

How Yeshua (Jesus) Fulfilled in Intricate Detail the Passover

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Summary: This teaching shows how perfectly Yeshua the Messiah fulfilled, even in tiny detail, the picture shown by the Passover lamb. God's Feasts are "moedim", or divine appointments. They were also a type of "dress rehearsal" which we explore in this message. What happened on the 10th of the month in Jesus' life? What exact words were sung at His last Passover? Did Yeshua help his Father delevain? This and much more...

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Greetings everybody and welcome to Light on the Rock. This is Philip Shields, your brother and fellow servant in Christ. Today we're going to talk about the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread as a type of "dress rehearsal" of God's plan of salvation. We'll see how every single detail of the actual fulfillment of Passover – the blood of the lamb, the Lamb of God – every single detail was laid out thousands of years before. Almighty God in heaven, God the Father, knew exactly the precise day that his Son would be slain for us. He knew exactly what words would be said and what hymns would be sung, and what the words of those hymns would be, long before the final Passover that Yeshua led prior to his arrest and crucifixion. Father knew what time of night Judas and the Roman soldiers would come and arrest him in Gethsemane. He knew exactly what would happen every moment of Passover day thousands of years before. And the Jews were rehearsing these events long before Yeshua even appeared to be our Passover.

Today we're going to go in depth into how the Spring feasts of Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, or as some refer to it "the Feast of Unleavens", continued to be kept by the early Christians AND how our Savior Jesus the Christ fulfilled each step in precise detail. I am confident that many of you will enjoy a more profound appreciation for the spring feasts after hearing this sermon. If you also hear the sermon "**Fresh Look at Passover Emblems**", on my website www.LightontheRock.org, you'll get even further details.

What **hymns** did Jesus –whom I prefer to call by His Hebrew name Yeshua the Messiah – what hymns did He and his disciples sing at His last Passover? You'll be amazed at the exact words they sang, pointing directly to Him. **What words did the High Priest speak** when sacrificing the lamb for the nation, which were no doubt said in unison with Yeshua's words? How did Yeshua fulfill the Passover Lamb as the Lamb of God (1 Cor. 5:7; John 1:29)? How does the Passover Matzah picture the Christ? When it's all understood in this detail, we can't help but gasp in amazement at our God.

I hope you enjoy this message and will appreciate the careful precision that Abba put into these holydays, and nothing caught Him by surprise. You will see how Yahweh knew the exact day, exactly, when His Son would be chosen, what words would be sung at His final Passover, what time of night He would be betrayed, and even the very name of the man who was released instead of Jesus at the Passover – Barabbas – even that name pointed to the true Son of the Father, Yeshua!? Did you realize that **Barabbas** means "son of the Father"? Hang on, we have a lot of ground to cover. (Barabbas is the Greek form of Bar-Abba – son of the Father)

Let's understand that the selection, arrest, crucifixion and resurrection and ascension of Messiah all happened in **THE MOST PIVOTAL WEEK** in all human history. On those events of those few days almost 2000 years ago, hang every major world event that happened before it and has yet to happen. This is the STARTING point of Yahweh's plan to save mankind.

The Feasts are God's feasts and they were based on the seasons in Israel and on their harvests.

When we keep the holydays, we understand better what God is doing and will do in the future. Let's read both from the Old Testament and the New Testament about these days.

Leviticus 23:1-2

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: *'The feasts of the Lord*, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, *these are My feasts.'*"

Notice our God says they are Feasts of the Lord, "these are MY feasts". They're not man-made days. Notice in verse 2 they are called "HOLY assemblies". That is why I call them God's **HOLYDAYS, not "holidays"**.

When I say "feast", what do most of us think of? WE think of food and drink. They certainly had food and drink but the meaning is not to party or eat a lot. **The word for "feasts" in Hebrew is "moed" which actually means "divine appointments, appointed times"**.

One translation I use (Apologetics Study Bible) translates Lev. 23:2 this way... "...these are **my appointed times**, the times of the LORD which you will proclaim as sacred assemblies." So God is calling these holydays not "feasts" so much as "divine appointments". It's as if God put these days in his Daytimer or appointment book and expects His children to be there with Him on these days. You and I don't want to miss appointments with our Creator!

