

# Exodus 11-12

## The Passover

### I. Intro

We are going to work our way through the final plague poured out upon Egypt.

It is important to keep in mind that the first 9 plagues were not failed attempts but were designed by God as a means to

- Prove YHWH is God and no other
- To be a form of judgment upon Egypt for their sin (including the murder of innocent children)
- To draw the world to the one true God

### II. Content of chapter 11-12

#### 11:1-3

And the Lord said to Moses, "I will bring **one more plague** on Pharaoh and on Egypt. **Afterward he will let you go** from here. When he lets *you* go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether. **2** Speak now in the hearing of the people, and let every man ask from his neighbor and every woman from her neighbor, **articles of silver and articles of gold.**" **3** And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses *was* very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

**A. One more plague will fall upon Egypt and Pharaoh will release Israel.**

**B. The people will be sent out with great possessions. This is a fulfillment of a promise given to Abraham 500 years earlier**

Genesis 15:12-16

**12** Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him.

**13** Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. **14** And

*also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”*

#### 11:4-10

Then Moses said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘About **midnight** I will go out into the midst of Egypt; **5** and all **the firstborn** in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who *is* behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals. **6** Then **there shall be a great cry** throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it *before*, nor shall be like it again. **7** But **against none of the children of Israel** shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that **the Lord does make a difference** between the Egyptians and Israel.’ **8** And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Get out, and all the people who follow you!’ After that I will go out.” Then he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.

**9** But the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not heed you, so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.” **10** So Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh; and the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go out of his land.

- A. The Lord instructs Moses regarding the details of how their deliverance will be accomplished
- At midnight on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan all the firstborn of the land will die. This will affect people from every station in life from Pharaoh to the servants
  - 11:7 – But Israel will be spared. This will be done so that all the world will know that God makes a distinction

*7 But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the Lord does make a **difference between the Egyptians and Israel.***

Chapter 12 will give the details regarding this distinction. It had more to do with the covering God provided than with the merit of Israel

God's people were spared the judgment that came upon the land, but only through the death of a substitute;

A lamb was to be slain and its blood sprinkled on the doorposts of the homes. Not just any lamb could be used, the lamb had to meet heaven's standard its blood shed as a means of pardon and its flesh consumed showing an individual's decision to receive the pardon

Chapter 12 illustrates that the covering was not restricted to Israel. Those of other nationality who chose to put themselves under the covering would also be preserved.

Exodus 12:38

*38 A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds—a great deal of livestock.*

Later in chapter 12 further details are given regarding the future observance of the Passover **and** the invitation for foreigners to partake

Exodus 12:48

*48 And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it.*

Remember the Egyptians were in bondage to the worship of idols.

They had fallen as described in Romans 1, turning the glory of God into idols made with men's hands. This put them under judgment, The Lamb was a way of escape

## Chapter 12

**12:1-2**

Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, **2** "This month *shall be* your **beginning of months**; it *shall be* the first month of the year to you

**A. This final plague will be commemorated with an annual event called Passover**

Passover comes from a Hebrew word that means to Pass or Skip over something. It speaks to the fact that the sins of Israel were **skipped over** during the time of judgment because they had been covered in the blood of the substitute.

“The name of the Passover, in Hebrew Pesach, and in Aramæan and Greek Pascha, is derived from a root which means to ‘step over,’ or to ‘overleap,’ and thus points back to the historical origin of the festival.”

Edersheim

Substitutionary sacrifice has always been the means of atonement

- In the garden an animal was slain to cover Adam and Eve’s sin
- Abel was accepted for bringing a substitute while Cain brought the work of his own hands
- Abraham built altars to offer substitutes
- Jesus will ultimately fulfill the picture of substitutionary atonement when He hangs upon the cross for the sin of humanity

**B. Passover will begin the calendar year for Israel.**

As each New Year began they would travel to Jerusalem to celebrate a weeklong feast that reminded them of their deliverance from bondage.

This should also be the practice of the Christian. We need to have constant reminders of what we were saved out of and how it took place.

