

Significant Lessons From The Seemingly Insignificant

#12 Passover: Feast of Redemption: The Lamb

The Feast Of Passover was given by God to be a rehearsal of the 1st coming of Jesus Christ. His sacrifice is the pivotal event in God's plan to save humanity. Speaking of His death, Jesus said: And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

[John 3:14-15]

When we accept Christ, repent of our sins and receive Him as our substitute, it is the first step in our walk with the Lord. We have a new beginning and are to walk in newness of life.

Central message of Passover: It foreshadowed Christ's crucifixion.

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ was a supreme act of love for mankind.

Side Note: There is a progressive revelation of the Lamb in the Bible.

1. Ex. 12:3-4 There is a lamb for a house.
2. John 11:49-52 There is a lamb for a nation.
3. John 1:29 There is a lamb for the world.

Ex. 12:13-14 God declared Passover to be a permanent celebration for all eternity.

The children of Israel were delivered from the bondage in Egypt by putting the blood of a lamb upon the doorposts of their houses. [Ex 12:13]

- Jesus is The Lamb Of God. [John 1:29]
- Jesus is our Passover. [I Cor. 5:7]
- Those who follow Christ are the house of God. [Heb. 3:6]
- The doorposts are our hearts. It is only through trusting by faith in the shed blood of Christ, our Passover, that we are free from the bondage of sin. [Gal. 5:1]
- The blood of Christ redeems us from sin. [Lev. 17:11; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; I Pet. 1:18-19]

10th Nisan: Israelites were to Choose A Lamb to offer to God on Passover, 14th Nisan.

Ex. 12:5-6 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

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.

A lamb became YOUR lamb. You would be impressed with the costly nature of the sacrifice. An innocent lamb would die in your place.

Keeping The Lamb For 4 Days:

1. The lamb was a non-stop AV (audio-visual) reminder of imminent divine-judgment. Children were surely asking, "Why do we have a lamb in our house?" Parents would reply, "Because God is going to bring judgment and the lamb is going to save us from His judgment." The lamb was inspected thoroughly for perfection. There could be no taking chances, no cutting corners, the stakes were too high - the lamb had to be without defect and without blemish.

2. Jesus' last 4 days in Jerusalem: He lived among the people 4 days before His crucifixion.

a. He intentionally Drew Attention To The Message Of God's Judgment.

- Matt. 21:18-19 Withering the fig tree for failing to give fruit, a picture of judgment on the nation who gave the appearance of religion but empty of devotion to God

Note: In preparation for Passover, the Jews were to go through their homes in search of leaven which represents SIN. [Matt. 16:6-12, Luke 12:1, I Cor. 5:2-8] They were to clean ALL the leaven out of their homes. While they are cleaning their homes,...Jesus is cleaning His Temple.

- Matt. 21:12-17 Fiercely cleansing the temple by knocking over the tables and chairs of the money changers and driving buyers and sellers out.
- Matt. 23 Severely rebuking the priests and elders in His last public sermon with a scathing reprimand of seven woes
- Luke 13:6-9 Warning of judgment to come, through a fig tree parable

b. From Mark's Gospel, we read opinions by people from every socio-economic, political and religious segment of society who examined and cross-examined Jesus:

- 11:18 "...the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching"
- 12:17 "...the Pharisees and Herodians) were amazed at him"
- 12:34 "And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions"
- 12:37 "The common people listened to him with delight"

The summary of the blameless and life-long perfection of Jesus climaxed in the declaration of Pontius Pilate, as recorded by Luke:

Luke 23:4 "Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, 'I find no fault in this man.'"

I Pet. 1:19 With irrefutable evidence, Peter declared Jesus, a "lamb without blemish or spot."

Interesting Side Note: Eschatologically, these four days that the lamb was hidden is prophetic of the people's expectations that the Messiah would come 4,000 years from the creation of Adam as part of the 7,000 year plan of God to redeem both man and the earth back to how things were in the Garden of Eden (*Gan Eden*) (Mishnah, San Hedrin 97-98).

These four days are prophetic of the Messiah *Yeshua* being hid from the world and not coming to earth for four days or 4,000 years from the creation of Adam.