Are God's holydays to be Kept in the New Testament?

But are these divine appointments – feasts – God's holydays – required in the New Testament after the crucifixion and resurrection? Must Christians keep these "old testament" holydays and feasts – or divine appointments?

Many are preaching we don't have to. Others are saying "look at the majority Christians; they all eventually gave up on these old covenant laws and don't keep them. Are we to base our practice on scripture, or what "majority so-called Christians" did over time? Are we going to follow Scripture, or man-made decisions and traditions that have come down to us?

If these days were not to be kept in the New Testament, then why did they observe them? Acts 2:1 says "When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all together in one place." Why? Why on a holyday.

In Acts 2:1 – here they are on the Feast of Pentecost, called "the Feast of Weeks" in the Old Testament. Hebrews call it "Shavuot". If they had not been there, would they have received the anointing of the Holy Spirit? If these days were not required after Christ's death, why would God honor them with His Spirit on this holyday?

If the holydays were not to be kept in the New Testament, why did Paul give instructions to the **Gentile Corinthians on how to properly keep the Passover**, or Lord's supper in 1 Corinthians 11:22-33? Just write that down and read it later, as we have a lot to cover. It clearly is referring to the Passover service Jesus kept. Write it down please – 1 Corinthians 11:22-33.

Paul also refers to Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread in 1 Cor. 5:6-8. Please turn there.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

“Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that **a little leaven leavens the whole lump?** 7 Therefore **purge out [clean out, get rid of] the old leaven**, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed **Christ, our Passover**, was sacrificed for us. 8 **Therefore let us keep the feast**, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

Paul clearly is referring to these very days we are keeping this year. He speaks of leavening and being boastful, puffed up. He says to get rid of the leaven. He says to KEEP this feast. It's very clear.

Just for time's sake, please also write down these other scriptures:

- the Feast of Tabernacles will clearly be kept during the Millennium, even by Gentile Egyptians (Zech.14:16-21). If they're done away with, why would we be keeping them again in the Millennium?
- Paul wanted to be in Jerusalem for Pentecost (Acts 16:28) and he mentions it in 1 Cor. 16:8.

There is no clear scripture of Paul teaching against the holydays. Rather, there are these clear scriptures in support of them. Had Paul taught against the holydays, there would be records of rioting of this topic. But there are none.

Also, it's **clear from history**, that the early believers for at least 40-50 years after Christ kept the holydays and the 7th day sabbath, and it was only much later that pagan holidays and Sunday started to be exchanged under the authority of the Roman Empire.

There's another thing: Keeping the holydays keeps us aware of how God's plan of salvation works. Yes, indeed, He justifies and redeems us by the death of Christ, but there's more. We are also called to live the way of righteousness. We are called to walk as Jesus walked, to live as he lived, or we are hypocrites, according to 1 John 2:3-6.

So Passover reminds us of the tremendous LOVE God has for us. I love to read Ezekiel 16 this time of year, which describes it so well, not to forget John 3:16. Then as we put out the leavening, we are reminded that we have a new relationship now. We are to live an obedient life and follow His way. We must resist, fight and overcome sin by the power of His Holy Spirit in us. The days of Unleavened Bread show us as we leave Egypt – which pictures our sinful old way, the way of this world - we take in the new life of Christ in us. It shows us we no longer worship anyone but God.

The spring barley harvest in Israel also pictures that God is working with a smaller harvest for now. The bigger harvests of souls come later. After the barley harvest comes the wheat harvest and Pentecost, then the large fall harvest of fruits, nuts, vegetables, showing the time when God will

convert the whole world during the Millennium. I explain a lot of this on previous sermons on my website.

Back to the spring harvest and spring holydays: Implicit in these spring holydays is the understanding that God is redeeming His people, freeing us from slavery to sin if we answer His call, and He is making us a “new creation” in Christ. Built-in to these holydays is **the wavesheaf day** coming up on Sunday, depicting how Christ had to first be accepted by the Father to sanctify the rest of the harvest of human lives. More on that later.

So why wouldn't we keep these days? * OF course we should! They did in the early church, and those who are faithful to the Word STILL keep these days. They're GOD'S feasts days and He commands our presence, so we're here.