Paul exhorted the Ephesians

**Ephesians 2:11-13**

*11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in*

*the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ*

And the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

*23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat;[a] this is My body which is broken[b] for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

*26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*

In fact Christ was put to death during Passover and is referred to as the believers Passover lamb

### 12:3-11

**3** Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the **tenth** of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of *his* father, a **lamb for a household**. **4** And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take *it* according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. **5 Your lamb shall be without blemish**, a male of the first year. You may take *it* from the sheep or from the goats. **6** Now you shall keep it until the **fourteenth day** of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel **shall kill it** at twilight. **7** And they shall take *some* of the **blood** and put *it* on the **two doorposts** and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. **8** Then **they shall eat** the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it. **9** Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. **10** You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. **11** And thus you shall eat it: *with* a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. *It is* the Lord's Passover.

#### A. Here we are given the details regarding the first and subsequent Passovers

- 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan

Nisan - The first month of the Jewish calendar, falling in March/April of the Julian calendar

this month was original called Abib, but in later times it was called Nisan

They were to choose a one-year-old male lamb without blemish for each household. If the household was too small they were to join with their neighbors

- 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan

At midnight the lamb was killed, its blood sprinkled with hyssop on the doorposts of the home and its flesh roasted with bitter herbs and consumed by the people.

Two complimentary aspects of Israel's salvation are illustrated here.

- **First**, God would provide the means of deliverance.
- **Second**, Israel must choose to accept. Consuming the lamb showed acceptance

### 12:12-13

**12** 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will **strike** all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt **I will execute judgment**: I *am* the Lord. **13** Now **the blood shall be a sign** for you on the houses where you *are*. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt.

#### A. Here God explains the reason the Passover Lamb is necessary

"I will execute judgment"

#### B. He also explains the purpose of the blood

"It will be a sign"

"When I see the blood I will pass over..."

The purpose of the lamb was to provide a way for the justice of God to be appeased while the people could also be spared.

This is where Passover is a clear portrait of the work of Christ who through His blood provides atonement for all sin

Romans 5:9

*Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*

**12:14-20**

**14** 'So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance. **15** Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. **16** On the first day *there shall be* a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but *that* which everyone must eat—that only may be prepared by you. **17** So you shall observe *the Feast of Unleavened Bread*, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance. **18** In the first *month*, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. **19** For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether *he is* a stranger or a native of the land. **20** You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.'"

**This event was to serve as a memorial for the nation and to be kept annually.**

After the Passover meal a 7-day feast began with the purpose of reminding every generation of Israel's departure from Egypt.

The feast began with the removal of all leaven from the homes.

Leaven is a picture in the Bible of sin.

Whenever a little bit of sin in a person or a church is permitted, overlooked, and compromised, it works much like leaven in bread. It will eventually leaven the whole lump, affecting the whole church or the whole world

(Galatians 5:9). This permitted sin will lead to other sins and will eventually draw a person or church completely outside of the will and favor of our Father, and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Keep in mind that the purpose of discipline in the church is corrective. When a person who is living in sin is removed from the church it is for their benefit. Keeping them around will not only negatively impact the church but the individual as well.

Feast also included two “Holy convocations”

**Convocation** – a large formal assembly of people. The use here would be for religious purposes. They were forbidden to work and it was a time to celebrate the salvation

This was more than just a national gathering; it was designed for the people to focus upon The Lord. These gatherings were a regular part of the weekly, monthly and yearly calendar for Israel and took place on the Sabbath, Passover, Pentecost, Trumpets, Weeks, Tabernacles, and the Day of Atonement.

I wonder what improvements we might see if personally, as a family and as a nation we choose to set aside holidays to draw near to God and His word?

**12:21-23**

**21** Then **Moses called for all the elders** of Israel and said to them, “**Pick** out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and **kill** the Passover *lamb*. **22** And you shall **take a bunch of hyssop**, dip *it* in the blood that *is* in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that *is* in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house **until morning**. **23** For the Lord will **pass through** to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will **pass over** the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike *you*.”

**A. Specific instructions are given to the elders regarding the first Passover**



- Pick lambs
- Kill lambs
- Use hyssop to apply blood to the doors of each home

Hyssop was a wild shrub that grew in the area. They may have used its bitter herbs as part of the cooking process for the lamb.

