

Significant Lessons From The Seemingly Insignificant

#11 Passover: Feast Of Deliverance

1. The Jewish secular calendar, established for use in civil affairs, begins with the month of Tishri. The 1st of Tishri is the civil New Year, Rosh HaShanah.
2. The Jewish sacred calendar, established by God, begins with Nisan.
3. Hebrew Months Alternate Between 30 & 29 days: Their Year = 354 Days
~Every 3 years, they add an extra 29 day month, VEADAR between Adar & Nisan.

Sacred	Civil
1. Nisan [Abib]	1. Tishri
2. Iyar	2. Heshvan
3. Sivan	3. Chisleu
4. Tammuz	4. Tebet
5. Ab	5. Shebet
6. Elul	6. Adar
7. Tishri	7. Nisan
8. Heshvan	8. Iyar
9. Chisleu	9. Sivan
10. Tebet	10. Tammuz
11. Shebet	11. Ab
12. Adar	12. Elul

Passover [14th], Unleavened Bread [15th] & First fruits [17th] are observed in Nisan.

Pentecost is observed in Sivan.

Feast of Trumpets [1st], Day of Atonement [10th] and Feast of Tabernacles [15th] are observed in Tishri.

4. God's calendar is a lunar calendar based on phases of the moon.

Gen. 1:14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons [appointments], and for days, and years:

- Each month starts with a new moon, reaching a full moon in the midst of the 28 day cycle.
- Passover ALWAYS falls on a full moon - the 1st full moon of spring.

Interesting: How God uses the almond tree: It grows profusely in Israel and blooms at the end of winter. Even if a Jew couldn't read or understand the calendar, he would not miss Passover. He watched the almond tree: when blooms appeared, the next full moon was Passover.

- All other feasts are based on Passover; a simple numbering of days reveal the next one.
- The first 3 feasts: Passover, Unleavened Bread and First Fruits: occur within an 8 day period.

Consider: God may not have preferred the use of the sun for men's calendar since sun worship, as was practiced profusely in Egypt, was the leading form of paganism. Irreverent men seemed captivated by the magnificence of the sun and tended to worship the created object.

Ezekiel 8: God showed Ezekiel, who was in captivity in Babylon, a vision of the Israelites' idolatry happening at the Temple in Jerusalem. Many Israelite men were on the porch of the Temple, facing the east and worshiping the sun!!!

5. The Hebrew day was from sunset to sunset.

This seemed to be God's intention at the beginning.

Gen. 1:5 And the evening and the morning were the 1st day.

a. It was divided into 8 equal parts.

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|---|
| • First Watch | Sunset to 9:00 pm | Evening Watch; Twilight Dusk |
| • Second Watch | 9:00 pm to Midnight | Midnight Watch |
| • Third Watch | Midnight to 3:00 am | Cock crowing watch |
| • Fourth Watch | 3:00 - Sunrise | Morning Watch; Twilight Dawn |
| • First Watch | Sunrise to 9:00 am | Zero hour to 3 rd Hour |
| • Second Watch | 9:00 am to Noon | 3 rd Hour to 6 th Hour |
| • Third Watch | Noon to 3:00 pm | 6 th Hour to 9 th Hour |
| • Fourth Watch | 3:00 pm to Sunset | 9 th Hour to 12 th Hour; Sunset |

b. The date changes to the next date at 6:00 pm.

God gave Israel a calendar that was tied to the rhythm of the seasons and the history of the nation. This unusual calendar not only summarized what God had done for them in the past, but it anticipated what God would do for them in the future. The salvation work of Jesus Christ, the founding of the church, and the future of the people of Israel are all illustrated in God's Seven Feasts.

Leviticus 23 is referred to as "God's calendar of redeeming grace or divine redemption."

These 44 verses [7 Feasts] tell of God's redemptive plan for the world He created.

Col. 2:16-17 The holidays and Sabbath days are a "shadow of things to come."

"A life of legalism lives in the shadow and rejects reality."

Lev. 23:2, 4 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts [moedim] of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations [appointed times], even these are My feasts. These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.

Holy convocations = appointed times = HIS appointed times

He is their Source, He set the times, He gave them meaning, and He is their ultimate Object.

1. These are God's feasts that He designed for the Jews to observe and learn about Him.

2. Lev. 23:29-30 reveals God's law regarding the keeping of His feasts. The privilege of belonging to the Chosen People could be taken from one who violated the feast day laws!