Back to the “Dress Rehearsal” of the Spring Feasts

Why am I using the words “Dress Rehearsal”? **Please turn back to Leviticus 23:2, 4** again. Remember the word “feast” is “moed” in the Hebrew, meaning “appointed time”, an appointment with God.

It also says here that these are to be “holy **convocations**”. The word “convocation” in Hebrew is “*miqrah*”. It can mean “assembly, gathering, *or rehearsal*” according to Strong's word #4744. These holydays are like “dress *rehearsals*” to get us ready for the real thing.

Please be turning to Exodus 12. In the case of the spring holydays, the real thing has happened but we're rehearsing, retelling the story and understanding it more as we do. Christ is the Passover who died for us. The spring holydays picture and rehearse past events in God's calendar, while the Fall holydays picture events yet to occur. So we'll focus today on the details of how Yeshua (Jesus Christ) fulfilled the details of the Passover Lamb and the days of Unleavened Bread.

Exodus 12:1-5

Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 "This month (Abib) shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.

So I teach what God instructs: the beginning of the year begins in the Spring, where there is new life, the leaves are coming out, the trees are flowering. **Specifically, it is when the barley is in Abib stage – with enough development that there can be a wavesheaf offering in a few weeks.** It makes no sense to have the New year in the dead of winter. God's calendar begins in the spring, in mid-to-late March or early April most years. Nor does the year begin with Rosh Hashanah in the fall, but here in the spring.

Selecting a Perfect Lamb on the 10th of the first month

Exodus 12:3-5

3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: '**On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb**, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. 4 And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. 5 **Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year.** You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

Every household was to be involved. We have to *personally* accept the Lamb of God for ourselves (v. 3). Generally they figured 10 persons per lamb. In Jesus' day on earth, at Passover Jerusalem's population would jump from 600,000 population to 2-1/2 million. Josephus the historian tells us that 250,000 lambs were offered for Passover (again, about 1 per 10 people). ***Most of these lambs were raised from nearby Bethlehem.*** Where did the Lamb of God come from? Also Bethlehem, which also means "house of Bread". Jesus is not only the lamb of God, but is also the "bread from heaven".

Remember a day in the Bible began at sundown the night before. "The evening and the morning were the first day". They begin and end at sunset. So they would select a perfect lamb that was a fully mature but young adult lamb. Christ was about 33 when He died as God's lamb for the world. **In John 1:29, John the Baptist called Jesus "The Lamb of God** who shall take away the sins of the world". **In 1 Cor. 5:7**, Paul refers to "Christ our Passover". **So selecting, keeping these lambs for 4 days** (from the 10th to the 14th of the first month) also pictured Christ.

- **Revelation 13:8** says, "...the Lamb slain from the 'foundation of the world'" Christ was selected from the foundation of the world, which was 4,000 years before He died. Remember the Passover lamb was selected on the 10th, which was 4 days before it was killed. Remember: we're talking about rehearsals.
- That selection was 4,000 years before he had to be sacrificed. When you count 1 day as a thousand years (2 Peter 3:8; Ps. 90:4), just like the Israelites kept their lamb for 4 days, so God selected His Lamb, and then kept His Lamb for 4 days (4000 years also) before letting Yeshua be sacrificed.

These lambs would be kept in the homes of the Israelites for 4 days, just as Christ lived among His own people. God also tabernacled with Israel in the wilderness. His tent, the Tabernacle, was right in the middle of the camp. God did not want to be way off someplace, but right there. In the beginning he walked and talked with Adam and Eve before they sinned. **Rehearsal: the lamb was among those who would have to kill and eat it a few days later.**

The lamb was to be killed on the 14th. By the end of the 14th, at sunset – and beginning the 15th, the Feast of Unleavened Bread would begin and all leaven was to have already been put out of the house. ***So prior to the Days of Unleavened bread, what were Israelites doing?*** They had selected their lamb, and then after that they would be sure their homes were without any leaven products. **They were deleavening.**

Egypt is a picture of the sinful world, of sin. Leaven is also pictured in the Bible most often, but not always, as a picture of sin. It depends on the context. In 1 Cor. 5:6-8, leaven is definitely compared to sin. How did Yeshua the Messiah fulfill this?

