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## A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### 1. When Does Passover Begin?

Passover 2021 began at sunset on Saturday, March 27 and ends at nightfall on Sunday, April 4, 2021.

### 2. What is the Purpose of The Passover?

As with many Old Testament stories, they are pictures of New Testament truths. As Passover is the story of God freeing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, it is also a picture of God's answer to man's sin and God's remedy for man's sin. Put simply, Passover needs to be understood before the cross will be understood.

### 3. What is the Passover story?

In the very basic Passover storyline, Pharaoh is fearful that there will be too many Jews living in Egypt so he institutes slavery and demands that male Jewish babies be killed. Baby Moses is saved by his mother, who floats him in a basket down the Nile river, where he is found and adopted by Pharaoh's daughter. After killing a slave master, Moses flees into the desert, and encounters a burning bush of God revealing himself to Moses. God tells Moses to go to Pharaoh and lead the Jews out of slavery.

Moses goes to Pharaoh and asks that he let the Jews go free from Egypt. Each time Pharaoh says "no," God sends plagues down on Egypt (darkness, lice, boils, cattle disease, etc.). The tenth and final plague is the most drastic: the killing of the first born by the so-called 'angel of death.' In order to protect their first-born children, the Israelites marked their doorposts with lamb's blood so the angel of death would pass over them. Thus, the name, *Passover*, which is "pesach" (*pee-sock*) in Hebrew. The Israelites were ultimately freed from slavery and wandered the desert for 40 years before making it into the promise land.

### 4. What is the 'Haggadah?'

A *Haggadah* is a book that is read during the Passover meal that tells the story of Passover in story form. The Hebrew word "Haggadah" means "telling." For 3,500 years, this story has been read and studied. During the Passover meal, called the *Seder* (meaning 'order'), detailed symbolism is utilized to picture what will become New Testament truths.

### 5. Important History (an overview).

*The Old Testament was designed by God to make the great truths of the New Testament come alive for us.*

**Genesis is all about man.** It's the story of man. Man's creation. Man's sin. Man's life in a fallen world. Man's hopelessness—apart from God. God's judgement of sin (flood) and man's fumbling for God. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph—men who sought to lead the Israelites back to God. The book Genesis ends with the words, "a coffin in Egypt." Man was living in the realm of death.

**Exodus is the story of God.** It's the story of God's answer to man's need and God's remedy for man's sin. It is the ultimate 'word picture' of God's plan to redeem man in his/her slavery, his/her misery and his/her sin. The people of Exodus could not save themselves—only God could. The same is true for all mankind today.

**The five great events in Exodus:** 1. The **Nine Plagues** that corresponded to the false God's of Egypt (Chs 1-11); 2. The tenth plague and the **Passover** (Chs. 1-14); 3. **The Crossing of the Red Sea** (Chs. 14-18); 4. **The Giving of the Law** at Mt. Sinai (Chs. 19-24); 5. **The Construction of the Tabernacle** (Chs. 25-40).

*The great message of the book of Exodus is that by means of a perfect sacrifice, a holy and righteous God can now dwell with sinful man.*

## EXODUS

		Bondage	Deliverance	Journey	Law	Tabernacle		
GENESIS	← 350 Years →	Israelites became numerous	Blood Frogs Gnats Flies	Boils Hail Locusts Darkness Death	Cloud and fire  Red Sea	Moral  Civil  Social	Outer court 150 feet x 75 feet	Glory of the Lord
	Groan of the Israelites	New Pharaoh  Plan to destroy Israelites  Moses	Livestock  Passover  Exodus	Grumbling		Inner court 45 feet x 15 feet		
		CHAPTERS 1-2	CHAPTERS 3-12	CHAPTERS 13-18	CHAPTERS 19-24	CHAPTERS 25-40		
Location		Egypt		En route	Mount Sinai			
Time		430 years		3 months	1 year			
Theme		Suffering and liberation of people of God		Guidance of God	Worship of God			
Key Verses		6:6; 12:40-42; 19:5-6						
Christ in Exodus		Passover lamb (chapter 12); sacrificial offering, tabernacle, articles of worship (chapters 25-40); His leadership and deliverance are pictured in Moses; His purity and intercession are pictured in the high priest.						

## B. LESSONS WE LEARN FROM THE PASSOVER STORY

### 1. The People who need salvation are slaves.

*The Israelites were literal slaves under a cruel tyrant—as are we.*

Exodus 1:9–11, NIV84 -<sup>9</sup> “Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. <sup>10</sup> Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.” <sup>11</sup> So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor....

John 8:34, NCV -<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, everyone who lives in sin is a slave to sin.”

### 2. The Penalty for rejecting God’s means of salvation is death.

Exodus 10:3–6, NIV84 -<sup>3</sup> So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, “This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, so that they may worship me. <sup>4</sup> If you refuse to let them go, I will bring locusts into your country tomorrow. <sup>5</sup> They will cover the face of the ground so that it cannot be seen. They will devour what little you have left after the hail, including every tree that is growing in your fields. <sup>6</sup> They will fill your houses and those of all your officials and all the Egyptians—something neither your fathers nor your forefathers have ever seen from the day they settled in this land till now.’” Then Moses turned and left Pharaoh.

Romans 1:18–21, NLT -<sup>18</sup> But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. ... So they have no excuse for not knowing God. <sup>21</sup> Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks....

### 3. The Provision of God’s means of salvation is through the blood of an acceptable sacrifice.

1 Peter 1:19–20, NASB95 -<sup>19</sup> ... but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. <sup>20</sup> For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you....

## The Passover Lamb

1. It must be a ‘lamb.’ – Ex. 12:3
2. It must be ‘male.’ – Ex. 12:5a
3. It must be ‘a year-old lamb.’ – Ex. 12:5c
4. It must be ‘without blemish.’ – Ex. 12:5b
5. It must be ‘slain.’ – Ex. 12:6
6. It must have ‘no broken bones.’ – Ex. 12:46
7. It must be offered ‘between the evenings.’ – Ex. 12:6a (cf., 3-5pm)
8. It must be a ‘sacrificed by all the people.’ – Ex. 12:6b
9. Its meat must be ‘fully consumed.’ – Ex. 12:10
10. Its spilled blood ‘must be applied.’ – Ex. 12:13

There is only ONE who meets all of the qualifications of the Prophesied Messiah.

### 4. The Plan of God’s salvation is obedient faith.

Exodus 12:28, NLT -<sup>28</sup> So the people of Israel did just as the LORD had commanded through Moses and Aaron.

Hebrews 11:28, NCV -<sup>28</sup> It was by faith that Moses prepared the Passover and spread the blood on the doors so the one who brings death would not kill the firstborn sons of Israel.

Romans 16:25, NASB95 -<sup>28</sup> “... the obedience of faith....”

## C. LESSONS WE LEARN FROM THE PASSOVER STORY

### 1. We need a Lamb!

1 Corinthians 5:7, NIV84 -<sup>7</sup> Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

### 2. We need the right Lamb!

John 1:29, NASB95 -<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

### 3. We need the right Lamb before it’s too late!

Exodus 12:29, NIV84 -<sup>29</sup> At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt....