

The Passover Exodus 12

Introduction:

- I. The Passover was the main Hebrew festival celebrated during Old Testament times.
 - a. Exodus 12 tells us of its background and significance.
 - i. Israel was enslaved to Egypt, and all of the miraculous plagues that God performed through Moses were not enough to convince Pharaoh to release the people.
 - ii. With one final blow, God will cause Pharaoh to send the Israelites out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

Discussion:

- I. The Feast Passover
 - a. Regulations –
 - i. Exodus 12
 1. On the tenth day of the month, they would select the Passover lamb.
 2. On the fourteenth day, they were to slaughter it at twilight and eat all of it at home with their families.
 - a. For the first Passover only, they were to spread the lamb's blood over the lintel and doorposts.
 - i. 12:13 – When I see the blood (cf. God's covenant with Noah)
 - ii. cf. I Peter 1:13, 18-19
 3. They were to eat it in a hurry, with their sash tied tight and sandals on, with a staff in their hands.
 4. They were to remove leaven from the house altogether.
 - ii. Numbers 28:16-25
 1. Begins the fourteenth day of the month
 - a. Hebrew days began at around 6:00 p.m. (Sundown)
 2. On the fifteenth day there was to be a feast.
 3. They were to eat unleavened bread for seven days.
 4. The sacrifices mentioned here were for the priests to offer in the tabernacle (and later, the temple).
 - a. The Passover rites would (during the temple period) be transferred fully to the priests and homes in Jerusalem.
 - b. In New Testament Times
 - i. They would also sing the Hallel (Psalms 113-118).
 - ii. They would pass the first cup of wine around (out of four) and then recount the story of the Passover as if it were a discussion between a father and his children (cf. Exodus 12:26-27).

- iii. Then they would bring back the food to the table and sing the first few Psalms of the Hallel, followed by the passing of the second cup of wine.
- iv. Then they would break bread (Probably when Judas dipped his hand with Jesus into the bowl and went out to betray him—Mark 14:20; John 13:27-30) and then they would begin eating.
- v. The third passing of the cup was probably when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, along with the third cup of wine.
- vi. Then they would sing the final part of the Hallel and drink the last cup of wine (This is probably the hymn sung before they go to the Mount of Olives—Mt. 26:30).
- vii. After the temple of Jerusalem was finally destroyed in 70 A.D., it was replaced by the Lord's Supper for Christians, and was only eaten at home by Jews.

II. The Final Passover

- a. The Day of Passover would have begun Wednesday night at 6:00, but the Passover meal would have been on Thursday night of Jesus' final week, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread would begin that same night.
 - i. Numbers 28:16-17; cf. Mt. 26:17 – This was the “Last Supper.”
 - ii. Notice when the conspiracy to kill Jesus took place: Mark 14:1-2
 - 1. After the feast! Remember the timing of the Jewish calendar (6:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. the next day).
 - a. After they ate the meal, since it was late, the Passover Day was over, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread began, so this was the time they had set to kill Jesus.
 - b. Thursday night until Friday night would be the day before the Sabbath, also called the Preparation (Mark 15:42).
 - i. That's why they didn't want to wait until the Sabbath (John 19:31), so they broke the bones of the thieves who were still alive.
 - ii. However, Jesus was already dead, so “not a bone of his was broken” (Numbers 9:12).
 - 1. He was OUR Passover Lamb! (I Corinthians 5:6-8)
- iii. Also, notice the kind of meal they would have:
 - 1. Unleavened bread, because all leaven was to be thrown out when the Passover came.
 - a. Therefore, we too use unleavened bread for the Lord's Supper, because that's the bread that Jesus used in Matthew 26:26-28.