

Significant Lessons From The Seemingly Insignificant

#20 - Nisan 14 & Nisan 15

The 14th Day of Nisan -- Passover - March 30, 2018---is one of the most important dates of all Bible History. The 1st Passover marked the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt.

Lev. 23:4-5 "These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S Passover."

For almost 3,500 years, Jewish families have gathered to commemorate God's miraculous deliverance from their bondage in Egypt.

Centuries later, it would be the time of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the "Lamb of God."

Six times in history, the 14th Day of Nisan has marked a milestone in the spiritual and national life of Israel. Theme: Represent the covenants, protection & promises between God and man.

1. First Passover In The Promised Land

Passover not only looked back, but it looked forward to their new life and beginning in their new land where they could enjoy abundant blessings by the power of God.

Ex. 12:24- 25 And you shall observe this event as an ordinance for you and your children forever. And it will come about when you Enter The Land which the Lord will give you, as He has promised, that you shall observe this rite. [Passover]

For God's covenant people, deliverance from Egypt included the promise they would inherit:

Deut. 8:7-9a For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; ⁸ A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey;

⁹ A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it;

Joshua 5:10-12 And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.

Nisan 15 The Feast of Unleavened Bread - March 31-April 8 2018

Nisan 15 is a "high holy day": non-Saturday Sabbath Theme: Time of Reflection & Purification

Leviticus 23:6-7, 10-11 Although the Feast of Unleavened Bread is quite distinct from the Passover Feast, it is celebrated at the same time and lasts for a full seven days, from the 15th through the 21st day of Nisan. During these seven days, Israel is to eat bread without leaven, a symbol of sin.

The Matzoh (unleavened bread) that is eaten reminds Israel of that terrible, but hopeful, night, when they ate the sacrificial lamb and unleavened bread in obedience to God's command.

Matzoh thus became a symbol of a slavery that God transformed into freedom by His marvelous redemptive act known as the Exodus.

Four notable events that have occurred on the Feast of Unleavened Bread are:

1. *The Exodus Passover Supper*

God delivered the final, crushing blow of plagues against Egypt, when His Death Angel slew the Firstborn in the land of Egypt, passing over the Jewish doorways which had been brushed with the blood of the slain Passover Lamb.

Exodus 12:40-41 Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass At The End Of The 430 Years, even the Selfsame Day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

Question: What event started the 430 Years? We know the day they left Egypt was Nisan 15. I'm looking for an event that started 430 years before the Exodus.

This event will also be on Nisan 15.

My Answer: Exactly 430 years after God made His covenant with Abraham, He delivered the final blow that would force Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. [Nisan 15]

2. *God's Covenant With Abraham - 400 Years Of Affliction Foretold*

Before there was a nation called the Children of Israel, God told Abram that this great nation which would come from his family would be afflicted for 400 years.

Gen. 15:13-16 "And He said unto Abram, know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they [Egypt] shall afflict them 400 years. And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge; and afterward shall they [Israel] come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again; for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full."

These verses contain a sevenfold prophecy which received a literal and complete fulfillment. It had reference to the sojourn of Abram's descendants in the land of Egypt, their bondage there, and their deliverance and return to Canaan.

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| 1. Abram's descendants were to be strangers in a land not theirs. | |
| 2. They were to "serve" in that strange land. | |
| 3. They were to be "afflicted" 400 years. | |
| 4. God would judge the nation that afflicted them. | Gen. 15:14; Ex. 7-12 |
| 5. Abraham would be spared from the judgment. | Gen. 15:15; 25:7-8 |
| 6. The nation would return to Israel. [Canaan] | Gen. 15:16 |
| 7. They would leave Egypt with great wealth. | Gen. 15:14; Ex. 12:35-36 |

Points To Consider:  [symbol in chart]

1. *Many commentators claim the Israelites were only in Egypt for 215 years.*
 - *Jacob and his family moved to Egypt during the famine which was 215 years after God's promise to Abraham.*
 - *Descendants of Jacob were there for 215 years before the EXODUS.*
Promise >..... 215 Years > Jacob Egypt > 215 Years> EXODUS

What??? *I Thought: According to Scripture, the Israelites were slaves in Egypt for 400 years!*

- Hebrew scholars say to read the above verses like this: the passage first lists items of SEED, STRANGER, SERVE, AFFLICT
- Then it adds the information that All This Happened within 400 years.
- The 400 years Applies To All The Preceding Items, not just the last one of "afflict."

