



Chosen by God

The Jewish Roots of Christianity

The First Passover (Pesach)

Passover is when God's plan for intimacy with us began to become evident.. Before this time He had His people, Adam, Eve, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, more recently Moses ... individuals here and there that He had entered into relationship with. But He had a bigger plan, and one of the big steps in that Plan happened the night of Passover. This is an event that God told His people to remember even before it had happened. He knew it was going to be big. It **was** big. It was big for the Jews then, and the world today.

It was big because it marks the time when the Israelites truly became set apart as God's people. It is an enemy conquered and the birth of a nation. It was the defeat of the world power of the day by the most extraordinary of means which stood up the Egyptian's renowned physicians and gods. Neither were a match for the God of the Israelites. This God saved His people, from slavery and from death. This God led His people into a land of rest.

This God became intimately present with His people. No longer was He just meeting privately with the head honchos. That night God crossed the bloody thresholds and entered **into** the homes of His people and protected them from the horrible, deadly tenth plague. The next day He led them. He appeared to them in fire and cloud and remained present to them day and night. He had become a God who was **with** them.

Passover, or pesach, was a hint, or picture given by God of even greater things that He had in store for His people. Every aspect of this initial festival had a meaning that would not be revealed until the coming of Christ. I think, that while we will not fully understand Christ while in our earthly bodies, we can have a much greater understanding by understanding Passover.

Have you ever given your child a toy at Christmas only to open it up and find that it is actually a box full of pieces? It is all there, you have every thing you need, but it will not be fully enjoyed until it has been put together. So you pull out the instructions, and if you are like me, you hope that there are pictures and diagrams along with the words. The meaningless pile of pieces begin to take shape as you work through the pictures.

That, I believe, is what God has done for us with Passover, and with the other festivals. We have a picture to help us put together the present meaning and reality of Christ. God wanted to ensure that Passover would be continued because it serves to explain Christ. God designed it to explain Christ. So, on to the picture of the first Passover...

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The First Passover Exodus 12

Many things were to be done to prepare, not only for this single redemptive event, but for the remembrance and celebration of this event which would continue for thousands of years, and would provide yet another image for us of the coming Messiah.

First, was the ordering of the year to start with this month, now known as Nisan. What was to occur on the tenth day of the month? _____

What provision was made for smaller families? _____

What were the qualifications to be? _____

What were the requirements of that outlined in Lev. 22:17-25, Deut. 15:21, and Deut. 17:1? _____

What measure was taken until the fourteenth of the month to ensure it? _____

On the fourteenth day, the lamb was to be slaughtered. At what time of day? _____

What was to be done with the blood? _____

How was the lamb to be prepared? _____

When was it to be eaten? _____

What were the side dishes? _____

What was to be done with the leftovers? _____

Why? _____

What was the attire and stance of the diners to be? _____

Who would be struck down by the tenth plague? _____

Who would this be a punishment for? _____

Who was the blood on the houses a sign for (v.13)? _____

Why was such a sign needed? _____

How long was this festival to the Lord to be observed? _____

Where were the Israelites to remain throughout the night? _____

What do you think happened to the livestock of the Israelites? _____

What was Pharaoh's reaction to this plague? _____

On what day of Nisan did the Israelites depart from Egypt? _____

What reason for observing the Passover is given in verse 26? _____

What was required in order to participate in Passover according to v. 43-48? _____

What other specifications were given regarding the lamb in v. 46? _____

In Numbers 9:5-14, where was Passover celebrated? _____

What had kept a group of men from celebrating Passover in verse 6? _____

What was the penalty for failing to observe Passover? _____

Passed Over?

The threshold of a home is of great significance. It is the boundary that defines inside from outside, even who is accepted from those who are not. It is the most basic deciding place. Those you allow to cross the threshold are those you are choosing to trust, to accept as an ally. When the Israelites brought the household gods of the pagan nations around them across their threshold, into their homes, they were clearly marking their decision as surely as when a groom carries his bride across the threshold. To cross the threshold means something. In the ancient world, the threshold even served, at least on occasion, as an altar where sacrifices were made for the protection of the household.