- Israel was instructed to stay inside under the covering of the Lamb until judgment passed

### **B. Notice the use of the phrases “Pass Through” and “Pass Over”**

The destroyer will pass through the area to judge sin, but he will pass over all homes who are covered with the lamb’s blood.

#### **21:24-28**

And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. **25** It will come to pass when you come to the land which the Lord will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. **26** And it shall be, when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ **27** that you shall say, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.’” So the people bowed their heads and **worshipped**. **28** Then the children of Israel went away and **did so; just as the Lord had commanded** Moses and Aaron, so they did.

### **Moses explains that the people responded with two important actions**

- First they worshipped

Certainly deliverance from judgment should be the primary driving force behind worship

Too often we limit worship because of how we feel or the song selection. The true heart of worship is what Christ accomplished for us

- They went away and did

The people did not question the means of deliverance, argue about the merit of a lamb to cover sin, discuss it if was fair for

God to only provide one way to deliver mankind. Instead they gathered the lamb, killed it, covered the home in the blood and consumed the lamb. In the end all who did were spared

The narrative continues.

**12:29-30**

**29 And it came to pass at midnight that the Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt**, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. **30** So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and **there was a great cry in Egypt**, for *there was not a house where there was not one dead.*

On the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, the destroyer passed through the land killing all those who were not covered by the lamb

This judgment resulted in unimaginable suffering, **a suffering that could have been easily avoided.** The Passover was designed as a means of escape from judgment just as the cross was designed to rescue us from the judgment of sin

**John 3:17-18**

**17** *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

**18** *“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

We misunderstand if we think Jesus came to condemn, He came to deliver. We are already condemned. It is our sin that condemns us. Every time we lie, cheat, lust, fight, hate or even disbelieve we are proving that we are in need of His deliverance.

We do not need to be judged since he was judged for us

2 Corinthians 5:21

*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Galatians 3:13

*Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),*

#### 12:31-36

**31** Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the Lord as you have said. **32** Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also."

**33** And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We *shall* all be dead." **34** So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders. **35** Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. **36** And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them *what they requested*. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

After resisting the Lord over and over, Pharaoh finally released Israel. Just as predicted they were released with great possession

#### 12:37-39

**37** Then the children of Israel journeyed from **Rameses** to **Succoth**, about **six hundred thousand men** on foot, besides children. **38 A mixed multitude** went up with them also, and flocks and herds—a great deal of livestock. **39** And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves.

The first leg of Israel's journey took them from Rameses to Succoth. Without knowing the exact location of these places we cannot be sure of the length of the journey. We do know that:

- 600,000 men made the journey not to mention women and children. That would put the number upwards of 2 million
- A mixed multitude of multinational people including Egyptians made the decision to join with Israel and depart from the land

#### 12:43-51

**43** And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "***This is the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it.*** **44** But every man's servant who is bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then he may eat it.

**45** A sojourner and a hired servant shall not eat it. **46** In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones. **47** All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. **48** And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. **49** One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you.”  
**50** Thus all the children of Israel did; as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. **51** And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the Lord brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt according to their armies.

The chapter closes with the final instructions regarding Passovers in the future

The key principles are that no foreigner may partake, but anyone may choose to join.

The act of circumcision was the sign of commitment to The Lord

21:49 is a key to understanding the covenants of God

*One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you.”*

The Lamb was the exception clause for all sinners just as Christ is the exception for us. If we reject the lamb, no matter who we are we have rejected covering and will face judgment

### III. Passover in Scripture

Passover is mentioned 76 times in the NKJV

The first reference back to Passover is at the end of Exodus while Israel is camped at Sinai

**Exodus 34:24-26**

**24** For I will cast out the nations before you and enlarge your borders; neither will any man covet your land when you go up to **appear before the Lord your God three times** in the year.

*25 "You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leaven, nor shall the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover be left until morning.*

Passover was one of the 3 pilgrim feasts that brought every male Jew to the Tabernacle and later the Temple

### **Details regarding the keeping of the feast are recorded**

Leviticus 23:4-8

- Holy convocation on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan
- Followed by feast of unleavened bread
- A time of Sabbath rest
- A time of offering

Numbers 28:16-25 give the details regarding what **other offerings** are to be included during the Passover celebration

Since Israel failed to enter the land the generation that came out of Egypt died and it became necessary to repeat the Passover ordinances to the generation who would be entering Canaan. This is recorded in Deuteronomy 16

One of the main details that is clarified here is that the Passover must be celebrated in the place of the Lord's choosing.

