

THE FEAST OF PASSOVER

Text: Exodus 12:1-14

Introduction:

1. Due to their years of slavery, the children of Israel developed a prisoner mentality.
2. They needed deliverance not only for their bodies, but also for their minds.
3. God would provide the means of perfect healing.
4. One way of doing this was by the institution of feasts – physical observances that had mental and emotional benefits.
5. The first to be prescribed was the Feast of Passover.

I. The Facts of the Exodus

A. Bondage in Egypt

1. Exodus 1:7-14 – Due to fear, Egypt forced Israel into slavery.
2. Exodus 2:23-25 – In their suffering, Israel cried out to God.
3. Exodus 5:6-8 – Their burden was increased.
4. Exodus 6:1-9 – In their despair they doubted God's promises.

B. The Passover Meal

1. Removal of leaven from each house
2. Preparation of the lamb
3. Blood on the doorposts of each house
4. Eating the meal

C. The Tenth Plague

1. Exodus 4:23 – The first announced
2. Exodus 4:22-23 – Due to the sonship of Israel
3. Exodus 12:22 – Blood and Obedience required

D. Release from Bondage

E. Victory at the Red Sea (Exodus 15:1)

II. The Feast of Passover

- A. It was instituted even before the Sabbath (Exodus 12:14).
- B. It was related to the beginning of the new year (Exodus 12:2).
- C. It was planned for days in advance (Exodus 12:3, 6).
- D. It was to be kept in community (Exodus 12:4, 6).
- E. It was to involve a specific lamb (Exodus 12:5-7).
- F. It was prepared with exactness (Exodus 12:8-10).
- G. It was to be eaten in haste (Exodus 12:11-13).
- H. It was to be kept perpetually on a yearly basis (Exodus 12:14).

III. The Future of Israel

Bible Feasts

- A. This feast was not about the volume of food; rather, it was about the meaning of the meal.
- B. The lamb was a reminder of the price paid for salvation.
 - 1. Israel was God's firstborn (Exodus 4:22).
 - 2. Egypt was to be punished with the death of their firstborn (Exodus 11:4-6).
 - 3. Israel was spared from this suffering because of the blood of the lamb (Exodus 11:7; 12:13).
- C. The preparation of the lamb was a reminder of the speed of their deliverance (Exodus 12:9-10).
 - 1. There is likely a connection to the offering of a sacrifice.
 - 2. However, roasting with fire was the simplest way to cook the lamb.
 - 3. There would be little clean-up required to leave quickly.
- D. The involvement of the community demonstrated that this was not a usual flight from one's enemy (Exodus 12:3-4, 6).
 - 1. It was not "every man for himself."
 - 2. This deliverance would be accomplished by God!
- E. The unleavened bread was a reminder of the haste of their escape.
- F. The bitter herbs were a reminder of the harsh conditions of their bondage in Egypt (cf. Exodus 1:14).
 - 1. Reflection on their suffering would serve to sweeten the victory in Canaan.
 - 2. Only by understanding the bitterness of sin can one recognize the joy of salvation!
- G. Had Israel faithfully kept the Passover they would have overcome their prisoner mentality by remembering the deliverance of God (cf. Romans 8:32).
- H. It was at the Feast of Passover that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:1-5, 17-30).
- I. This anticipated His crucifixion – His sacrifice as the true Passover Lamb – to provide salvation from sin.

Conclusion: *May we never forget the price paid for sin that we might live in victory!*