

Significant Lessons From The Seemingly Insignificant

#24 The Mystery of Nisan 17

Everything in the Torah has a prophetic as well as historical significance. Jesus indicated this in Matt. 5:17: Think not that I am come to destroy the law (the Torah), or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but To Fulfill.

Romans 15:4: For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for Our Learning...

Prophetic role of the feasts: Colossians 2:16-17:

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days which are A Shadow Of Things To Come.

The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed;

the Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed.

This lesson is based on my belief that Nisan 17 was the probable date of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ = the day of the Feast of First Fruits.

Facts: Nisan 14 = Passover & Day of Crucifixion

Nisan 15 = Feast of Unleavened Bread = High Holy Day

Sunday = Day of Resurrection [Mark 16:9] = Feast of First Fruits

If Sunday was Nisan 17, then Thursday was Nisan 14. [3 days & 3 nights in the grave]

The Bible records at least 7 miracles of Deliverance on Nisan 17. It is a day when God fulfills His promises, destroys His enemies, shows Himself mighty and gives His people a new beginning. No other day except Passover is mentioned as many times in the Bible.

Biblical Events on Nisan 17: Deliverance & Resurrection; New Beginning

A. Gen. 8:1-4 Noah's Ark rested on Mt. Ararat

Gen 8:1-4 And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged [subsided];

² The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained; ³ And the waters returned from off the earth continually:

and after the end of the 150 days the waters were abated. ⁴ And the ark rested in the 7th month, on the 17th day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.

The Bible is clear that Jesus was crucified and died on the Passover (Mark 14:12).

- Passover was the 14th day of the 7th month [Nisan] in the CIVIL YEAR.
- Three days later (His resurrection) from the 14th day of the 7th month would be the 17th day of the 7th month, which is the same day Noah's ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat!
- Jesus was resurrected the same day Noah's ark came to rest!
- Noah's Ark Prophecies The Day Jesus Was Resurrected!

Question: "Isn't Passover the first month of the year (Nisan)?"

- The 7th month, Nisan, became the 1st month at the institution of Passover.

Ex. 12:1-2 The LORD Spoke unto Moses and Aaron: This month shall be unto you the Beginning Of Months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. [religious calendar; Religious New Year] God was instituting His Feasts, His Divine appointments with His people. His focus was to reveal their Messiah in a proper and sequential order. This warranted a revolutionary change in their calendar; in their lives. His focus was to show Israel how the Messiah would fulfill the spring and fall feasts and holy days that He was about to implement. The spring holy days, which Jesus fulfilled at His first coming, would come in the first month (Nisan), and the fall holy days, which Jesus will fulfill at His second coming, would be in the seventh month (Tishri).

Skip Moen: Hebrew Word Study: The Hebrew religious year begins in the month of Nisan. An ancient Jewish commentary on the Genesis passage: According to this ancient calendar, the ark rested on the mountain on precisely the same day that Jesus was resurrected from the tomb.

According to Peter, [I Pet. 3:20-21] Noah's Ark is a type of Christ & His resurrection.

- Peter saw in Noah's ark, and specifically in it passing through the waters, a symbol of salvation and our baptism into the death & resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- In going down through the waters and coming back out it is a picture of death and resurrection.

Moen: Thousands of years before the resurrection, God engineered history to point toward the pinnacle event of salvation.

- The Ark came through the waters and rested on the earth for the 1st time bringing new life to Noah and his family.
- DELIVERANCE for Noah & his family came on the 17th of Nisan through the Ark.
- God established His "new beginning" of Earth after the flood of Noah on Nisan 17.
- Jesus was crucified on Passover [Nisan 14], spent 3 days and 3 nights in the grave, and was resurrected on Nisan 17. [Feast of First Fruits; 1st day of the week]
- The world was to experience a new beginning, and God caused that day to be the Feast of First fruits.
- God began our "new beginning" in Christ on the anniversary of the "new beginning" under Noah.

Is it by random chance that Jesus was resurrected on the same day Noah's ark came to rest? Absolutely not! The first Ark, which saved Noah and his family from God's judgment, was only a boat made of wood. The second Ark was given to us over 2000 years later when Jesus defied death, raised from the dead and stood before the masses to proclaim He was the Truth and the new Ark. He solidified this point by offering rest in His new ark the same day Noah's ark rested on the "mountains of Ararat." Those who reject Jesus remain in their sins and will soon experience the next great judgment to come, not by water, but by fire [II Peter 3:7].

