

Passover Explanation

by Mikhael Murnane

This month in Israel and around the world the Jewish People will be celebrating the seven-day feast of the **Passover**. This great Passover story runs parallel to God's divine plan that later comes through Yeshua, to set His people free from the bondage of sin into freedom to worship the one and only God.

The people of Israel were commanded on the last night before they fled Egypt to paint their door posts with the **blood of a lamb**, so when the 10th plague (death to the first born) was released, the Jewish people were covered by His divine protection and were not harmed by the Angel of Death.

When Yeshua started His ministry he was prophetically recognized by John who saw Yeshua coming to the Jordan River and called out: "**Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world**" ... I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God" (John 1:29-34).

So where does this Lamb theology come from since John was an Old Covenant prophet?

There are 7 key places where the idea of a Judeo-Christian Lamb as an atoning sacrifice comes from.

1. Abraham and Isaac. Take now your son, your only son Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you" *Gen 22*.

Isaac, a Messianic forerunner is the first place where a "***SUBSTITUTE***" **sacrifice** is given in place of our own. **Isaac is a precursor of Yeshua. Isaac carries the wood** for the sacrifice just as **Jesus carries his wooden** cross to His ultimate sacrifice for sin.

Isaac **lays down his life** and, in a sense, receives it back and Yeshua **laid down His life** to get it back. We see this also as symbolic evidence of the resurrection.

2. The *Tamid*-continually, or the Lamb of the **daily Morning and Evening** Sacrifices, Ex 29.

"Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs a year old regularly each day. One in the morning, and the other in the evening, throughout your generations."

This comes with a promise “It is where I will meet with you, to speak to you there,” and also YHWH gave access to the Israelites through the blood sacrifice.

3. The Scapegoat of Leviticus 16.

Once a year the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement.

Leviticus 16:6-10 “And he shall take the two goats one for the Lord and the other for the scapegoat, to send it into the wilderness as the scapegoat.”

4. The “Gentle Lamb” of Jeremiah 11:19.

“But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And they devised schemes, saying, ‘Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered.’”

5. The Guilt Offering.

Leviticus 14:12-13 reads: “The priest shall take one of the lambs and offer it as a **guilt offering** slaughtered in the holy place; for the guilt offering, like the sin offering, belongs to the priest; it is most holy.”

6. The “Lamb Led to the Slaughter” of Isaiah 53:7. *CALLED THE FORBIDDEN CHAPTER IN JUDAISM...*

Isa 53:5 “He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was on Him; and with His stripes we ourselves are healed. 7. He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter...”

7. The Passover Lamb Sacrifice.

The most common image connected with Jesus’ sacrifice in John 1:29, 36, is the Passover sacrifice. This is also recorded in the Gospels. ***John 19:36, 23 is clearly intending to portray Jesus, as the ultimate Passover Lamb.***

8. And finally a few Lion and Lamb references in the book of Revelation.

The **triumphant lamb** given power and wealth and wisdom, might and honor and blessing and glory” Rev 5:6-14.

Rev 7:17 For the Lamb who is in the **midst of the throne** (Rev 14:1)—He even **stands triumphant upon Mt. Zion** (Rev 17:14).

These will make **war with the Lamb**, and the Lamb will overcome them. For He is Lord of lords and King of kings.

Rev 22:3 the **throne of God and of the Lamb** will be in it, and His servants will serve Him.

IS PASSOVER COMPLETELY FULFILLED TODAY?

Many Christian scholars today would say that the value of the Jewish Feasts has ended or been fulfilled and now has no future meaning or purpose. So, what are the Feasts of God and what are their meanings?

Its fare to say the **Spring Feasts** have accomplished Yeshua's work already. The **Passover** lamb for atonement, 3 days later is **Fruit Fruits** and Yeshua is the first to rise from the dead, and 50 days from Passover **Pentecost-Shavuot**, and the **outpouring of the Holy Spirit** in Jerusalem.

The **Fall Feasts of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles** is what He will accomplish for us in His 2nd coming.

But the bible prophecies also point to "ANOTHER PASSOVER YET TO COME" for the children of God.

The **Book of Exodus** and the **Book of Revelation** are parallel books and **have the same theme, same purpose, and same destination** for the children of God. **The Exodus Passover is a pre-cursor to the yet to come future Passover.**

Passover is all about the children of God leaving bondage and slavery to go to the Promised land. So in the book of Revelation we see the promise of yet "another Passover" of the children of God, the body of Messiah, **leaving this world and going to the final Promised Land FOREVER.** The comparisons are truly amazing.

In Exodus we have the **evil PHAROAH** who is parallel to **SATAN** in Revelation. Pharaoh **hardened his heart**, the world has **hardened their hearts**. Israel is **taken out of Egypt**-the world, and later **we will be taken** out of this world.

