraham from killing Isaac, what did God supply in the thicket? It was a ram.

- Now, one might ask, “Why a ram? I thought Abraham was to use a lamb as a sacrifice?”
- It is the same reason God told Israel that they could use a sheep, goat, or lamb for the Passover (Exodus 12:5).
 - The Webster Dictionary defines a lamb as “a baby sheep.” It calls the mother sheep a “ewe” and the adult male sheep a “ram.”
- The goat is “a cud-chewing mammal related to the sheep.” It was for those who were poor.

The Passover (like salvation) is for all, rich or poor.

- The Messiah would be an adult male (ram) and was/is God Himself!

75

Lamb of God: Solomon Understood it!

Solomon continued the sacrifices after the temple was built.

- “Also king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel that were assembled unto him before the ark, **sacrificed sheep and oxen**” (II Chronicles 5:6).

They could now approach God’s heavenly throne, which is what the Temple pictured!

- 2 Chronicles 6:18 But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less **this house** which I have built!

76

Lamb of God: Solomon Understood it!

Solomon continued the sacrifices after the temple was built.

Praise God that we, as New Testament saints, are forgiven and sanctified by the blood of the Messiah, and in like manner, through His blood, we can approach God.

- In Malachi 1:6-8, God condemns the nation of Israel for offering “the lame and the sick” for a sacrifice (vs.8).

God tells them that these sickly animals would have been an affront to an earthly governor. How much more would it be to a heavenly Governor?

- This showed the terrible state Israel had reached in which their outward legalistic acts were more important than what they represented.
- The nation began to feel that it was the “thought that counts.”

77

Lamb of God: Solomon Understood it! - Three Illustrations

Let me illustrate: If the governor of your state came to your church, would you not give him the best seat in the building? Would you give him some Bible that had been scribbled and colored in? Or would you go out and find the best Bible you could afford to give him because of his position and honor? How much more should we give God, the Creator of the universe, our best?

Second: A few weeks before the Thanksgiving holiday, a lady called a “turkey” hotline that had been set up to help individuals properly bake a turkey. She asked if a turkey had been in the freezer for 20 years and if cooking would be okay. The man explained that technically, if her freezer had never broken down and was always below zero degrees Celsius, then she could cook it. He concluded, however, that he would not recommend cooking it because the turkey would probably not taste very good. She replied, “That was what I thought, so we donated it to the church!” God deserves our very best, not leftovers or tips.

78

Lamb of God: Solomon Understood it! - Three Illustrations

Third: One can imagine the oldest son on that fateful Passover night 3,500 years ago telling his father not to worry about putting the blood on the door. With thoughts of, “God knows my heart, surely He will not kill me! After all, the Hittites are playing against the Philistines for the championship. **I think not!** I surmise that if my life or your life were on the line, we would be checking and making sure that Dad did everything correctly. I can picture a boy looking closely at the door yelling to Dad, “Hey, you missed a spot here, or it looks a little dry over there.” It is important what you believe; your physical and spiritual life depends on it.

79

Lamb of God – **For the World** - Israel and the World were to Understand It!

Without any contact with God in over 400 years, and now under Roman rule and dominion, Israel looked for a Moses-type Messiah to lead them.

- Upon hearing of John the Baptist’s preaching to the nation of Israel without rabbinic authority, the leaders sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ascertain his status or position.

The Jewish leaders had the responsibility of checking out all religious teachers to verify that what they were teaching was from God.

80

Lamb of God – **For the World** - Israel and the World were to Understand It!

The Jewish leaders checked all teachers to see if it was from God.

- Deuteronomy 13:1-5 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and **giveth thee a sign or a wonder**, (2) And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, **Let us go after other gods**, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; (3) Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. (4) Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. (5) And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, **shall be put to death**; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.
- Deuteronomy 18:20-22 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. (21) And if thou say in thine heart, **How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?** (22) When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, **but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.**

81

Israel and the World were to Understand It!

The Sanhedrin did this during the time of Christ.

- They asked him three questions in John 1:19-34. “Who art thou?” (John 1:19)

In other words, “Who gave you the **authority** to preach and baptize without our permission?”

