

EXPLORATION: BIBLE

By Chip Thompson

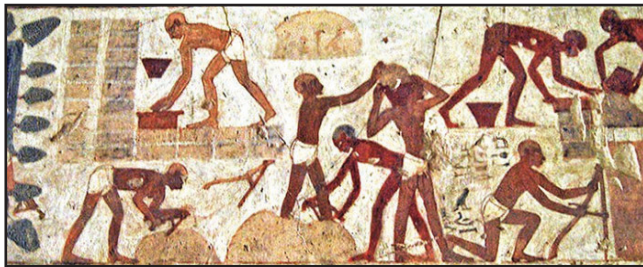
Jesus said... “All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses... concerning Me.” (Luke 24:44-45).

Of all the things recorded in the Law of Moses, none connects with Jesus more clearly than the Passover. In 1446 B.C., God told Israel, “You shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance” (Exodus 12:17). By God’s command, faithful Israelites, who today live in over 50 nations in our world, have observe the feast of Passover for more than 3,500 years. Maybe God is trying to send our world a message.

SCARLET THREAD #4

Christ Our Passover

If you have not read the Exodus story recently take a few minutes to read it now, Exodus 1-12. The ten plagues God sent against Egypt had purpose. Yahweh, the God of Israel, told Pharaoh, “I will send all My plagues to your very heart, and on your servants and on your people, that you may know that *there is none like Me* in all the earth... Indeed for this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power *in you*, and that My name may be declared in all the earth” (Exodus 9:14-16).



Israelite & African slaves making bricks for Pharaoh (Pharaoh’s Workers: How the Israelites Lived in Egypt, BAR, Jan/Feb 1999)

The Passover was the climax of God’s judgments upon Egypt. Yahweh said, “I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt... from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant... both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: *I am Yahweh.*” (Exodus 11:5 & 12:12).

One of Egypt’s many gods was Pharaoh himself. The Passover judgment focused on Pharaoh’s sins. In Exodus chapter 1, Pharaoh ordered all the male children of Israel to

be killed at birth. For this sin God said, “Israel *is My son*, My firstborn. So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn” (Exodus 4:22-23).



This is the Egyptian Display in the Solid Rock Café, Bible Museum, 96 E Center, Ephraim, UT

In preparation for Passover, Moses told Israel, “On the tenth of the month Abib, every man shall take for himself a lamb... a lamb for a household.” The Passover Lamb was to be perfect, a one-year-old male with no blemish. They were to observe the Lamb for four days and on the Eve of Passover, the whole assembly of Israel was to kill the Lamb at twilight. They were to take the blood of the Lamb and put *it* on the doorposts & lintel of their houses. They were to roast the Lamb and eat the meal prepared for travel, with sandals on their feet and their staff in hand. They were to eat it in haste because “*It was Yahweh’s Passover*” (Exodus 12).

Moses told the people, “The LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood... **Yahweh will pass over** the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike *you.*” Yahweh’s Passover was the night Israel escaped from slavery.

How does this a story connect Jesus to the “Scarlet Thread” narrative in the Old Testament?

DID YOU KNOW?

The day Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) was the 10th of Abib, the same day Israel was to pick their perfect Passover Lamb.

[NOTE: The Jewish day is from sunset to sunset, not midnight to midnight, so Passover Eve starts at sunset with the Passover meal, but Passover continued until sunset the next day.]

Jesus ate the Passover meal (The Last Supper) with his disciples on Passover Eve. After the Passover meal, that same night, Jesus was betrayed and tried. By 9:00 AM the next morning, He was crucified. At about 3:00 PM Jesus died. Before sunset, Jesus was in the tomb. **THIS ALL HAPPENED ON PASSOVER DAY.** Then, sometime Sunday morning, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead.

The events surrounding the suffering of Christ in A.D. 30 must have been supernaturally ordained by God because they perfectly match the events of that first Passover in 1446 B.C. **As Jesus said...** “All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses... concerning Me.” (Luke 24:44-45).

THE LORD’S APOSTLES SAW THE CONNECTIONS:

- John the Baptist called Jesus, “**The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**” (John 1:29).
- As the Passover Lamb was sacrificed for Israel, even so, “**Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us**” (1 Corinthians 5:7).
- Jesus had power to atone for our sins because he was the perfect Lamb of God. Peter wrote, “**You were not redeemed with corruptible things... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot**” (1 Peter 1:18-20). The Bible says, “**It pleased the Father... by Him (Jesus) to reconcile all things to Himself... having made peace through the blood of His cross**” (Colossians 1:20).
- The blood of the Passover Lamb saved Israel from God’s wrath. In like manner, “**God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us... having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him**” (Romans 5:8-9).
- On the cross, through Christ’s blood, God offered the world the GREAT EXCHANGE, “**He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him**” (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- John wrote, “**He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him**” (John 3:36).
- Escaping God’s wrath is this simple, “**If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation... For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved” (Romans 10:9-10, 13).**