He shall be cut off from among his people. The same soul I will destroy from among his people

Note: When the Jews became formal and indifferent, the Lord said,

Isa. 1:14-15 YOUR new moons and YOUR appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. When His people lapsed into external and hypocritical observances, the very things God ordained, commanded and blessed became an abomination to Him. [Matt. 23]

Jesus called them the "Feasts of the Jews." [John 5:1; 16-18]

3. God revealed His plan for the ages through the details of His 7 feasts.

a. Feast in v. 2 = Moedim = an appointment, a fixed time or season, a cycle or year, a set time God is ordaining a "set time or exact or appointed time" when He has an appointment with humanity to fulfill certain events in the redemption.

Gal. 4:4 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

Jesus came to earth at the exact time ordained by God.

Acts 17:30-31 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: ³¹ Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

God has an exact time or set appointment when He will judge the world.

b. Feast in verse 6 = Chag = Festival = move in a circle, to march in a sacred procession

- God gave the festivals as cycles to be observed yearly so by observing them we can understand God's redemptive plan for the world, the role the Messiah would play in the redemption and how we are to grow from a baby believer to a mature Bible believer.

The feasts are a witness to God's divine plan and the Messiah's role in fulfilling God's plan.

4. These 7 feasts of God are His prophetic program to reveal what Christ is doing in the world.

a. These 7 feasts depict the entire redemptive career of the Messiah.

b. They commence at Calvary where Jesus voluntarily gave himself for the sins of the world.

c. They climax at the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom at the Messiah's 2nd coming.

5. The events of the NT, the vital future events involving the Church and Israel;

God's plan from chaos to eternity is ingeniously revealed through the nature of timing of these 7 annual feasts.

- A knowledge of God's feasts will greatly enhance our faith.

6. They are grouped into spring and fall feasts. These separate groupings are significant; the timing between the feasts is important.

a. The spring feasts picture events of Christ's 1st coming into the world.

- He first came as the Lamb of God

b. The fall feasts picture the future events of Christ's 2nd coming into the world.

- He will come as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

6. We are now living between the spring and the fall feasts.

7. The feasts may fall on any day of the week and they are considered a HIGH SABBATH in contrast to their weekly Sabbath.

8. The study of Passover will give us a marvelous insight into the very essence of Christianity - the sacrifice of the Lamb. Passover is a living picture of how salvation is properly obtained.

Passover = Pesach [Pass Over]: First of the Spring Feasts

Passover is an ancient feast that spans ~35 centuries of human existence. This feast celebrates the deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The Jews also commemorate the birth of the Jewish nation after being freed by God from captivity.

Lev. 23:5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even [6:00 pm] is the Lord's Passover.

1. Only 1 verse: Why? The children of Israel and Moses had recently celebrated Passover. Exodus 12 and following tells of the monumental story of the national liberation from Egypt. It was marked by the terrible night of the 10th plague.

Background:

Set in Egypt, the Passover story is impassioned by fiery accounts of a death sentence for Jewish infants, Jewish slaves, a burning bush, Egyptian sorcerers, tense confrontations with Pharaoh, and divine plagues.

1. 400 years before Moses, there was a famine in the land of Canaan.

2. Jacob and his family traveled south to Egypt [1706 BC] where Joseph, protected by God, had been promoted to a high position in Egypt. [2nd in command to Pharaoh]

3. About 215 years later, the Hebrews had grown to +2 million.

Ex. 1:7 And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.

4. After Joseph died, a Pharaoh arose who knew not Joseph. Feeling threatened by the Hebrews in Goshen, the Pharaoh sought to oppress them and reduce their numbers.

5. God had a plan to rescue his people through Moses.

He appeared to Moses from within the flames of a burning bush:

Ex. 3:7-10 "And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;" And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; ... Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

Recall: Joseph & his generation have died. These Hebrews had only known life in Egypt and been exposed to pagan gods.

1. God sent 10 plagues after Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let the Jews leave Egypt.

2. God used these plagues to teach man about the many false gods they worshiped.

He administered harsh judgment for their idolatry.

Num. 33:4 ...upon their gods also the LORD executed judgments.

a. When God turned the Nile to blood, He was attacking their worship of Khnum, the god of the river.

b. The plague of frogs was an attack on Heqt, [Khnum's wife] the frog-headed goddess of resurrection.

- c. Lice stopped the Egyptians' sacrifices because of cleanness issues. [Set; god of storm]
- d. Swarms of flies were a sign against Beelzebub, prince of the air, because flies were always flying around his ears.
- e. Livestock suffered disease for punishment against Apis, the sacred bull.
- f. Boils were opposed to Imhotep, the god of medical cures.
- g. Hailstones showed the weakness of Nut, the sky goddess.
- h. Locusts opposed Sobek, the evil god of animals and insects
- i. Darkness was an attack against Re, the sun god.
- j. Death of the firstborn attacked all of the Egyptians' gods.