- They asked Jesus this same question in Luke 20:2.
 - Luke 20:2 And spake unto him, saying, Tell us, by what **authority** doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority?

In Jesus’ day, there were only two major schools, or as we would call it in today’s language, “Bible Colleges.”

- The **School of Hillel** is where Saul (later - Apostle Paul) learned at the feet of Gamaliel (Acts 22:3) and the **school of Shammai**.

Only the Messiah himself had the right to preach without their approval; therefore, they asked, are you that “Christ?”

82

Israel and the World were to Understand It!

The word “Christ” is from the Greek word “christos” meaning “anointed.”

- It is from the Hebrew word Moshiach which means “Messiah.” Many individuals have claimed Messiahship after Jesus.
- In 43 AD, Theudas claimed to be the Messiah but was beheaded and his disciples killed. Now, this is NOT the one Gamaliel mentioned, which was before 33 AD.
 - Acts 5:36 For before these days rose up **Theudas**, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought.

83

emperor Claudius

Israel and the World were to Understand It!



Josephus mentions a second Theudas (Jewish Antiquities 20.97-98):

- He took a group of followers to the Jordan River and, through witchcraft, parted the waters in two (like Joshua 3-4).
- This Theudas swayed many people as he spoke with authority.

Unfortunately, an officer (procurator) named Cuspius Fadus (appointed by **emperor Claudius** 44-46 AD) ended his rebellion, killed his followers, and brought him back alive to behead him.

- He came after Herod Agrippa (also called Herod II or Agrippa 1)

84

Israel and the World were to Understand It!

Bar Kochba

In 132 AD, Bar Kochba claimed to be the Messiah and led a revolt against Rome.

- One of the greatest Jewish rabbinic leaders, Rabbi Akiba, endorsed him, but in the end, both were killed.



85

Israel and the World were to Understand It!

John confessed that he was not “the Christ.”

- “Art thou Elias?” they then asked.

Why would they ask John this question?

- Every Jewish person is looking for Elijah to announce that the Messiah has come.
 - “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.” (Malachi 4:5; see also Malachi 3:1).
- Though John was not Elijah, Jesus said in Matthew 11:14, “And if ye will receive it, this Elias, which was for to come”
- This points out that John was Elijah because he ministered in the “spirit and the power of Elijah” (Luke 1:17).

86

Israel and the World were to Understand It!

“Art thou **that** prophet?” (John 1:21) was their final question to John.

God promises to send a “Prophet” -

- Deuteronomy 18:15-19 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a **Prophet** from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; (16) According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not. (17) And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken. (18) I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put **my words in his mouth**; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. (19) And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

The Qumran group (the Dead Sea scrolls were found) erroneously believed these **three** individuals would each be a Messiah.

- Others thought that the “Prophet” would be Jeremiah.
- Matthew 16:14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, **Jeremias**, or one of the prophets.

87

Israel and the World were to Understand It!

But both Peter (Acts 3:22-23). and Stephen (Acts 7:37) proclaimed that the prophet was Jesus the Christ.

- Acts 3:22-23 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A **prophet shall the Lord your God raise up** unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. (23) And it shall come to pass, that **every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.**
- Acts 7:37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, **A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.**

This group should have understood John’s reply, for he proclaims that he is “the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord as said by the prophet Esa’ias” (vs.23).

88

Israel and the World were to Understand It!

His remarks made no impression on them because they had made the coming of Christ “of none effect” (I Corinthians 1:17).

- When the “wisdom of words” (Jewish commentaries) supplanted the very “Word of God,” it stopped the power of Scripture and missed its meaning.

John was quoting Isaiah 40:3.

- Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

The Assyrians captured the Northern Kingdom in 722 BC.

- Isaiah told Hezekiah (King of Judah) of the impending doom and capture of the Southern Kingdom by Babylon in chapter 39.

But Isaiah told him not to fear, for in chapter 40, God promises to send a **restoration for his people**.

- He would restore them spiritually.

89

The Sacrifices in the Old Testament Were Never Efficacious or Effectual.

The blood of the animals could never take away sin.

Hebrews chapter 10 makes that clear:

- “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sin” (vs. 4).

But even without New Testament understanding, the Jewish people should still have understood and known this fact.

- “How?” one may ask.