Turn now please to John 12. On the 10th of the month, appropriate lambs by the thousands were brought in by the north gate of the temple. While they were bringing in those lambs, the Jews would sing the Hallel, (from which we get the words "Hallelujah") from **Psalms 118**. Yeshua had been in Bethany the night before having supper at Lazarus' home. Bethany is only 2 miles away, to the east of Jerusalem.

So on the 10th of the first month, **at the very moment the lambs for Passover were being brought in from the north gate, Yeshua was coming in from the east gate, from the Mt of Olives, riding on the foal of a donkey.**

John 12:12-13

The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' The King of Israel!"

Guess where that is quoted from? This was a quote from Psalm 118:26, which was one of the hymns they sang on the holydays, especially Passover season. They added the words "the king of Israel". In Psalm 118:25, where it says "SAVE US" – they were actually singing his VERY NAME. "SAVE" or "salvation" in the Hebrew there is "Yasha" – the same as His name, Yeshua. **They were saying His very name as He entered, at the same time the lambs for Passover were coming in on the other gate.** Same song, one group singing to the Passover lambs, and the other group singing to the true Lamb of God, Yeshua the Messiah.

EXAMINING THE LAMB

What happens next? Back in Israel they would examine the lamb to be sure it was without blemish. What happens to the Lamb of God? He is cross-examined and analyzed for 4 days.

Matthew 21:23

Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?"

This questioning continues all the way to the crucifixion. You know the end of the story. The Pharisees tried to find a way to trap him. Eventually, even Herod found nothing wrong. Pilate said he found no fault in this man (Luke 23:4). The Sanhedrin could find no fault unless they used lying witnesses. The Lamb of God was chosen, was examined, and was found blameless. Yes, Yeshua was the lamb of God.

Cleansing the House of God

In the meantime, something else is going on according to the other gospel accounts. He cleanses the temple just before the final Passover. Please turn to Matthew 21:12-13. What do we do before the Passover? We clean our house, we delevan or take the leaven out. Here we find Yeshua, as an involved firstborn son, *helping clean out and delevan His father's house, the temple!*

Matthew 21:12-13

Then Jesus went into *the temple of God* and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 13 And He said to them, "It is written, '*My house shall be called a house of prayer,*' *but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'*"

Brethren, *WE* are now the house of God (1 Pet. 2:5). Christ wants to come into YOUR life, and my life, and clean out the leaven, the sin in *our* lives today. *WE*, the house of God today, *WE* are to be known as a house of prayer. (I like the name you have in front – House of God.) Now be turning next please to Exodus 12:6-11

THE 14TH DAY events**Exodus 12:6-11**

Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. 7 And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. 8 Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire — its head with its legs and its entrails. 10 You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. 11 And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.

Some interesting things here. There had to be shed blood in order to have your lives spared. The wages of sin is death. Without shedding of blood there is no remission (Hebrews 9:22; Isa. 53:7). The Blood redeemed – or purchased - Israel and the blood also redeems us (1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Cor. 6:20). The Jews would collect the blood in a basin, and then use hyssop branches to splash blood above the doorway – called the lintel – and on the 2 side doorposts.

Think what this means: the lintel stands for our HEAD, our mind, our thoughts. The door posts refer to our hands and actions. The blood of Christ covers our thoughts and our actions. ***It also points to the very crucifixion itself. You have the head and the 2 outstretched arms.***

What else: the lamb was to be roasted. ***The traditional way was to kill the lamb and then impale it with a stick and roast it over a fire. Crucifixions were considered a type of being impaled.*** The Passover Lamb was not to be boiled. We are not to water down God's word. Being roasted in fire was a symbol of a total sacrifice, as well as being tested in the fire, as well as bearing God's judgment in our behalf.

The big difference: the animal Passover lamb was not tortured or beaten. It was humanely killed, and so it was dead when it was impaled and roasted. The Lamb of God had to suffer the crucifixion alive. We still use the word “excruciating” to describe something very painful. That word comes from “pain one would feel when being crucified”.

