

The Lord Reigns

It seems like the world has been in a tizzy all spring. Whether it's the coronavirus, the stock market, or the political world, there is a pervading sense of unsettledness. But God is still on the throne! *"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."* Proverbs 16:9. All of history pivots on that traumatic first Easter weekend in 33 AD. But the script had already been written, fifteen centuries earlier at Mt. Sinai.

Three Feasts Foreshadowed the First Easter:

1. _____ (Passover), Which Points to _____ (Our Lord's Death).
 - a. *"These are the Lord's appointed feasts, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times. The Lord's Passover begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month."* Leviticus 23:4-5. Ten plagues were inflicted on Egypt as Moses pleaded with Pharaoh, *"Let my people go!"* Exodus 9:1.
 - b. Moses instructed the Israelites to sacrifice an unblemished lamb and paint its blood on the doors of their homes to escape the last plague, the killing of firstborn sons. Passover was fulfilled by the sacrifice of our Lord, the Lamb of God, on a Roman cross. At 9 am, the Passover lambs (and Jesus) were bound. At 3 pm, the lambs (and Jesus) were killed.
 - c. As Jesus died, the hills and valleys of Jerusalem were filled with the singing of the Hallel (Psalms 113-118). A quarter million lambs were killed and 60,000 gallons of blood was shed. Have you painted the blood of the Lamb of God on the doorpost of your life? Have you accepted Jesus as your Passover Lamb (I Corinthians 5:7)?

2. _____ (Unleavened Bread), Which Points to _____ (Our Lord's Burial).
 - a. *"On the fifteenth of that month the Lord's Feast of Unleavened Bread begins; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast."* Leviticus 23:6. In keeping with Jewish custom, the body of Jesus was removed shortly after death and brought to a borrowed tomb, that of a rich man named Joseph of Arimathea. This was prophesied 700 years earlier (Isaiah 53:9).
 - b. The body of Jesus did not decay (Psalm 16:10) as it was without sin. This is symbolized by unleavened bread baked with stripes in it (Isaiah 53:5) and with tiny holes (Zechariah 12:10). Jews prepare for the Feast of Unleavened Bread by meticulously removing all leaven from their homes. Jesus, our Passover Lamb, removes all sin from us (Psalm 103:12)!

3. _____ (Firstfruits), Which Points to _____ (Our Lord's Resurrection).
 - a. *"When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest. He is to wave the*

sheaf before the Lord so it will be accepted on your behalf; the priest is to wave it on the day after the Sabbath.” Leviticus 23:10-11.

- b. Barley is harvested first. As servants were judging which crop to select for the feast, Jesus was judged by the Sanhedrin. As servants were binding the barley sheaf, the Romans were binding Jesus to the cross.
- c. *“On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb.” John 20:1.* Mary could not touch Jesus (John 20:17) until he went to the Father. Neither could the barley be touched until it was presented to God.
- d. *“We have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins.” I John 2:2.*
- e. The barley harvest points to the first resurrection at the Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:16). The wheat harvest points to the second resurrection after the Great Tribulation (Revelation 20:4). The grape harvest points to the third resurrection at the final judgment (Revelation 20:12-15). *“All who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:12.*

Jesus will return after a time of intense turmoil on the earth (Matthew 24:8). This will include pandemics and both political and economic upheaval (Revelation 6:8; 13:1-18). Today we live in the church age, foreshadowed by the Feast of Pentecost. Our Lord’s Second Coming is foreshadowed by the last three feasts (Trumpets, Atonement, & Tabernacles – Leviticus 23).

Our Lord reigns! History is His story! The world isn’t falling apart; it’s falling into place. Are you ready to meet God?