1. For the Messiah was to come from the seed of a woman (Genesis 3:15).
2. The Messiah was to be a man, not an animal.
3. God would provide Himself as that lamb for a burnt offering (Genesis 22:8).

Thus, the Messiah was to be the God/Man.

90

Israel and the World were to Understand It!

The nation of Israel was to look to the coming Lamb, who was prophesied to die for the world

- “He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter” (Isaiah 53:7).
- 1. Only Jesus the Christ is worthy to take away the “sin of the world.”
- 2. Only Christ lived a perfect life based on the Old Testament, not rabbinic interpretation.
- 3. Only Christ is truly God.

Philip asked Jesus to show him God the Father, and Jesus replied,

- “he that hath seen me hath seen the Father” (John 14:9).

Christ is the Triunity of the Godhead. Only Christ could be our substitute.

91

Israel and the World were to Understand It!

Let me illustrate:

A church in Europe began a new building program. The men of the church were putting the shingles on the roof when a gust of wind blew, and one of them lost his balance and fell. The scream from his lips alerted the others of his impending doom. Everyone immediately rushed down to see if somehow, they could help. As the group came upon the fallen man, they were astonished that this man who had fallen two stories began to rise up off the ground. Their surprise turned to understanding as they saw that a lamb who had been grazing near the building had broken the man's fall and had died. The man was so grateful to the lamb that he made an image of it in stone and placed it on the building as a memorial. **What a great illustration** of Jesus's death taking the wrath of God for our sins. When we fell because of our sin, Jesus, the Lamb of God, took upon himself our sin and the wrath of God so that we may have eternal life

92

We know from the Old Testament
that Israel lost sight of the
importance of the Passover.

93

Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast

1. First Passover was in Egypt (Exodus 12)
2. It was in the wilderness of Sinai (Numbers 9:1-14) –
 - Note the following events that took place on this one.

94

Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast – #2 interesting!

Numbers 9:1-14 And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year **after** they were come out of the land of Egypt [**this is the 2nd time Israel kept the P/O**], saying, (2) Let the children of Israel also keep the passover at his **appointed season** (תַּעֲמִד - mô'ēd). (3) In the fourteenth day of this month, at even, ye shall keep it in his appointed season: according to all the rites of it, and according to all the ceremonies thereof, shall ye keep it. (4) And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, that they should keep the passover. (5) And they kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the first month at even in the wilderness of Sinai: according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did the children of Israel.

- “**appointed season**” - Genesis 1:14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for **seasons**, and for days, and years:
- “**feasts**” - Leviticus 23:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the **feasts** (תַּעֲמִד - mô'ēd) of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts.

95

Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast – #2 interesting!

- Numbers 9:6-10 (6) **And there were certain men, who were defiled by the dead body of a man, that they could not keep the passover on that day:** and they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day: (7) And those men said unto him, We are **defiled by the dead body of a man:** wherefore are we kept back, that we may not offer an offering of the LORD in his appointed season among the children of Israel? (8) And Moses said unto them, **Stand still, and I will hear what the LORD will command** concerning you. (9) And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, (10) Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If any man of you or of your posterity **shall be unclean by reason of a dead body**, or be in a **journey afar off**, yet he shall keep the passover unto the LORD.

96

Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast – #2 - interesting!

Numbers 9:8-14 (11) The fourteenth day of the **second** month at even they **shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.** (12) They shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor break any bone of it: according to all the ordinances of the passover they shall keep it. (13) But the man that is **clean**, and **is not in a journey**, and **forbears to keep the passover**, even the same soul **shall be cut off from among his people**: because he brought not the offering of the LORD in his appointed season, that man shall bear his sin. (14) And if a stranger shall sojourn among you, and will keep the passover unto the LORD; according to the ordinance of the passover, and according to the manner thereof, so shall he do: ye shall have one ordinance, both for the stranger, and for him that was born in the land.

97

Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast

3. They didn't observe it again until 40 years after entering Canaan. Their unbelief prevented them from proceeding.
 - Joshua 5:10 And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and **kept the passover** on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.