A day is understood to be prophetic of a thousand years, based upon:

Psalm 90:4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

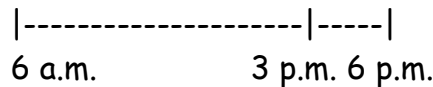
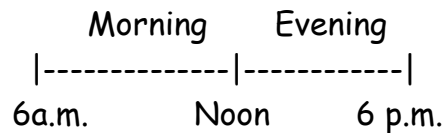
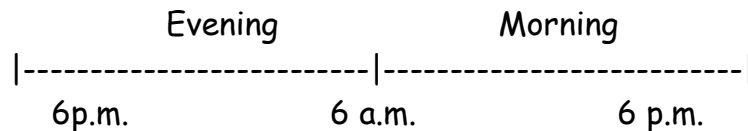
II Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Linking Psalm 90:4 to each day in creation, God ordained each day in creation to be prophetic of a thousand years of time and the entire redemption to take 7,000 years to complete from the fall of man in the Garden of Eden [Genesis] 1:1,5,8,13,19,23,31; 2:1-3).

The Killing Of The 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.

1. The whole assembly was responsible for the killing of the lamb.
2. In contrast, each family was to individually apply the blood of their lamb to the doorposts of their own home as a visible sign of their faith in the Lord. [Ex. 12:13]
3. At that moment, the innocent lamb became their substitute, making it possible for the LORD'S judgment to PASS OVER them.
4. Evening in v. 6 is translated as twilight or between the evenings.
 - a. Biblical day goes from evening to evening, from sundown to sundown.
 - b. The day between is divided into two 12 hour periods.
 - Evening runs from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am.
 - Morning runs from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm.
 - Each 12 hour period is divided into 2 smaller portions.
 - From 6:00 am to Noon is the morning part of the day.
 - From noon to 6:00 pm is the evening part of the day.
 - Between the evening, [v. 6] refers to the period of the day from noon to 6:00 pm, which is exactly 3:00 pm. This is the 9th hour of the day, counting from 6:00 am.



- Matt. 27:45-50: Jesus died at the 9th hour [3:00 pm] of the day. [It is finished.]

Consider: On the 14th day of Nisan, at the third hour of the day [9:00 am], the high priest took the lamb and ascended the altar so he could tie the lamb in place on the altar.

At the same time on that day, Jesus was nailed to the cross on Mt. Moriah.

Mark 15:25 And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

At the time of the evening sacrifice [3:00 pm] for Passover [Ex. 12:6], the high priest ascended the altar, cut the throat of the lamb with a knife and said the words, "It is finished." At this same time, Jesus died [9th hour = 3:00 pm; Matt. 27:46] and said in John 19:30: "It is finished."

Identification With Your Lamb:

1. Each Jewish family would bring their lamb to the Temple wearing a bronze tag with the family name inscribed on it and hung it around the neck of their lamb with a red rope. In this way, they would receive their own lamb back for the Passover dinner.

[Rav Yosef L. Boleware: Congregation Beit Lechem]

2. Pilate had the inscription above the cross written in several languages.

John 19:19-20 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁰ This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin.

3. The literary custom of the scribes of those days was to take the first letters of the words in a phrase and put them together to see if there was a hidden meaning in the arrangement of the letters. This custom dated back to the time of Babylonian captivity.

4. As we read the words which Pilate chose (HaYehudim VMelech HaNazarei Yeshua), taking only the first letter of each word (reading right to left), we see what the scribes and pharisees saw that day! In English it would be YHVH which represents the unspeakable name of God, referred to as the *tetragrammaton* by scholars. [four Hebrew letters Yud, Heh, Vav, Heh]

Interesting note: Hebrew is read from right to left and written without vowels.

Adding vowels to YHVH we get our transliterated English word "Yahweh" which is the actual pronunciation of the letters with vowels added.

5. Y'shua, meaning "salvation" was His name in Hebrew, which translates to Iesus in the Greek. So the inscription over His head, "Y'shua of Nazareth, the King of the Jews would have appeared as follows: In Latin: "IESVS NAZARENVS REX IUDAEVORVM" = INRI

6. In the eyes of the Pharisees, Jesus was crucified for blasphemy....making Himself equal with God. Pilate stood his ground on this occasion (providentially) when the religious leaders read the inscription and wanted him to change the wording to read, "He said, I am King of the Jews"; which would have eliminated the hidden message. [John 19:21]

7. Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written" [John 19:22].