They were to eat the roasted lamb with **matzah, unleavened bread**. **Have you looked at matzah carefully? Do you see the stripes and the piercings, the holes?** That pictures Christ. It says in Revelation 1 that the whole world will see Him whom they had pierced (Rev. 1:7). (SHOW MATZAH) Keep your place in Ex. 12, we'll come back – but for now turn to Isa. 53:4-6—there it mentions how he was wounded, and by His stripes we are healed. At the end of Isa 52, it says his visage was so marred that he was unrecognizable, basically.

(I will not read this but just refer to it for time's sake) Isa 53:4-6

Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows;

Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was **wounded** for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;

The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His **stripes** we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Exodus 12:12-16

'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and **against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment**: I am the Lord. 13 **Now 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 the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

'So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast [divine appointment] to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.

15 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. 16 On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat — that only may be prepared by you. (you can read the rest later)

Exodus 12:21-24

Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. 22 **And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.** 23 **For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.** 24 **And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever.**

So you see this lamb pictured Yeshua.

At Yeshua's passover, they reclined. They did not do it the way it was in Exodus 12. Slaves had to eat standing up. In Yeshua's day, they were not slaves, so they reclined at dinner. There was no table as we think of tables today. John was on his right as the youngest. The oldest was on the left of the leader or patriarch — and it appears Judas Iscariot was there. He may have been a priest.

The Footwashing

At that Passover Yeshua instituted a new ordinance — the washing of feet, or the footwashing service. You can read about it in John 13. I still do this at the Passover, since Jesus says,

John 13:12-17

So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Why do we wash feet today:

- because Yeshua says in verses 14-15 that just as He washed feet, we also ought to wash one another's feet. **We do that physically – and we should do it all the time in our minds. Let me explain.**
- **Washing someone's feet is clearly a lesson in humility**, considering others better or more important than yourself. If our MASTER and SAVIOR washed our feet, we can wash one another's. Washing feet was a slave's job, or the lowest member of the household.
- There's another lesson: ***I am to remember that HE has already washed your feet. V. 14.*** When I wash your feet I am admitting that I see you as new, as clean, as washed, as forgiven. 1 Corinthians 6:9-12 says we were once sinners, but now we are WASHED, and clean.

What I mean is this: if you know one another well here, it would be easy to think of one another in certain ways: he's a ...flirt. A drunkard. She's a gossip. He's lazy. He's a liar. She's a Whatever it is, we must start remembering, as we wash feet, that Messiah is still working with him, or with her and with you and me. ***See that person as being renewed in Christ, a new creation (2 Cor. 5:16-17).*** We are to esteem one another better than ourselves.

The Passover Bread

Next was the Passover bread. Exodus 12 says it was to be *unleavened* to picture Jesus' sinless life. So the minister or leader will break the One bread and all share in it. This pictures us taking in Christ into our lives and it also pictures that we are to be ONE BODY.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed **took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."**

25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

1 Cor. 10:16-17—our unity. We should not, as believers be as separated and divided as we are. "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? **17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body;** for we all partake of that one bread."

The Jews would have 3 sheets of matzah in their Passover service. The middle matzah was very interesting. The father would break it two and then they would **hide in a linen cloth**. It was the only part of the Seder that has a Greek name – **"the Afikomen"**. Everything else has Hebrew names: seder, hagadah, matzah, etc.

Eventually this hidden bread would be found with great joy and then everyone would eat a piece of it. Jews are looking for a coming Messiah and did not realize He was there 2000 years ago. Do you know what **Afikomen** means? It means "I came".

Do you think that is just chance that it was called “I came”, and most Jews still have a veil over their eyes so they don’t recognize their own Messiah, a Jew from Nazareth born in Bethlehem. He was hidden from them, as they did not have eyes to see. They killed their Messiah and then wrapped him in a linen cloth and buried him (Mark 15:46). Later He was seen with great rejoicing – just like the Afikomen rehearsed! HE was the hidden matzah. He was the Afikomen that everyone partook of.

This was the matzah that was broken. “Take, eat, this is MY body...”

THE WINE

Nowadays at Passover we drink one tiny vial of wine. In Jesus’ day, and today, there are 4 glasses or cups of red wine. I go into this aspect in great detail in the sermon on “Fresh Look at Passover Emblems”. **The 4 cups were consumed as the meal progresses, in memory of the 4 promises God gave Israel in Exodus 6:6-7. There was one cup Yeshua did not drink.** Do you know why?