Passages in Question: Scripture Is Never In Error

Gen. 15:13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them 400 years;

Ex. 12:40-41 Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was 430 years.

⁴¹ And it came to pass at the end of the 430 years, even the Selfsame Day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

- The Septuagint contains the answer: Ex. 12:40 = Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in CANAAN and EGYPT, was 430 years.

Points To Consider:

2. When we think of the children or people of Israel we typically think of Jacob, his 12 sons, and their descendants.

- Remember: the original promise was not made to Jacob, but to Abraham.
- Moses is subtly pointing out: The people of Israel started with Abraham.

[Genesis 12:2 -I will make of thee a great nation: It began with Abraham].

- Therefore, Gen. 15 is including Isaac and Abraham *in* the nation of Israel.
- 430 years prior to the Exodus is when Abram received the promise and left Haran.

Points To Consider:  [symbol in chart]

3. Israel's, the nation, affliction Began when Isaac was 5 years old and Ishmael mocked him.

Gen. 21:8-9 And the child grew and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned. And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.

Gal. 4:29 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

- The mocking affliction of Isaac by Ishmael was 30 years after the promise made by God to Abram at Haran.
- The mocking affliction of Isaac by Ishmael was 400 years BEFORE the Exodus.
- Israel came out of bondage 430 years AFTER the promise to Abraham. [Ex. 12:41]

Promise > 215 Years > Jacob Egypt > 215 Years> EXODUS

Promise...30 Yrs. To Affliction....400 Years.....> EXODUS

Was This Covenant/Promise Given in Gen. 15 On Nisan 15?

Ex. 12:40-41 Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in [Canaan] and Egypt, was 430 years. And it came to pass at The End Of The 430 Years, even the Selfsame Day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. [Nisan 15]
Note: Exodus 12:40 views the entire "sojourning" of the children of Israel was 430 years.
Key Point: The self-same day they came out of Egypt, Nisan 15, was the END of the 430 years. Exactly 430 years after God made His covenant with Abraham, He delivered the final blow that would force Pharaoh to let the Israelites go.

Bonus Prophecy Fulfilled: In Detailed Perfection!

Gen. 15:16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again;

- Gen. 46:12 Hezron went into Egypt.
- Luke 3:32-33 Lists Nahshon as the 4th generation after Hezron.
- Num. 2:3 Nahshon was the leader of Judah in the Exodus.

Nisan 15: Feast Of Unleavened Bread

3. In The Promised Land:

Joshua 5:11-12 And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the Passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day. [Nisan 15]

¹² And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna anymore; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year. [Nisan 16]

- 14th Day They kept the Passover (remember redemption from Egypt)
- 15th Day Ate old corn of the land, unleavened bread, parched corn
- 16th Day The manna ceased- after 40 yrs. of God's feeding
Ate the fruit of the Land

Consider: The Israelites passed over the Jordan at the time of the barley harvest. An abundant supply of food was available when they entered Canaan. It was probably in granaries which had been abandoned by its inhabitants as they took refuge in the walled city of Jericho.

The supply of corn upon Israel's first entrance into Canaan was an earnest of the promise which God had made through Moses in:

Deut. 6:10-11: "It shall be when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which He swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities which thou buildest not, and houses full of good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not."

The complete fulfillment is recorded in Joshua 24:13.

The wilderness experience is the childhood stage of the believer. Manna from Heaven

Num. 11:7-8 It was like frost upon the ground, a small round substance like coriander seed and the color of bdellium Its taste was like the taste of pastry prepared with oil.

