

GET READY FOR PASSOVER!

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29.3.25

Passover will soon be upon us. It is the evening of Friday April 11.

Most of us are busy people. It is easy to get distracted — easily caught up with unsuspected tasks.

We need to be careful to prepare properly for Passover. To be in a right mind — with a right attitude — **not just “turning up” completely ill prepared.**

Scripture gives us a **strong warning!**

1 Corinthians 11:23-30

23 For I received from the Lord (*direct revelation!*) 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.” (A command!)

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.** (*A memorial of Jesus’ death — the most solemn evening of the whole year!! So very very important!!*)

27 **Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner (lack of discernment) will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.** (*None of us is ever worthy of Jesus’ sacrifice*)

28 **But let a man examine himself,** and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. (*Reflect — understand what you are doing*)

29 **For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.**

30 **For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.** (*Many have died ... prematurely ... because they have had problems taking the Passover. We need to take it properly! We don't want to offend God.*)

Many are **sick** ... or have **died prematurely**. They took the **Passover in an unworthy manner — lacked discernment.**
Quite a strong warning!

We're encouraged to **examine ourselves** — obviously ahead of time.
The Passover is a key event in our salvation —
FUNDAMENTAL! If we don't take the Passover — then we have no salvation.

We may have kept many Passovers ... but **the risk is becoming too casual? Allowing ourselves to “drift away”!**

My personal view is that this time of year may allow us to “redress the balance”. We are often accused of downplaying Jesus' role ... always focusing on the Old Testament and Law ... but **at this time of year we spend a lot of time on Jesus and His sacrifice.**

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that **a little leaven leavens the whole lump?**

7 **Therefore purge out (cleanse out) 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.**

Numbers 28:16-17

16 On **the fourteenth day of the first month is the Passover of the LORD.**

17 And on **the fifteenth day of this month is the feast;** unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days.

Christ is central to our lives — OUR PASSOVER.

To understand Passover better ... it's helpful to review how it all started. What lessons can we learn?

Exodus 11:4-7

4 Then Moses said, "**Thus says the Lord: About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt;**

5 and **all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals.**

6 Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again.

7 But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, **that you may know that the Lord does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.'**

The final plague on Egypt — God is going to destroy all of the firstborn — but Israel won't be affected — they will be protected. But not automatically.

Exodus 12:1-5

1 Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

2 **"This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. (Abib/Nisan)**

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 neighbour 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. *(originally ... the Passover was kept in individuals homes ... a domestic Passover ... based in the house)*

5 **Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year.** You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

They were to take a young male lamb without blemish.

Exodus 12:6

6 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. *(At twilight = dusk = Ben Ha Arbayim = between the two*

evenings. *The Rotherham's Emphasised Bible*: "Slay it between the two evenings". Evening 1 = sunset. Evening 2 = darkness falls ... early ON THE 14TH day!)

Exodus 12:7

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.** (*The first part of the Passover ... The blood of the Lamb = Life and Death!*)

Exodus 12:8

8 **Then they shall eat the flesh on that night;** (*the 14th*) roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs **they shall eat it.** (*Two parts to the Passover! ... including eating the body*)

Exodus 12:9–13

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, (*daybreak*) 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.** (*Hebrew alternative translation: trepidation*) **It is the Lord's Passover.**

12 '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.**

When God sees the blood ... He will PASS OVER — that is the SIGN!

God passed over on that night — the 14TH. It is a matter of life and death.

Exodus 12:21-27

21 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.**” *(Jesus is our 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.** *(The morning = daybreak... sun-up. In Egypt ... about 6 am)*

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.** *(You need the blood!)*

24 **And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever.** *(Observe forever)*

25 It will come to pass when you come to the land which the Lord will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service.

26 And it shall be, when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’

27 that you shall say, **It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt** when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.’ ” So the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

Remember — **this all took place on the 14TH**

Numbers 28:16-17

16 **On the fourteenth day of the first month is the Passover of the LORD.** *(The Lord passed over on this day — the 14TH!!)*

17 **And on the fifteenth day of this month is the feast;** unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days. *(THE JEWS “SMOOSH” THEM TOGETHER)*

ENCYCLOPAEDIA JUDAICA

“The feast of Passover consists of 2 parts: The Passover Ceremony and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Originally, both parts existed separately; but at the beginning of The Exile they were combined”.

Two separate observances.

A key element of Passover — the Blood of The Lamb.

1 Peter 1:17-21

17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, **conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;**

18 knowing that **you were not redeemed with corruptible things**, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, (*redeemed = set free ... delivered ... rescued*)

19 **but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**

20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

We have been redeemed — set free! By Jesus' precious blood — a Lamb without blemish.

The focus of Passover is the Lamb. **Jesus is frequently identified as our Lamb.**

John 1:29-31

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "**Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**

30 This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.'

31 I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptising with water."

John 1:35-36

35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. (*John and Andrew*)

36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "**Behold the Lamb of God!**"

This is a title given to Jesus — it appears over 25 times in the Book of Revelation alone.