Threshold in Exodus 12, where the lamb's blood was smeared on the doorposts, may be a more important element than it appears at a casual glance. Exodus 12:23 says that when God passes through Egypt, He will "pass over the door" of the homes marked with blood. Door (pethach) would be better translated doorway, or entrance. God didn't pass them by, God came in! He passed over the threshold, and into the home. God didn't just turn his head the other way when He came to the Israelites, He moved in with them! In Exodus 12:13, the phrase "pass over" is a translation of the Hebrew *pasah*, which is translated protect in Isaiah 31:5. The blood on the entry kept death out, but by bringing their protective God in, not by being passed by. Not the absence of bad, but the presence or entry of good. Why is this an important distinction? _____

In God's conversation with Cain in Genesis 4:7, what crouches at the door? _____

What is the results of its entry according to Romans 6:23? _____

What instruction was given to Cain for keeping it out (Gen. 4:7)? _____

How successful was he? _____

Zephaniah 1:7-9 refers to the idolatry of the surrounding pagan nations that was being imitated by the Israelites.

What specific practice was pointed out in verse 9? _____

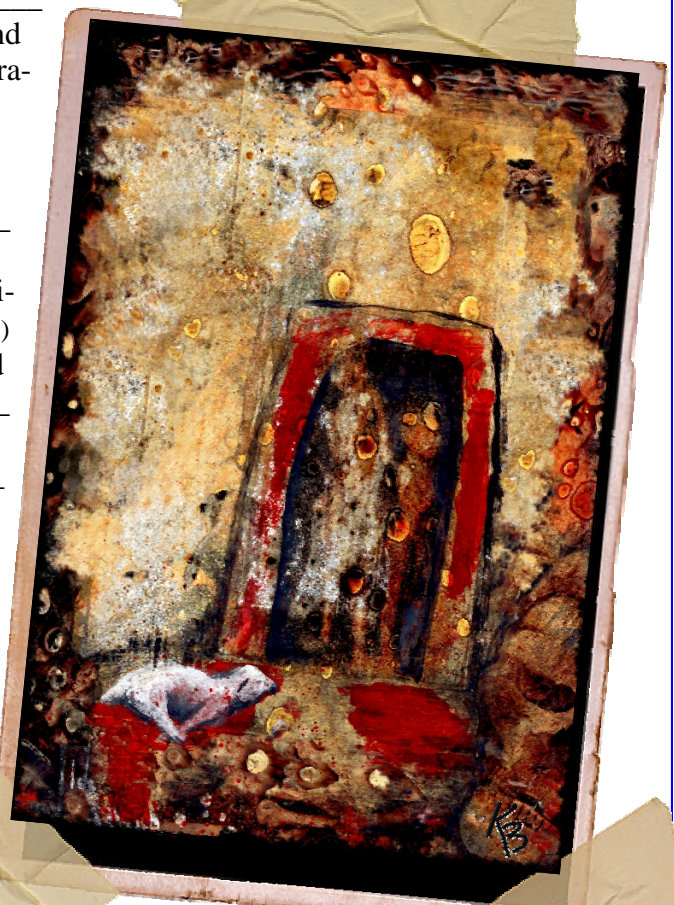
This was practiced by the Philistines as a religious superstition surrounding the god Dagon, perhaps initiated by the events of 1 Samuel 5:4,5. (Hamilton, 708) In 2 Kings 12:9, what was found just as you entered the House of the Lord? _____

Where did the worshipping in Ezekiel 46:2 take place? _____

In Ezekiel's vision in chapter 10, who did he see cross the threshold (verse 4 and 18) of the Lord's house? _____

What is the door that Christ knocks at in Rev. 3:20? _____

What does He want to do once inside? _____



The Lamb

The sacrificial lamb is a key theme throughout the Bible.

Who would provide the sacrificial lamb for Abraham in Gen. 22:8? _____

In Exodus 12:13, who was covered by the sacrifice of a single lamb? _____

This came to be defined as ten people, so by the time of Christ, when an estimated 2.5 million people were in the city of Jerusalem for Passover, there would have been roughly 250,000 lambs sacrificed at the temple! That would surely mean there had to be lambs being raised specifically for sacrifice. These lambs were brought into Jerusalem four days before they were to be sacrificed to make sure they were unblemished and perfect.