Exodus 6:6-7

6 Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am YHVH; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I **will redeem you with an outstretched arm** and with great judgments. 7 I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

Cup #1 – Exodus 6:6 – CUP OF SANCTIFICATION – I will bring you out of the burdens of Egypt. He is calling us to be His people. But we are still at this point, in Egypt.

CUP #2 – Ex. 6:6b – CUP OF DELIVERANCE – I will break the chains of your bondage.

Cup #3 – Ex. 6:6c- CUP OF REDEMPTION – I will redeem you with an – notice it – OUTSTRETCHED ARM and with great judgments. The “outstretched arm” is foreseeing the crucifixion. We are redeemed by His blood.

1 Peter 1:18-20

knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

But then Jesus did not drink the 4th cup. Remember He said “I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until I drink it with you in my father’s kingdom.” I believe He did not drink the 4th cup. Why is that?

The 4th cup is called the CUP OF PRAISE or COMPLETION. It spoke of the time when God and His people acknowledge each other. It refers to Exodus 6:7 – the 4th promise from God before they left Egypt: “I will take you as my people, and I will be your God...” That didn’t happen when Yeshua was here. They rejected Him. So He did not drink that cup, that Passover.

Yeshua promised to drink that 4th cup at the wedding supper, among people whom He was going to marry: the Bride of Christ.

One more thing about the cup. *Notice the emphasis is not on the WINE, but the on “the cup”* – over and over. “Drinking the cup” meant a lot to the Jewish people of that day. It had several meanings:

- it meant you were willing to go through whatever God had in mind for you. Remember Jesus in the Garden, “Abba, if it be your will, let this cup pass from me... but not my will, but yours be done”.
- It was also what happened when a man gave a marriage proposal to his girl friend. He would pour wine into a cup and offer it to her. If she took the cup, and drank it, she was accepting whatever life could bring them and she was saying, “Yes, I do want to be your bride.”
- The words of Jesus were very similar to a wedding proposal.

Indeed as we drink HIS cup, we are saying we are casting our life in with His. We want to be His Bride. We accept whatever He allows to test and refine us. We will drink of His cup. It also means we are GRATEFUL to be sanctified (#1), delivered (#2), Redeemed #3, and to be HIS people and to have Him be our God (#4).

THE HYMN:

The next thing that happens is that they sing a hymn. Actually the Greek is “they hymned”. They sang more than just one hymn. (Matthew 26:30). The Apologetics Bible says “after they sang some Psalms”. The Complete Jewish Bible says, “After singing the Hallel...” [Ps. 113-118]. Turn to Psalm 118:21.

What were the FINAL WORDS they were singing?

Psalm 118:21—become my Yeshua, my salvation

Ps. 118:15-16 – at right hand = where Yeshua sits next to Father.

By this time it is getting very late, probably an hour or so before midnight. Yeshua goes to Gethsemane (Matthew 26:47). His disciples are tired and sleepy. Jesus prays 3x.

At about midnight the Death angel came, back in Ex. 12. Right about midnight no doubt was when Judas came with the priests and soldiers to arrest and eventually kill the firstborn son of God. **Jesus is scourged – beaten badly, after a mock trial before the Sanhedrin, before Herod and before Pilate.**

He comes before Pilate who says “I find no fault in this man” (John 19:4). They had a custom: to release one of the prisoners to the Jews. He wants to release Yeshua, but they shouted instead for a man whose name was “son of the father”. **Barabbas.** Bar = son of. Abba or Abbas (Hellenized version) = father. Even the one they released **was called, “the son of the father”.**

Barabbas deserved to die, for he was a notorious murderer and a robber. But he received unmerited pardon. We too deserved to die for our sins, and we also received unmerited forgiveness. Barabbas was a reminder to each of us, that we could say, “I am Barabbas” I am the one who should have and

could have died for my sins, but someone without any guilt took my place. Yeshua was the TRUE son of the father.