Revelation 5:6-10

6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood **a Lamb as though it had been slain**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before **the Lamb**, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

9 And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll,

And to open its seals;

For You were slain,

And have redeemed us to God by Your blood

Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

10 **And have made us kings and priests to our God;**

And we shall reign on the earth.”

The Lamb — who redeems us by His blood.

Revelation 7:9-10

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, **standing before the throne and before the Lamb**, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “**Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!**”

Revelation 7:13-15

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?”

14 And I said to him, “Sir, you know.”

So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and **made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

Not surprisingly ... Passover accounts for a significant amount of the Gospels (almost half of John's Gospel).

Let's have a look at a couple of accounts of Jesus' final Passover.

Matthew 26:17-20

17 Now on the **first of the Unleavened Bread** the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "**Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?**" (*The Disciples know that Jesus is going to eat the Passover*)

18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; **I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.**" ' "

19 **So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.**

20 When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. (*To eat the Passover*)

JESUS KEPT THE PASSOVER WITH HIS DISCIPLES!!

Matthew 26:26-30

26 And as they were eating, **Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."**

27 **Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.**

28 **For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**

29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Two emblems: The Bread and the Wine.

Mark 14:12-17

12 Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread, (*the transition day*) **when they killed the *Passover lamb, (they *were killing the**

Passover lamb) His disciples said to Him, “**Where do You want us to go and prepare, that You may eat the Passover?**”

13 And He sent out two of His disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him.

14 Wherever he goes in, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “**Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?**” ’

15 Then he will show you **a large upper room, furnished and prepared**; there make ready for us.”

16 So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said to them; and **they prepared the Passover.**

Mark 14:12 (NASB)

12 On the first day of Unleavened Bread, **when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed**, His disciples said to Him, “**Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?**”

Mark 14:22-26

22 And as they were eating, **Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it**, and gave it to them and said, “**Take, eat; this is My body.**”

23 Then **He took the cup**, and when He had given thanks **He gave it to them**, and they all drank from it.

24 And He said to them, “**This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.**”

25 Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

26 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus modified the Old Testament Passover. No longer the blood of a lamb and a roast body. **Now Bread and Wine — symbolising Jesus’ Body and Blood.**

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

23 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.” (*A memorial of His death*)

The Bread represents Christ’s Body. The Wine represents Christ’s Blood.

1 Corinthians 11:26

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

Not “as often” as you feel like it! (Daily Mass ... quarterly for Seventh Day Adventists ... monthly for many Protestants).

It’s a memorial — once per year. An annual event. Like Independence Day ... Thanksgiving ... Easter!

1 Corinthians 11:26 (NET)

26 **For every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.**

1 Corinthians 11:27-30 (NKJV)

27 **Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.**

28 But **let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.**

29 **For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.**

30 **For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.** (*Are dead*)

1 Corinthians 11:28 (AMP)

28 **Let a man [thoroughly] examine himself, and [only when he has done] so should he eat of the bread and drink of the cup.**

So. We don't just "turn up" on the night.

Be prepared. Do we understand what the Passover pictures? Do we understand the cost — to the Father and to Jesus?

Are we grateful? Do we take it personally — did Jesus die for you — for me?

Jesus goes into the deeper meaning.

John 6:25-35

25 And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?"

26 Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

29 Jesus answered and said to them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.**"

30 Therefore they said to Him, "**What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? (Seeing is believing)**

31 Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' "

32 Then Jesus said to them, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.**

33 For **the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**"

34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

35 And Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.**"

Jesus is talking real profound spiritual truth to carnal people.

Jesus is the Bread of Life.

John 6:41-58

41 The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, "**I am the bread which came down from heaven.**"

42 And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

43 Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves.

44 **No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him**; and I will raise him up at the last day.

45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught by God.' **Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.**

46 Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.

47 **Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.**

48 **I am the bread of life.**

49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50 **This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.**

51 **I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.**"

52 The Jews therefore quarrelled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"

53 Then Jesus said to them, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.**" (Mandatory)

54 **Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.**

55 For **My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.**

56 **He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.**

57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

58 **This is the bread which came down from heaven**—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. **He who eats this bread will live forever.**”

Verse 53: UNLESS WE EAT AND DRINK — WE HAVE NO LIFE!

“To eat” pictures consuming ... digesting ... becoming part of us.

We don't just “look at” the bread. Not spectators!

Taking the Bread and Wine of Passover annually is the clearest picture we have of “eating and drinking” Jesus' flesh and blood?

Don't be casual about this!

Hebrews 10:26-31

26 **For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,** (*“willfully” — a deliberate choice*)

27 **but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.**

28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 **Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?**

30 For we know Him who said, “**Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,**” says the Lord. And again, “**The LORD will judge His people.**”

31 **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

Jesus’ shed Blood and Death is the greatest gift He and the Father can give. Our pathway to eternal life.

Be ready! Be prepared!

The next couple of weeks will be busy — lots of distractions coming our way.

Let’s make some time. Even a few minutes here and there — to review — to check our understanding.

Be ready to take the Passover in a worthy manner!!