

The Passover & the New Testament

Several passages refer to the relationship between. Look up the following examples and make notes about the connections and differences between Christ and Passover:

- John 1:29, 36;
- 1 Corinthians 5:7;
- Matthew 26:17-30.

Q.7 Why don't Christians celebrate Passover as it was, but instead celebrate the "Lord's Supper"?

Q.8 How is the redemption by substitution made by Jesus Christ far more significant than to us and the world than Passover? What continuity is there between the two?

Q.9 Why in the Lord's Supper, which was instituted during a Passover meal, do we not use the bitter herbs and the lamb, but instead use bread and wine?

Q.10 Note that the direction of remembrance in the Passover is backwards only. What directions do we "look" in the celebration of the Lord's Supper today? (e.g. Mark 14:25; Revelation chapters 5, 19 & 22)

Q.11 What lessons can we learn from the nature of the Passover memorial and its fine details and apply to our remembering of what God has done for us today?

#4 What cost "freedom"?

Exodus 12:21-51

Exodus 12:42

Because the LORD kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the LORD for the generations to come.

The God of Freedom

Through chapter 7—10 Pharaoh of Egypt has repeatedly refused to let the Israelites go into the desert to worship their God, but has increased their harsh slavery. 9 times God has delivered plagues upon Egypt to demonstrate His Lordship in contrast to Pharaoh. 9 times Pharaoh has refused to relent and acknowledge either the ill-treatment of his slaves or the clear superiority of the Lord God. We see God's power over His creation: the plagues are not chaotic dysfunctions of nature, but specific and limited in their impact (e.g. 7:25; 8:22; 9:26). Such acts spoke powerfully to Hebrews (whose ancestors new the God of Creation) and to Egyptians (whose politics and religion relied on mastering the physical world). Pharaoh's hardness of heart to reject God's warnings reminds us of the prevalent human condition of ignorance or defiance towards God. Now Moses is called to deliver one last message to Pharaoh that will play out to the end game of God's rescue plan for his people of the promise.

Warm Up

Q.1 What would you take with you in a split second from a burning building?

Q.2 What's the most important celebration in your family's calendar each year? (e.g. a birthday, an anniversary, a memorial)

Getting into the Text Exodus 7:1-25

READ Exodus chapter 11:

Q.3 What promises does God offer to Moses in this chapter?

Q.4 What significant difference now appears in plague #10 compared to the previous ones (see chapters 7-10)?



READ Exodus 12:1-20

NOTE that before the climax to the drama of the plagues is played out, the writer details the rituals and memorials that are to be put in place.

EXERCISE: make a list in the frame below of the preparations required of an Israelite from Ex 12:1-20. Note the calendar for the 1st month of the year, your shopping list and supplies needed, and an action plan:

ACTIVITY

Watch chapter 23 of the DVD "Prince of Egypt" from Disney – The Angel of Death passes over Egypt like a wind taking breath from Egypt's firstborn (quite scary for children)

READ Exodus 12:21-37

EXERCISE: Use a pencil or highlighter to differentiate between the people's actions and God actions in this passage.

God kept his promise to the ancestors of the Hebrews, and those given to Moses. The firstborn of Egypt have their lives taken as the sign on the doorposts, indicating the blood of the sacrifice of an unblemished animal symbolised the cost of freedom due to such hardness of heart in humanity.

SPECIAL NOTE: Exodus 13:1-2; 11-13 refers to the concept of the first-born. Exodus 3:22 says Israel was God's son. Redeeming His son from Egypt at the cost of the death of Egypt's firstborn emphasises even more the precious relationship God grants Israel. God allows a substitute to take place in the ceremonies of the Hebrews. The lamb symbolically represents what God did for Israel; the lengths that God would go to in order to fulfil His promises and continue His plan for restoring the world to Himself through His people.

READ Exodus 12:43-49

Israel is given more regulations. Note that God's grace is still extended to Egypt in this event in the sense that those who were sympathetic to the plight of the Hebrews were granted a provision. They were invited to associate with the ancestors of Israel, and therefore with their God, and participate in the salvation God offered. The covenant community embraced people of faith; not merely Hebrew people.



EXERCISE: Imagine you are the head of a household celebrating Passover years later. Write out a short explanation of its meaning to tell to your children:



Q.5 Given that verse 2 resets the calendar and determines the beginning of every Hebrew New Year, how might the Passover meal, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the associated rituals and festival shape a Hebrew families "New Year resolutions"?

Q.6 Why the detailed instructions about food; what is being symbolised?