

The Tabernacle Feast of Passover

Introduction

- References: Exodus 12; Leviticus 23:5-8; Numbers 9, 28:16-25
- Called *Pesach* in Hebrew and *Pascha* in Greek.
- Observed on the 15th of Nisan
 - Nisan was originally called Abib but changed after the Babylonian captivity.
 - In our Gregorian calendar, this will fall on April 5 in 2023 and April 22 in 2024
- This is the first feast God commanded the Jews to observe – Exodus 12:4
- This is the first of the three Pilgrimage Feasts (with Pentecost and Tabernacles) – Deuteronomy 16:16
- In Scripture, we see both original Passover in Egypt and the yearly observance that followed.
 - “Jewish authorities rightly distinguish between ‘the Egyptian’ and the ‘Permanent Passover.’” – Alfred Edersheim, *The Temple*
- We could also consider a third Passover in the observance of the *Seder* by modern Jews.

The Passover in Egypt

- The Passover was the tenth plague on Egypt and brought about Israel’s release from slavery.
- A male lamb was selected on the 10th day of the month and kept until the 14th when it was slain at sundown – Exodus 12:3-6
- The blood of the lamb was applied to the door posts and mantle with hyssop – Exodus 12:7,22
- The body of the lamb is roasted with fire and eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Any remnants are burned. – Exodus 12:8-10
- The Israelites ate the meal prepared to leave – Exodus 12:11
- The Lord smote the firstborn throughout Egypt where a lamb had not killed and its blood applied – Exodus 12:23,29-30
- God commanded Israel to observe this feast in perpetuity in remembrance of their deliverance from Egypt – Exodus 12:24-27
 - It was celebrated one year later at Sinai (Numbers 9:1-5) and some think not again until in Canaan (Joshua 5:10),

The Passover Feast

- Much of the original Passover in Egypt was kept: a lamb selected on the 10th, slain on the 14th, eaten in the evening of the 15th with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
 - The one obvious omission is the application of blood to the door posts.
- In the times of the Tabernacle, it appears little if anything special was done in it for the Passover. There seems to have been a private focus on the Passover and a public focus on the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Later Developments

- When the Temple existed, all Passover lambs were slain in the Temple.
 - Their blood was caught in bowls and then cast onto the base of the Brazen Altar.
 - Possible reference to this in II Chronicles 30:16
 - The priests and congregants sang the Hallel (Psalms 113-118)
- Today the Jews observe *Pesach* with the *Seder* meal.
 - I am certain that the order of the *Seder* developed after the destruction of the second Temple.
 - This would mean the Last Supper could not have been a *Seder* as is often portrayed today.
 - It is likely that the *Seder* is based on previous practices and some elements may be very ancient. We just have little evidence of which parts are.
 - The *Seder* meal is made of 15 different elements in the meal, with blessings, recitations, hand washings, eating, and drinking.

Truths from the Tabernacle

- The Passover is one of the clearest pictures of Christ's work.
 - Christ is the Passover Lamb sacrificed for us – I Corinthians 5:7, I Peter 1:19
 - It is astounding how well the details line up, including that His bones were not broken – Exodus 12:46, John 19:36
 - Only through His blood is found deliverance and freedom – Colossians 1:14
- Christ's death was on the "preparation day" before the Passover – John 19:14
 - His death would have coincided with the death of the Passover lambs slain in the Temple, roughly 3:00 p.m. – Mark 15:34-37