Biblical Events on Nisan 17: Deliverance & Resurrection; New Beginning

B. Israel Crosses The Red Sea Under Moses' Leadership Ex 3:18; 5:3; Ex. 14

- God instituted Passover in Ex. 12:14. They were to observe it BEFORE their exit.
- Israelites killed the Passover Lamb at twilight and observed Passover on Nisan 14.
- Moses recorded the fact that Israel crossed over the Red Sea and physically left the land of Egypt on the 17th of Nisan in Numbers 33:1-8:

These are the journeys of the children of Israel, which went forth out of the land of Egypt with their armies under the hand of Moses and Aaron. ² And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of the LORD: and these are their journeys according to their goings out.

Nisan 15: They ate the Passover meal and departed from Rameses. Ex. 12:12-37; Num. 33:3

Nisan 16: They camped at Succoth & journeyed to Etham. Ex. 13:20; Numbers 33:5

Nisan 17: They camped in Etham, journeyed to Pi-hahiroth and camped before Migdol where they crossed through the midst of the Sea. Ex. 14:2, 21-22; Num. 33:6-8

Before crossing the Red Sea on Nisan 17, it looked like it was all over for the Israelites.

- About 2 million Jewish people left Rameses the night of Passover and had arrived at the shores of the Red Sea. Looking back, they could see the dust of the approaching Egyptian Army, sent to force them to come back to Egypt to be slaves once again.
- The people immediately panicked, for they could see no human way out of this disaster. They had the Red Sea in front of them and the massive numbers of the soldiers of the only superpower of the day, Egypt, behind them.
- They began to panic and complain to Moses (Exodus 14:11-12).

The entire Egyptian army was bearing down on them and they were utterly trapped.

In the face of death, God brought resurrection life to His people and death to their enemies.

Before their eyes [Exodus 14:13-14], God parted the waters of the Red Sea, causing the land under the waters to be instantly dry. After the Israelites crossed over safely, God caused the parted waters to violently flow back together, killing the entire pursuing army of Pharaoh! Losing this army caused Egypt to go immediately into decline, from which she would never return. Egypt never recovered.

Biblical Events on Nisan 17: Deliverance & Resurrection; New Beginning

C. Another deliverance on Nisan 17 is the entrance into Egypt which occurred before the Exodus.

Scripture tells us that The Exodus out of Egypt occurred on the exact day 430 years earlier when the Israelites entered Egypt through Jacob's family.

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.

Biblical Events on Nisan 17: Deliverance & Resurrection; New Beginning

D. Joshua 5:10-12 Israel Entered & Ate The First Fruit of The Promised Land

According to the "Timeline of the Bible"

Nisan 10: Crossed the Jordan River under the leadership of Joshua

Set up memorial stones; obedient to circumcision

Nisan 14: Israel observed Passover for the 1st time since Mt. Sinai.

Nisan 15: "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 16: The manna which had fed the nation of Israel for 40 years in the wilderness stopped.

Nisan 17: Israel began to feast on the new grain [first fruits] of the Promised Land.

Biblical Events on Nisan 17: Deliverance & Resurrection; New Beginning

E. *II Chron. 29:1-28* The Cleansing of the Temple by King Hezekiah

(800 years after entering the Promised Land]

1. After the period of the judges, united Israel was ruled by 3 kings over a period of 120 years: Saul, David and Solomon.

Interesting Note: The 7 sons of Saul were hung "at the beginning of the barley harvest cycle."

II Sam. 21:9 and they fell all seven together and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.

Recall: Feast of first fruits = beginning of barley harvest

2. At the death of Solomon, the kingdom was divided.
3. A series of evil kings ruled Israel, the Northern Kingdom, until they were taken captive by Assyria.
4. Judah, the Southern Kingdom, had a few good kings among some wicked ones.
5. One of the evil kings was Ahaz who caused worship in God's temple to cease.
6. His son, Hezekiah, a righteous man, cleansed the Temple and restored worship.

II Chron. 29:3 He in the first year of his reign, in the first month [Nisan], opened the doors of the house of the LORD, and repaired them.

7. Nisan 16: The cleansing of the magnificent temple of Solomon was complete.

II Chron. 29:17 Now they began on the first day of the first month to sanctify, and on the eighth day of the month came they to the porch of the LORD: so they sanctified the house of the LORD in eight days; and in the sixteenth day of the first month they made an end.

