



***God's Appointed Times***  
***"Our Passover Lamb"***

**Leviticus 23:4-8**

God's appointed times, as recorded in Leviticus, provide an overview for the purpose of understanding His redemptive program and how He desires to relate to us. Our responsibility is to fully embrace each of these in response to our relationship to Him.

The Seven Feasts of Israel begin with the Passover/Unleavened Bread. This feast sets the tone for the rest of the appointed times because at the core of Passover is the essence of God's redemption.

**The Promise of Deliverance: Exodus 6:6-7**

The Passover is built on four promises the Lord made to the people of Israel. These four promises give us the relational meaning of the feast.

- 1) ***"...I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians..."***
- 2) ***"...I will deliver you from slavery to them..."***
- 3) ***"...I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment..."***
- 4) ***"...I will take you to be My people, and I will be your God..."***

**Exodus 12** gives us the instructions God required Israel to do in order to preserve the life of their firstborn. (***Exodus 12:1-17***) On the night that God brought the final judgment on Egypt, the Israelites had to sacrifice a lamb. They were to put its blood on the doorway of the entrance to their homes, so the Lord would "pass over" them.

There are some important principles from which we can fully understand the Feast of Passover/Unleavened Bread. They help us to make the connection to Jesus and our relationship to Him.

➤ **The selection of the proper lamb. (Exodus 12:3-5)**

***"Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. For your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or the goats..."***

The Lord required the people to select a certain type of lamb, one without blemish, on the tenth day of the month (Nissan/April) and keep it until the fourteenth day. The lamb was kept for that length of time

so the priests and Levites could inspect it. They needed to be sure it qualified as a proper lamb for sacrifice. Nissan 10 is what is known as “*Lamb selection day*.” This has been done every spring since the night of Passover in Exodus.

When Jesus came to Jerusalem for the last time before going to the cross, He came on this day, “lamb selection day.” It has become known traditionally as “Palm Sunday,” taken from the gospel accounts of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. God calls this day, the 10th day of Nissan, the day on which a lamb is selected to be sacrificed. It is the day Jesus came down the Mt. of Olives to present Himself as the Lamb of God. On this day God said to the world, “This is My Lamb – I have selected Him.” **(Luke 19:28-44)**

➤ ***The sacrifice of the Passover Lamb (Exodus 12:6)***

***“...and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.”***

After selecting and inspecting the lamb, the people were permitted to take the lamb and kill it. They were instructed to put the blood on the doorway. When the Lord saw the blood, He would pass over that house and withhold His judgment of death of the firstborn within it. **(cf. Exodus 12:13)**

***“The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.”***

**The Fulfillment of Passover/Unleavened Bread in Jesus**

Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. An unblemished lamb had to be killed and its blood placed in the door of the Israelite homes. God was looking for this sign because He was not going to redeem a people merely of flesh, but of faith. The blood, applied as the Scriptures teach, makes for a sign of redemption. It speaks of a greater redemption from a far more terrible judgment. In Hebrew, this sign is *‘ot*, which refers to a miraculous sign:

The progression of Psalm 22, Isaiah 53 and John 19 are vivid pictures of Jesus, our Passover Lamb. **(cf. Psalm 22:14-18; Isaiah 53:4-6; 10a; John 19:1-3; 16-18a; 28-30)**

Jesus (Yeshua) was selected by God the Father as the Passover Lamb that takes away the sins of the world. God demonstrated that selection as Yeshua came to Jerusalem on Sunday, the 10th day of Nissan – lamb selection day. The religious leaders of Israel examined him as He taught on the Temple Mount, Nissan 11-14. He celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples on Thursday evening, Nissan 14. In the midst of his suffering, Yeshua was pronounced as blameless (sinless), by Pilate on the morning of Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nissan. Six hours later on that same day at 3:00 pm, Yeshua, the God-man, died as our Passover Lamb.

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