In Exodus we have the **Children of God-Israel**, in Revelation we have the **Body of Messiah**. Egypt's **10 Plagues** are equivalent to the **7x3 Seals, Bowls, and Shofars in Revelation**. Egypt was led by the **Pillar of cloud & Fire**, and today we a led by the **inner dwelling of Holy Spirit**.

Israel was taken out of the world by a supernatural means...."Through the waters." The Body of Messiah will be taken out of this world by supernatural means....This time "Through the Air."

Israel was given a **Sabbath Rest** in the promised land, we will be given **permanent Sabbath rest** in eternity. **Egyptian armies are destroyed** in the sea, seen no more, our **enemy is destroyed** in the lake of fire, seen no more. Moses and Aaron were the **two prophets** of God, and the **two prophets** of God in Rev 11.

And finally Israel cried out for God to save them and “And He heard their cry” and today we cry out for God to save us out of this world.....we cry out Come Lord....Quickly.....He will come for us...

The greatest Passover is yet to come. ***When the children of God call upon His name, He will come to take us out of this world, the angel of death will pass over us, and will be the Exodus of the body of Messiah taken through the air to meet Him at His coming.***

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSOVER SEDER TODAY.

Today Passover still has God’s message to the Jewish People even though they do not see God’s full purposes in the Passover Sedar. In the Passover Sedar, done every year by all the families in Israel, God tries to get His message of Salvation across. The Sedar is filled with symbolic foods, things to eat, and stories to be heard.

First is the message of “**REMOVE THE LEAVEN**” from our lives, which is well understood to remove the leaven yeast, the SIN from our lives.

There is a plate of 6 **elements** that we partake of “**To Remember**” the past of slavery in Egypt.

A Roasted Shankbone (Zeroah) commemorates the paschal sacrifice which our ancestors brought to the Temple on Passover-*Pasach* in ancient times.

Bitter Herbs (Maror) symbolize the bitterness and tears of Israel's bondage in Egypt.

A Roasted Egg (Beitzah) symbolizes the HAGGIGAH or "Festival sacrifice" which was brought to the Temple in Jerusalem on festive occasions, symbolizes new life.

Charoset symbolizes the mortar the Israelites used building the "treasure cities for Pharaoh". Charoset is a **SWEET mixture** of grated apples, chopped nuts, cinnamon, and a little wine.

Parsley, Lettuce, Watercress (Karpas), green herb and a dish of salt water into which it is to be dipped before being eaten: These greens symbolize the coming of Spring and suggest the perpetual renewal of life.

Salt Water: used as a spice for vegetables (karpas). Some say it represents tears shed in Egypt in slavery.

Passover teaches that ALL should consider that we have come out of slavery and bondage.

There are also the **4 Cups that was part of Passover** from Moses time till the destruction of Temple 70 AD.

These 4 cups are have spiritual meaning for all people.

The First Cup – the **Cup of Sanctification** (Kadesh), ‘I will bring you out from under the Egyptians’.

The Second Cup – the **Cup of Deliverance-Judgment,-Plagues** ‘I will free you from being slaves.

The Third Cup – the **Cup of Redemption** ‘I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and mighty acts.

The Fourth Cup – the **Cup of Praise-Restoration** – intimacy with God – ‘I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God’.

Rabbi Gamaliel, who was the teacher of Rabbi Saul (Paul the apostle), said that during the Passover **3 things must be mentioned** and recounted each year during the Passover.

The **Unleavened bread**, to remember that we also were slaves (before our redemption), the **bitter herbs** to remember our slavery and bondage was very bitter, and the **Passover Lamb** and its blood on the doorposts.

But the Highlight of every Passover is the taking of the “AFIKOMEN.”

During the meal there is a white linen cloth with 3 pieces of matzos wrapped inside. At a certain time during the reading of the Exodus story the leader takes the 3 matzos, **removes the middle piece, breaks it into two pieces and re-wraps this special middle piece back in the white linen cloth.** It is then “Hidden” during the meal and it will return later to be the final most important part of the Passover. It is called the final or desert piece.

Today we understand this middle piece that was broken and pierced matzos to be the hidden body of Yeshua wrapped in a linen to only later be brought back-risen from the dead.

Scholars believe it is this middle broken hidden piece and the 3rd cup of Redemption that Yeshua used during the Passover to give the New Covenant of His body and blood for the redemption of the world.

Even Judaism today says this middle matzo has great importance. **They say the 3 pieces are Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.** So important in Judaism is Abraham and Isaac going up to Mt. Moriah, the same place of Yeshua's death, to only have God the Father provide a substitute sacrifice in place of Isaac. **The middle matzos, they understand, as Isaac and a substitute ram - not Yeshua as a substituteso close to the truth.**

The Passover today is full of meaning for Israel and for the body of Messiah. We who have received the atoning lamb of Passover look forward to the ***Great Passover to come***, when He will return to take us out of this world to the final place and Promise Land.....His Kingdom....."Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev 22:20).