Ex. 16:31 Or like wafers made with honey - It must have been soft and easy to eat and digest.

The Canaan experience represents the adult stage of the believer. Called To Maturity

- I acknowledge and agree that I died with Jesus Christ. [crossing of Jordan]
- My "old man" is dead. I am raised to now walk in the newness of life - of Jesus Christ.
- I am to mortify the deeds of the flesh [Rom. 8:13] and get the sin out of my life.
- Learning to partake of my spiritual blessings & provisions in Jesus Christ.

Consider: When God freed Israel from Egypt, He told His people that for "seven days you shall eat unleavened bread." [Ex. 12:15]

Seven = divine perfection; totality or completion

Significance Of The Unleavened Bread We Are Commanded To Eat:

Isa. 53:4-6 Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

1. Eating unleavened bread symbolizes feasting on Jesus Christ [The Living Word - The Bread of Life].
2. It will satisfy the deep spiritual hunger and fill the spiritual vacuum in me. [John 6:35]
3. Eating the unleavened bread [Jesus Christ] is essential for my spiritual life.
4. Eating unleavened bread represents my coming out of sin [getting the leaven out] which takes place in me as I feast on Jesus Christ. [Ps. 139:23-24]
5. Christ's righteousness and His Life will be revealed in me and conform me to the image of Jesus Christ as I feast on Him.
6. I MUST fill my life with the unleavened bread of life, Jesus Christ.

Nisan 15: Feast Of Unleavened Bread

4. The Burial of Jesus Christ, our "Passover Lamb"

As Jewish law prevented a crucified person from hanging on the cross during a Sabbath, a dead body had to be removed and buried before day's end. So as the Feast of Unleavened Bread [a high holy non-Saturday Sabbath; Nisan 15] drew near, the Roman guards considered breaking the legs of Jesus and the two thieves hanging next to him, to hasten their deaths.

Finding Jesus already dead, they removed his body from the cross upon Pilate's order.

Jesus was buried, just in time for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. His body did not decay or see corruption in death. That Passover -- the sinless unleavened 'Bread of Heaven' was revealed as that long awaited perfect sacrifice for sin. His body lay in the grave like a kernel of wheat planted and waiting to burst forth as the "Bread of Life."

Jesus Christ fulfilled the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

John 12:23-26 Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. ²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

²⁵ He that loves his life shall lose it; and he that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. ²⁶ If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.

Consider: Jesus says: Be prepared to become like me. Be prepared to follow the road I take. The Son of Man will be glorified by the grain of wheat falling into the ground and dying.

Jesus is going to bear much fruit. How? Hating His life in this world, suffering and dying for us. Jesus says: Follow me; Die with me; Hate your life in this world. Serve me.

Jesus Reveals 4 Hard Choices:

John 12:24 The Grain of Wheat Must Die

John 12:24 Must Hate My Life In This World

John 12:26a Jesus Calls Me To Follow Him - on His Calvary road, leading to death

John 12:26b Jesus Calls Me To Serve Him

Jesus Reveals 4 Glorious Results:

John 12:24 Yes, the seed must die, but "if it dies it bears much fruit."
My death to self is not in vain.

John 12:25 He that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

John 12:26a I must follow Him to Calvary. ...where I am, there shall also my servant be.

John 14:3 I go to prepare a place for you that where I am there you may be also.

John 12:26b I must become His servant. Then the Father will honor me.

Truth: What we lay down for Christ, He will put in our hands again with glory.

You cannot out-sacrifice His resurrection generosity.

- 16th Day The manna ceased- after 40 yrs. of God's feeding
Ate the fruit of the Land

Jesus Christ is our unleavened bread: We are to replace the sin in our life with The Bread of Life. We are to "eat the whole lamb." We are to be overcomers and possess our inheritance in Christ - His fullness = an abundant, fruitful, victorious life.

II Cor. 4:16-18 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

¹⁸ While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.