Ex. 13:3-4 And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten. ⁴ This day came ye out in the month Abib.

Ex. 12:2 This month [Abib later changed to Nisan] shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

- God established Nisan as their 1st month. It marked the redemption of Israel from Egypt.
- Passover was to be celebrated in Nisan
- In Neh. 2:1 & Esther 3:7, the 1st month, Abib, began to be called Nisan while they were in Babylonian exile.

Ex. 12:3, 5 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month [Nisan] they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: [Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death...]

⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

Note: They were to select A lamb from the flock. After it is inspected, it became YOUR Lamb. They declared a personal identification with their lamb.

Ex. 12:6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month:

and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

Note: God's plan was for the Jews to take an important part in their deliverance.

1. Select on 10th Nisan: a young, male lamb, without blemish 4 days before Passover. [14th]

2. For 4 days, they were to examine the lamb. It would become a pet to the family.

This would make the sacrifice much more difficult. The love bestowed on an innocent lamb caused emotional responses of remorse, guilt and sadness for the lamb they loved was to die in their place. There must be a blood sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin.

3. When they sacrificed it, they would know the gravity of the penalty of their sins.

Consider: How much more should the tears of repentance flow from us as we remember the sacrificial death of the guiltless Lamb of God!

4. Passover reminds us we have personal deliverance through the blood of the Lamb.

5. Side Note: The Egyptians most powerful god, Amun, had a ram as his animal.

a. The slaughter of the sacrificial lamb is on Passover, the 14th, and it is a full moon.

b. 14th was the full moon: The Egyptians considered this the pinnacle of Amun's power.

c. Sacrificing the lamb demonstrated that Amun had no power at all.

The feasts provide historical teaching and spiritual application and prophetic teaching.

Nisan: The Appointed Time of The Lamb Begins With 10th of Nisan

1. When each Jewish family was choosing their lamb on the 10th day of Nisan for Passover, God was revealing His Lamb at the triumphant entry of Jesus. [Fulfillment of Zech. 9:9]

Zech. 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon a donkey, and upon a colt the foal of a donkey.

Matt. 21:5, 9 Tell ye the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon a donkey, and a colt the foal of a donkey. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

John 12:13 The crowd thought He was the reigning Messiah. They took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: [Deliver Us Now; Save Us Now]

Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Note: The greeting and waving of palm fronds and branches were traditionally done on the 6th day of the feast of sukkot [Tabernacles] welcoming the reigning Messiah to assume the throne in Jerusalem.

All those shouting Hoshea-na [Deliver us now; save us now] knew this and believed Jesus was the Messiah who had come to claim His throne then and there.

2. Jesus is riding into Jerusalem as the lambs are being selected for the Passover Sacrifice. [Matt 21:1-11; Mark 14:1,2; Luke 22:1,2; John 12:12] He is entering as the sacrificial Lamb chosen by God, but the people do not understand this.

3. Just as the Jews inspected and examined their lambs from the 10th -14th of Nisan, Jesus would also be examined. [10th Nisan -14th] They questioned His authority; asked Him trick question hoping He would give a wrong answer they could use against Him.

They did everything to discredit Him so He would not be an acceptable sacrifice.

4. The 6 Trials of Jesus

a. There were 3 religious [Jewish] and 3 civil [Roman].

b. Carried out from ~2:00 AM to 10:00 AM

c. 3 Religious trials proclaimed Jesus as a sinner. 3 civil trials declare: Not Guilty

<i>Trial</i>	<i>Scripture</i>	<i>Judge</i>	<i>Ruling</i>
Religious-Jewish	John 18:12-14	Annas	OK Given To Kill Jesus
Religious-Jewish	Matt. 26:57-68	Caiaphas	Blasphemy -Death Sentence
Religious-Jewish	Matt. 27:1-2 Luke 22:63-71	Sanhedrin	Death Sentence
Civil -Roman	John 18:28-38a	Pilate	Not Guilty
Civil - Roman	Luke 23:6-12	Herod	Not Guilty
Civil - Roman	John 18:38b-19:16	Pilate	Not Guilty But Turned Jesus Over To Jews To Be Crucified

While the Jews were keeping the letter of the law, going through the externals, the formal, the rituals, they missed the spirit of the law; the internal, the spiritual.

John 18:28 John records the fact that while the religious leaders were crying for the unjust crucifixion of Jesus, they would not go into "the judgment hall, lest they be defiled; but that they might eat the Passover." They kept the external Passover and missed the true Passover, Christ Himself.