8. Nisan 17: Worship and sacrifice began.

II Chron. 29:20, 29 Then Hezekiah the king rose early, and gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the LORD. And when they had made an end of offering, the king and all that were present with him bowed themselves and worshipped.

New Beginning; Deliverance from pagan gods and idolatry

Biblical Events on Nisan 17: Deliverance & Resurrection; New Beginning

F. Esther 3:12; 5:1 God Delivers The Jews From Extermination Through Esther

1. Esther relates the account by which the entire Jewish race was nearly wiped out by one man named Haman who was under King Xerxes command.
2. Haman had tricked King Xerxes into signing an edict to kill and destroy all the Jews.
3. The death sentence hung over the entire Jewish nation.

Timeline:

Esther 3:12 Then were the king's scribes called on the 13th day of the first month [Nisan 13], and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written and sealed with the king's ring.

1. When Esther heard of the decree she had the entire Jewish community fast and pray for 3 days. [Esther 4:16 - Nisan 14, 15, 16]
2. On the 3rd day of the fast, Esther entered the inner court of the king's palace. [Esther 5:1] Her attitude: If I Perish, I Perish. [Esther 4:16]
3. On the 3rd day of the fast, Nisan 16, Esther went to the king and invited he & Haman to a banquet that day = Nisan 16. [Esther 5:1]
4. At this banquet, she asked them to return the following day, Nisan 17, for a banquet prepared by her. [Esther 5:8]
5. At this banquet, Haman's evil tricks were exposed. Instead of the Jewish people being exterminated by the decree of Haman, he was executed by the king.
6. Before going to the king unannounced, it looked to Esther and the rest of her people that Haman's evil decree would bring the death of the Jews.
7. Yet, the 17th came and it was Haman himself that faced the gallows and was defeated!
8. Through a long process of God's intervention the Jews are delivered again on Nisan 17.

Note: The words, adversary and enemy [Esther 7:6], used to describe Haman, are also used to describe Satan, from whose "edict of death" all believers have been saved as a result of Jesus Christ's resurrection on Nisan 17.

Biblical Events on Nisan 17: Deliverance & Resurrection; New Beginning

G. The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ - The Deliverance For All Mankind

With the death of Jesus all looked lost to His disciples and followers. Their Messiah was dead! The one they had placed all their hope in was gone. Yet strange events in the sky and the temple at the time of His death gave a flickering hope that the end of the story had not yet come! The disciples, being Jewish, knew that God had told Moses that the first Sunday following the Sabbath after Passover would be the feast of First Fruits. [Lev 23:9-14]

It was on this day they were to offer to God the first fruits of the harvest. Yet, even the disciples didn't see that God was starting a new 'first fruits' on this day, the 17th of Nisan. A 'first fruits' of those that would be raised from the dead!

Mark 16:9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, ...[Sunday]

Luke 23:1-8 "On the first day of the week [Sunday: Nisan 17], very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus...

"Why Do You Look For The Living Among The Dead? He Is Not Here; He Has Risen!"

Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'

John 12:24 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.

I Cor.15:20-23 But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them that slept. ²¹ For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Like the defeat of the Egyptians and the death of Haman on this same day previously, this Sunday morning saw the resurrection of Jesus and the defeat of Satan!

Death had been turned into life and defeat into victory!

Our new beginning in Christ was on the anniversary of the Earth's "new beginning" under Noah!

Think about this! The odds of just two of these events both happening accidentally on the same day of the Hebrew year (360 days) are one in 129,000. The odds of these events all happening coincidentally on the same day of the Hebrew year are one in 783 quadrillion, 864 trillion, 876 Billion, 960 Million (783,864,876,960,000,000). Clearly, God did this on purpose. It was not merely coincidence. He wanted to draw our attention to the idea that all these things were part of a carefully orchestrated plan. Clearly, God controls the world and He watches over His people. Certainly, nothing stands in the way of His promises, not even Satan himself.

God is very exact and precise. It's like He loves to provide clues, little bread crumbs, throughout His word for us to follow if we will take the time. The mystery of the 17th is one of those bread crumbs. What starts off as an insignificant date mentioned in Gen 8:4 is in reality the first in a series of clues that God gave pointing to the resurrection of His dear Son!

All we need to do is take some more time searching and following the clues! If you follow these right to the end, you'll find that God's clues always lead to His dear Son, Jesus!

I Pet. 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,