Deuteronomy 16:5-6

*5 "You may not sacrifice the Passover within any of your gates which the Lord your God gives you; **6 but at the place where the Lord your God chooses** to make His name abide, there you shall sacrifice the Passover at twilight, at the going down of the sun, at the time you came out of Egypt.*

This would ultimately be in Jerusalem at the Temple only steps away from Calvary

## **We read of a number of Passover's being celebrated in Scripture**

The first is one year after they were delivered from Egypt, while they were camped at Sinai. This is recorded in Numbers 9:1-14

Numbers 9:3

*3 On the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, you shall keep it at its appointed time. According to all its **rites and ceremonies** you shall keep it.”*

**According to the ceremonies** – these are the guidelines given in Exodus and repeated in Leviticus

An additional clause is added for those who were unable to partake to do some sort of ceremonial defilement

**Numbers 9:11**

*11 On the fourteenth day of the second month, at twilight, they may keep it. They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.*

Joshua 5 records the first Passover within the Promised Land

It was the celebration of this feast that brought the end to the daily provision of Manna and put the nation in dependence upon God for rain, harvest and sustenance

After the dividing of the nation we never read of the northern tribes celebrating Passover with the exception of a celebration under the reign of Hezekiah when he invited tribes from the north to join them at Jerusalem.

**In the historical narrative only a few Passovers are recorded for us.**

\* In addition to these we read of a reference to Passover being celebrated during the Judges and the reign of Solomon

2Chronicles 30 – The reign of Hezekiah

Because of defilement they chose to use the clause from Numbers

Numbers 9:11

*11 On the fourteenth day of the second month, at twilight, they may keep it. They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.*

The Passover was called for the 14<sup>th</sup> of the second month and runners were sent throughout Judah and Israel to call all the tribes back to the Lord.

We read of the reaction of the people:

**2 Chronicles 30:21-22**

*21 So the children of Israel who 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 to the Lord, accompanied by loud instruments.** 22 And Hezekiah gave encouragement to all **the Levites who taught the good knowledge of the Lord;** and they ate throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings and making confession to the Lord God of their fathers.*

This became a time of worship and the study of the Word. It is also worth noting that all the reforms of King Hezekiah stemmed from the national revival that broke out as the people gathered for Passover

## 2Kings 23 – The reign of Josiah

### **2 Kings 23:21-24**

*21 Then the king commanded all the people, saying, “Keep the Passover to the Lord your God, as it is written in this **Book of the Covenant.**” 22 **Such a Passover surely had never been held since the days of the judges** who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah. 23 But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was held before the Lord in Jerusalem. 24 Moreover **Josiah put away** those who consulted mediums and spiritists, the household gods and idols, all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the Lord.*

After discovering the Word the king called the nation to celebrate Passover. It became a time of worship, sacrifice and examination with the Word of God.

This particular Passover was exceptional because the response was to put away the things that had no place in the lives of those devoted to Jehovah

After the Captivity and the rebuilding of the Temple Israel celebrated Passover under the leadership of Zerrubabel . This celebration had tremendous affect upon the people and the rebuilding project

### **Ezra 6:19-22**

**19** And the descendants of the captivity **kept the Passover** on the fourteenth day of the first month. **20** For the priests and the Levites had **purified** themselves; all of them were ritually clean. And they slaughtered the Passover lambs for all the descendants of the captivity, for their brethren the priests, and for themselves. **21** Then the children of Israel who had returned from the captivity ate together with all who had **separated** themselves **from the filth of the nations** of the land in order to seek the Lord God of Israel. **22** And **they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread** seven days with joy; **for the Lord made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king** of Assyria toward them, to **strengthen their hands in the work** of the house of God, the God of Israel.