"Jesus from Nazareth The King of the Jews"

8. Just like the Jews put their family name on their lamb for sacrifice at the Temple, God, the Father, put His family name above His sacrificial Lamb.

For His family His Passover Lamb's sinless blood would flow for the redemption of mankind and make possible once again the direct fellowship of creation and Creator.

This man on the cross was, in fact.....GOD!

[Taken from a book by Perry Stone titled *Mystery of the Priesthood and the Blood*]

Hebrew Pictograph = YHVH = Behold Nail Behold Hand =====WOW!!!

Apply The Blood Of The Lamb

Ex. 12:7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

1. Specific instructions for applying the blood:

a. It must be applied to the door. The Israelites marked their house with the blood of the lamb.

b. We mark our house [the temple of the Holy Spirit] with the blood of Christ.

The only way to God is through the shed blood of Christ who is the Door. [John 10:7-9]

Consider: Why was the blood of the lamb not applied on the threshold of the door?

Heb. 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy [unclean] thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

c. Ex. 12:22 And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin;

1. At the First Passover, they dipped hyssop plants into the basins of blood and applied or spread the blood to the doorposts.

2. God commanded His people to use hyssop in the ceremonial cleansing of people and houses.

a. Lev. 14:4-7 The hyssop and the blood are used in the ceremonial cleansing of the leper. Then the formerly diseased person could reenter the camp.

b. Lev. 14:33-53 Hyssop was used to purify a house that had previously contained mold.

c. Num. 19:18 Hyssop was used for cleansing someone who had touched a dead body.

3. David mentions hyssop in Psalms 51:7: "Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow."

It seems like an odd request to ask God to use a hyssop plant to wipe away David's sin.

David is asking God to cleanse him spiritually as he confesses his sin.

The Hyssop Was a Means of Transferring the Blood of the Sacrifice to the Sinner

4. Hyssop appears at Jesus' crucifixion: The Roman soldiers offered Jesus a drink of wine vinegar on a sponge at the end of a stalk of hyssop [John 19:28-30].

John 19:28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

David prophesied this Messianic event, saying They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink [Psalm 69:21].

John 19:29-30 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.

This was Jesus' last act before He declared His work on earth finished and gave up His spirit.

Notice the symbolism:

1. Jesus drinks the wine vinegar.

Ps. 75:8 For a cup is in the hand of the LORD, and the wine foams; It is well mixed, and He pours out of this; Surely all the wicked of the earth must drain *and* drink down its dregs.

Matt. 26:42 O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, Thy will be done.

I think it is safe to conclude that the cup of sour wine Jesus drinks at the crucifixion represents the cup of God's wrath which we all deserve to drink because of our sins.

The cup of God's wrath could not be taken away from us unless Jesus drank it on our behalf.

"He drank a cup of wrath without mercy that we may drink a cup of mercy without wrath."
Consider: It seems God ordained the hyssop branch to show up right at the crucifixion as a reminder that all those symbolic rituals in the OT were symbolizing this moment in time. It was as if God were saying: "It wasn't the blood of the lamb spread on your door frame with the hyssop that allowed the angel of death to pass over you when you were leaving Egypt. It wasn't the blood of animals that Moses sprinkled on you with the hyssop that appeased My wrath. It was My Son's blood. I lead you out of Egypt. I paid the price for your rebellion. Look at the hyssop and remember My Son. Look at the OT symbol and now LOOK AT THE ONE it was symbolizing."

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross
On Which The Prince Of Glory Died,
My Richest Gain I Count But Loss,
And Pour Contempt On All My Pride.

Forbid It, Lord, That I Should Boast
Save In The Death Of Christ, My God!
All The Vain Things That Charm Me Most,
I Sacrifice Them To His Blood.

See, From His Head, His Hands, His Feet,
Sorrow And Love Flow Mingled Down.
Did E'er Such Love And Sorrow Meet,
Or Thorns Compose So Rich A Crown?

Were The Whole Realm Of Nature Mine,
It Would Be A Present Far Too Small.
Love So Amazing, So Divine,
Demands My Soul, My Life, My All.