What things do you think they were watched for? _____

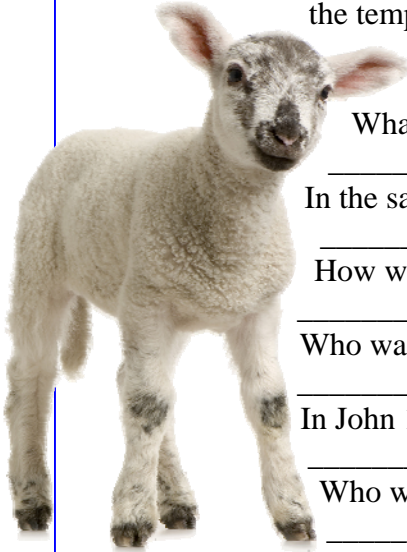
In the sacrifice of Num. 9:11, how is the lamb to be eaten? _____

How was the story of a lamb used as a reprimand for David in 2 Sam. 12:4? _____

Who was the lamb of Isaiah 53? _____

In John 1:29, who would be the lamb for the entire world? _____

Who would be the lamb for all eternity in Revelation 5:5? _____



The Blood

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.” Lev. 17:11

God leaves no doubt of the importance He places on blood. The life is in the blood.

Who did the blood of murdered Abel cried out to Genesis 4:10? _____

What was significant about the blood in Ex. 24:8? _____

What was prohibited in Deut. 12:23? _____

What was one of the few prohibitions given to the Gentiles in Acts. 15:20? _____

What was a crucial aspect of the sacrifices outlined in Leviticus? _____

Yet, what did God desire even more according to Is. 1:11? _____

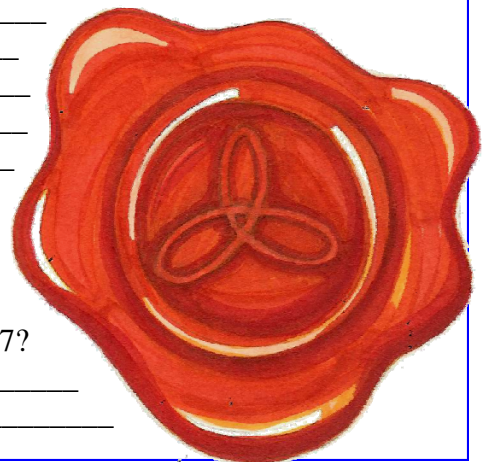
What sealed the covenant in Mark 14:24? _____