98

Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast

4. King Hezekiah (II Chron. 30) – A reforming King observed the P/O. 2 Chronicles 30:1-5 And **Hezekiah** sent to all Israel [**N/K**] and Judah [**S/K**], and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh [**Joseph's two sons**], that **they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the passover** unto the LORD God of Israel. (2) For the king had taken counsel, and his princes, and all the congregation in Jerusalem, **to keep the passover in the second month**. (3) For they **could not keep it at that time, because the priests had not sanctified themselves sufficiently, neither had the people gathered themselves together to Jerusalem**. (4) And the thing pleased the king and all the congregation. (5) So they established a decree to make proclamation throughout **all** Israel, from **Beersheba even to Dan**, that they should come to keep the **passover** unto the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem: **for they had not done it of a long time** in such sort as it was written.

99

Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast

4. King Hezekiah (II Chronicles 30) – A reforming King observed the Passover. (6) So the posts went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah, and according to the commandment of the king, saying, Ye children of Israel, turn again unto the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and he will return to the remnant of you, that are escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria. (7) And **be not ye like your fathers**, and like your brethren, **which trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers**, who therefore gave them up to desolation, as ye see. (8) Now be ye not **stiffnecked**, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you. (9) **For if ye turn again unto the LORD**, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the **LORD your God is gracious and merciful**, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.

100

Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast

4. King Hezekiah (II Chronicles 30) – A reforming King observed the Passover.

(10) So the posts passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulun: **but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them.** (11) Nevertheless divers of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem. (12) Also in Judah the hand of God was to give them **one heart** to do the commandment of the king and of the princes, by the word of the LORD. (13) And there assembled at Jerusalem much people to keep the feast of unleavened bread in the **second** month, a very great congregation.

101

Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast

4. King Hezekiah (II Chronicles 30) – A reforming King observed the Passover.

(14) And they arose and **took away the altars** that were in Jerusalem, and all the altars for incense took they away, and **cast them into the brook Kidron.** (15) Then **they killed the passover on the fourteenth day of the second month:** and the **priests and the Levites were ashamed,** and sanctified themselves, and brought in the burnt offerings into the house of the LORD. (16) And they stood in their place after their manner, according to the law of Moses the man of God: the priests sprinkled the blood, which they received of the hand of the Levites. (17) For there were **many in the congregation that were not sanctified:** therefore the **Levites had the charge of the killing of the passovers for every one that was not clean, to sanctify them unto the LORD.**

102

Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast

4. King Hezekiah (II Chronicles 30) – A reforming King observed the Passover.

(18) For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had **not** cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. **But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one** (19) **That prepareth his heart to seek God**, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary. (20) And the **LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.**

103

Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast

4. King Hezekiah (II Chronicles 30) – A reforming King observed the Passover.

(21) And the children of Israel that were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with great gladness: and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, singing with loud instruments unto the LORD. (22) And **Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of the LORD: and they did eat throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings, and making confession to the LORD God of their fathers.** (23) And the whole assembly took counsel to keep other seven days: and they kept other seven days with **gladness.**

104

Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast

4. King Hezekiah (II Chronicles 30) – A reforming King observed the Passover.

(24) For Hezekiah king of Judah did give to the congregation a thousand bullocks and seven thousand sheep; and the princes gave to the congregation a thousand bullocks and ten thousand sheep: and a great number of priests sanctified themselves. (25) And all the congregation of Judah, with the priests and the Levites, and all the congregation that came out of Israel, and the **strangers** that came out of the land of Israel, and that dwelt in Judah, rejoiced.

(26) So there was **great joy in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there was not the like in Jerusalem.** (27) Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the people: and their voice was heard, and their prayer came up to his holy dwelling place, even unto heaven.

105

Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast – interesting!

Interestingly, they did the Passover Feast in the wrong month and were not cleansed, yet God still blessed it!

- II Chronicles 30:18 For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had **not** cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. **But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one (19) That prepareth his heart to seek God,** the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary. (20) And the **LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.**

106

Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast – interesting!

Passover Feast - in the wrong month and were not cleansed, yet God still blessed it!

It was supposed to be done in the first month.

- Exodus 12:2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.
- “not cleansed” – contact with idols
 - John 11:55 And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to **purify** themselves.