There are a few points worth our attention

- The leaders consecrated themselves
- The people separated themselves from the filth of the world
- The Lord made them joyful
- The Lord turned the heart of the king
- The Lord strengthened their hands for the work

When the nation people chose to gather and seek God according to His ways an impossible task was accomplished

**Ezekiel 45** speaks of future Passovers that will take place during the millennial reign of Christ

This will looking back on the work of Christ rather than forward to it

## IV. Passover at the time of Christ

At the time of Christ the Temple had been restored. It was first rebuilt under the leadership of Zerubbabel and was then completely refurbished by Herod the great and considered to be one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world.

At the time of Christ the Passover was an annual celebration that drew people from all over the world.

Alfred Edersheim describes it this way:

From all parts of the land and from foreign countries the festive pilgrims had come up in bands, singing their pilgrim psalms, and bringing with them burnt- and peace-offerings, according as the Lord had blessed them; for none might



appear empty before Him. How large the number of worshippers was, may be gathered from Josephus, who records that, when Cestius requested the high-priest to make a census, in order to convince Nero of the importance of Jerusalem and of the Jewish nation, the number of lambs slain was found to be 256,500, which, at the lowest computation of ten persons to every sacrificial lamb, would give a population of 2,565,000, or, as Josephus himself puts it, 2,700,200 persons, while on an earlier occasion (a.d. 65) he computes the number present at not fewer than three millions.

Along with the Biblical guidelines given for the feast many other customs had been added.

Rabbi Gamaliel, the teacher of St. Paul, said: 'Whoever does not explain three things in the Passover has not fulfilled the duty incumbent on him. These three things are: the Passover lamb, the unleavened bread, and the bitter herbs. The Passover lamb means that God passed over the blood-sprinkled place on the houses of our fathers in Egypt; the unleavened bread means that our fathers were delivered out of Egypt (in haste); and the bitter herbs mean that the Egyptians made bitter the lives of our fathers in Egypt.'

## V. Jesus and Passover

Jesus celebrated Passover

Luke 2:41

**41** *His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.*

John 2:13

**13** *Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.*

John 6:4

**4** *Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near.*

Matthew 26:17

**17** *Now on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?"*

Jesus died during Passover

Matthew 26:2

*2 "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."*

Jesus is our Passover

1 **Corinthians 5:7**

*7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.*

Nearly 30 times in the NT Jesus is referred to as The Lamb

John 1:29

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

John 1:36

*And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"*

Acts 8:32

*The place in the Scripture which he read was this:  
"He was led as a sheep to the slaughter;  
And as a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
So He opened not His mouth.*

1 Peter 1:19

*but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

One of the most common terms to describe Christ in Revelation. Used nearly 25 times

And it is the blood of the lamb that makes washes away our sins

Revelation 7:14

*And I said to him, "Sir, you know."  
So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

Jesus said that all of Scripture pointed to Him. That being said there are certainly certain parts that scream of Christ louder than others and Passover may be among the loudest

## VI. The Church and Passover

We know that Paul made his way to Jerusalem to keep certain annual feasts

### **Acts 18:21**

*21 but took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means **keep this coming feast** in Jerusalem;[a] but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus.*

### **Acts 20:6**

*6 But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of **Unleavened Bread**, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.*

### **Acts 20:16**

*16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the **Day of Pentecost**.*

These feasts had religious, prophetic and historical significance.

- The Prophetic and religious aspect of Passover were completed at the Cross

It is not only unnecessary but also wrong for us to think that the sacrificial aspect of the feasts is still necessary.

Christ died once for all

Hebrews 9:11-14

*But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered*

*Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

- The Historic aspect still has much value to the Messianic believer and is often a valuable way of bringing Christ to the Jew who has not yet believed in Yeshua

## VII. Passover today

Many of the observances of Passover today were established long after the time of Christ and do not give insight into how Jesus and the 12 observed the Passover.

The modern methods are designed to remind Israel of the deliverance provided by God.

Many of them unwittingly point to Christ

Whether or not a Christian celebrates Passover would be a matter of conscience for the individual Christian. Like all the Old Testament Jewish Feasts, the Passover Feast was a foreshadowing of Christ's atoning work on the cross.

Colossians 2:16-17

*"let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ."*

While it is not necessary for Christians to celebrate Passover it may help us better understand the event and certainly give us insight into the mind of the modern Jew