But just as Barabbas was released and pardoned – so we too are released and pardoned. WE can become sons of **the true God, the true Father** as well, true children of God, pardoned and forgiven. That is why sometimes I say, “I am Barabbas”. Was that just chance? No. It was a dress rehearsal. You and I are the reality of the Barabbas **pictured**. He was you. He was me. **Again: these were all a type of a dress rehearsal.**

THE CRUCIFIXION

Following a terrible, terrible beating, Jesus was finally led off to be crucified. **By the way, the Romans had no requirement to keep the beating to 39 lashes. That was a Jewish requirement. I’m sure they beat Christ to an inch of his life. Many did not survive the scourging alone.**

Mark 15:25 “Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him”.

They counted their hours as 6 am = 1st hour. 3rd hour = 9 a.m. What was going on at 9 a.m.?

Psalm 118:27

“God is YHVH, And He has given us light;

Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.”

That was when the priests would tie the “lamb for the nation” to the altar outside the temple to be slain at 3 pm. ***Just as they were tying down this lamb to be slain, at THAT VERY PRECISE moment was when the Romans were nailing Yeshua’s feet and hands to the stake. Dress rehearsal.*** The real thing was happening.

At the 9th hour, at 3 pm, what happened? From noon to 3 pm there was a darkness over the land. At 3 pm, Yeshua died. It was at the precise moment that they were killing the Lamb for the nation on the altar. It was also the precise moment that thousands of other lambs were being slain in preparation for the Passover meal. Dress rehearsal. Yeshua was the Lamb of God. Yeshua was the Messiah. Yeshua was the AFIKOMEN – he came.

Matt 27:46

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

John 19:30

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, **He said, “It is finished!”** And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

This happened at the 9th hour, 3 pm. At the very moment Jesus was saying “It is finished”, was the precise moment the High Priest, as He slew the lamb for the nation, was saying, “It is finished, the lamb slain for the nation.” **Same words, same moment. Chance? No way.**

It was a dress rehearsal. The *real* thing was happening outside the camp, outside the city gates, as God had instructed, on a dark hill shaped like a skull, on Golgotha. It is finished – being said at the

same time, probably the same moment that Jesus was speaking those words, the High Priest was also saying “it is finished”. Dress rehearsal.

Wrapping up

Now, as we keep the passover year by year, it is indeed a MEMORIAL of the death of Jesus so we are somewhat sobered, but at the same time, He died and was resurrected. What were the instructions in the inspired hymn about this very day? To be sad and act like we’re at a funeral?

Psalm 118:24 – “This is the day Yahweh has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.”

So now that we know we have had our sins forgiven, we know the death **angel has PASSED OVER our sins if God sees that we are “under the blood” of His Lamb. We know we are free from the penalty of sins**, we know we are free to leave the Egypt – the ways of this world – and we are now free to serve the one true God: indeed, we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

The plan of salvation begins with Passover. The holydays that come after that show us God’s plan for the rest of humanity in their order.

Separate topic – the Wavesheaf offering of first fruit. That came up Sunday. Then the counting of the omer 50 days to Pentecost began. I’ll post separate sermons on those soon.

Finally let’s end with this: As we come to Passover and these days of Unleavened Bread, and from now on forever and ever, let’s be sure to EXPRESS our gratitude and appreciation to Abba, our wonderful, wonderful dear Father, and to Yeshua the Messiah, our King, our Savior, our hero, our Lord and Master, and future husband of the Church. We simply must not forget to frequently express how much their sacrifice meant to us.

God the Father loved us so much He gave His only son. I can’t imagine giving up my son to die for a bunch of people who did not appreciate Him. But Father did. Let’s praise and thank Him for that over, and over and over. Thank you, Abba, thank you.

Yeshua went through a horrible beating so He could bear pain and suffering for us. By His stripes we are healed. He then was executed on a stake suffering the consequences of sin FOR us. He paid the penalty, in full. His actions put our sins as far as the east is from the west away from us and away from God. Our books are cleared off, we owe nothing for past sins that have been forgiven. Thank you, Master, thank you.

So we DO keep these feasts, we DO show our appreciation for what God has done for us. Until next time, this is Philip Shields, your brother in the faith and in worshipping the God who is making us all new, all forgiven, and all under the blood of the Lamb of God. Amen.