Yet God had already told Israel what they were supposed to do if this should happen.

107

How was one cleanse or purify?

Moses washed Aaron and his sons before their ordination as priests.

- Leviticus 8:6 And Moses brought Aaron and his sons, and **washed** them with water.
- “washed” - **רְחִטָּה** - râchats – (see *discussion on the Southern Steps of the Temple Mount and living water.*)
 - Our point – No “mikvah” is found in the Old Testament
- This “washing” occurs at the “tabernacle” before all of Israel.
 - Leviticus 8:4 And Moses did as the LORD commanded him; and the assembly was gathered together unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.
 - No place for a full “bath” at the door of the Tabernacle as it was in the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land.

108

How was one cleanse or purify?

Clothing contaminated had to be washed.

- Leviticus 13:58 And the garment, either warp [שְׁתִּים - shethîy - **woven**], or woof [עֶרֶב - 'êreb - mixed clothing], or whatsoever thing of skin it be, which thou shalt wash, if the plague be departed from them, then it shall be washed the second time, and shall be clean.

A leper was unclean and quarantined outside the camp until cleaned.

- Leviticus 13:45-46 And the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean. (46) All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be.

109

How was one cleanse or purify?

When healed, he would “wash his clothes, and shave off all his hair, and wash himself in water.”

- Leviticus 14:8 And he that is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes, and shave off all his hair, and wash himself in water, that he may be clean: and after that he shall come into the camp, and shall tarry abroad out of his tent seven days.

Once the disease was healed, he was to wash his clothes and “bathe his flesh in running [**fresh** - rain or a lake] water.”

- Leviticus 15:13 And when he that hath an issue is cleansed of his issue; then he shall number to himself seven days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes, and **bathe his flesh in running water**, and shall be clean.

A couple who had a sexual relationship or a woman’s monthly menstrual was unclean and required water cleansing (Lev. 15:16-33).

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Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast

5. Josiah (II Kings 23:21-23 and II Chronicles 35), another reforming king, held a Passover.

- 2 Kings 23:21-23 And the king commanded all the people, saying, **Keep the passover** unto the LORD your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant. (22) Surely there was not holden such a **passover** from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah; (23) But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this **passover** was holden to the LORD in Jerusalem.
- 2 Chronicles 35:1-19 Moreover **Josiah kept a passover unto the LORD in Jerusalem**: and they killed the passover on the **fourteenth day of the first month**. (2) And he set the priests in their charges, and encouraged them to the service of the house of the LORD, (4) And prepare yourselves by the houses of your fathers, after your courses, according to the writing of David king of Israel, and according to the writing of Solomon his son.

111

Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast

5. Josiah (II Kings 23:21-23 and II Chronicles 35), another reforming king, held a Passover.

2 Chronicles 35:6-19 **So kill the passover, and sanctify yourselves, ... (10) So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their place, and the Levites in their courses, according to the king's commandment.** (11) And they killed the passover, and the priests sprinkled the blood from their hands, and the Levites flayed them. (12) ... (13) And they **roasted the passover with fire according to the ordinance**: ... (14) And afterward they made ready for themselves, and for the priests: ... (17) **And the children of Israel that were present kept the passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days.** (18) And there was **no passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet**; neither did all the kings of Israel keep such a **passover as Josiah kept**, ... (19) **In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah was this passover kept.**

112

Only Six Known Old Testament Observances of the Passover Feast

6. After the dedication of the second temple (Zerubbabel's – 521 BC), the Passover was celebrated.

Ezra 6:19-22 And the children of the captivity **kept the passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month.** (20) For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them were pure, and **killed the passover** for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves. (21) **And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity**, and all such as had **separated** themselves unto them from the **filthiness of the heathen of the land**, to seek the **LORD God of Israel, did eat**, (22) **And kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy**: for the **LORD** had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

113

We close with this thought...

- Let us make sure that we, like Israel, do not get so busy in our everyday things of life that we get so busy that we forget to do the most important event, as the Feast of Passover was the beginning of God's Calendar of Redemption!
- We are unclean (sin – “leaven” bread), and to connect our life with God, we must place our trust, our hope, and our faith in the one who was without sin (unleavened), which is Jesus Christ.

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