What does faith in the blood of Christ bring in Rom. 3:25? _____

What brought redemption in the new covenant? (Eph 1:7) _____

What has been brought near through the blood of Christ in Eph. 2:17? _____

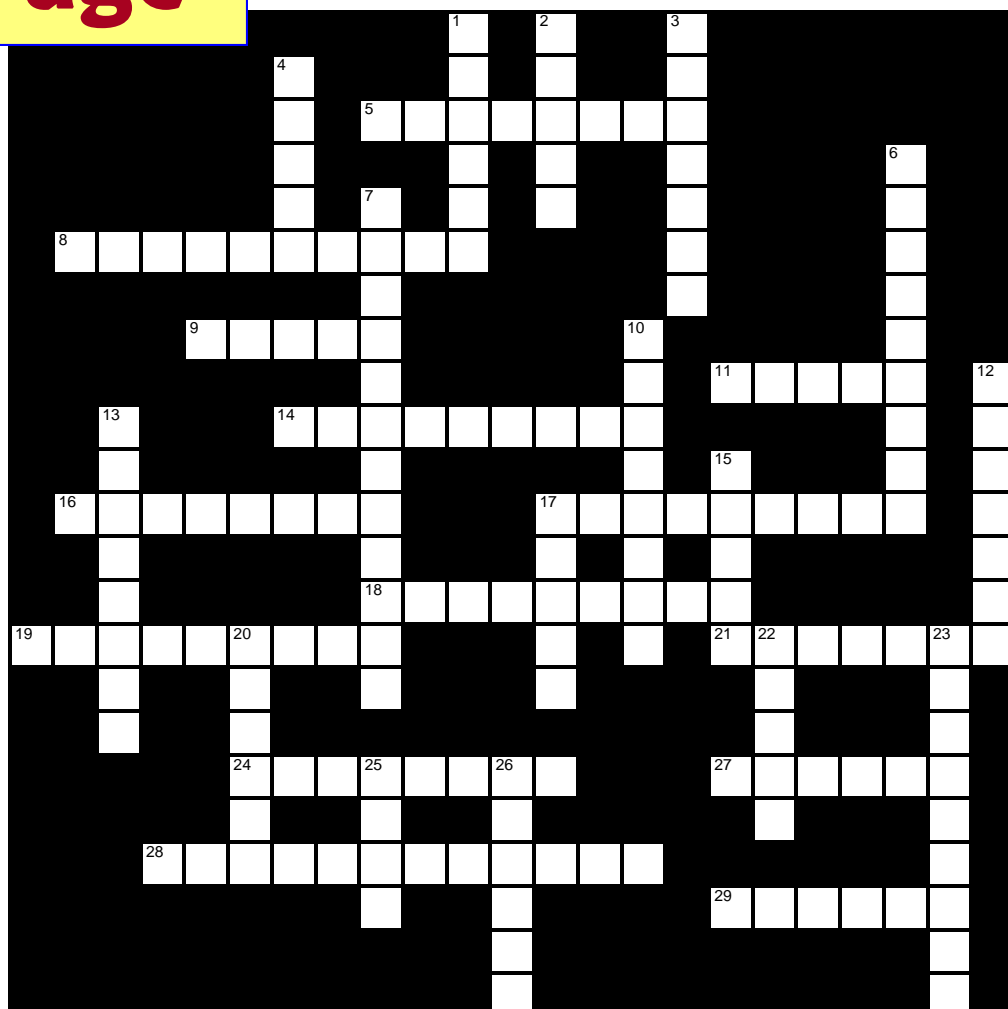
With what does Rev. 5:9 say we were purchased? _____



Puzzle Page



Some have made an interesting connection between the Hebrew letter chet, which means life, and the shape of the doorway on which the blood of the Passover lamb was smeared.



Across

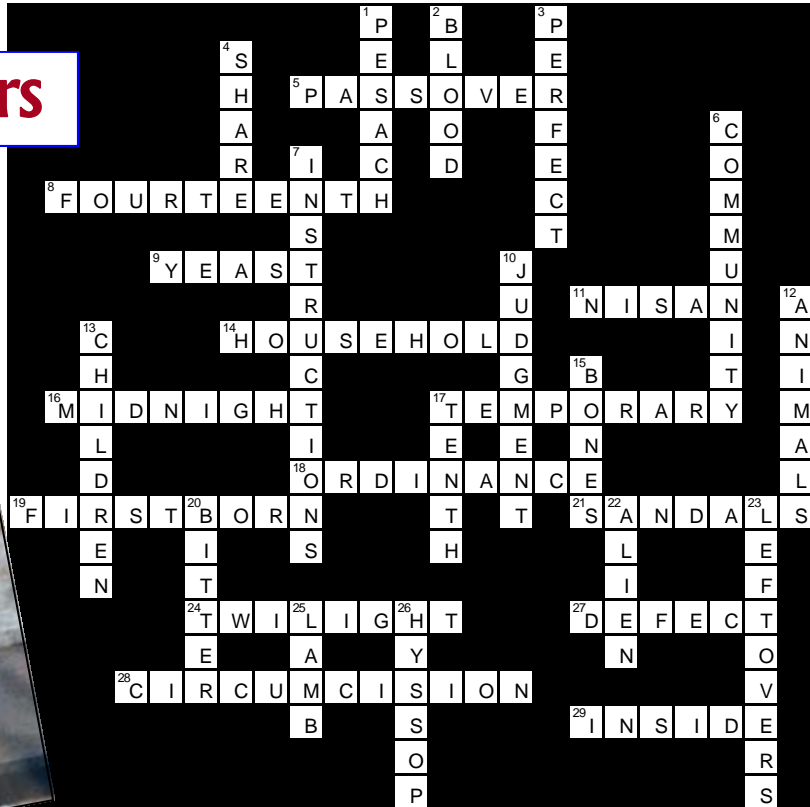
- 5 followed by the Feast of Unleavened Bread (8)
- 8 lambs killed on this day (10)
- 9 the bread had none of this (5)
- 11 name of the Passover month on Jewish calendar (5)
- 14 each one was to sacrifice a lamb (9)
- 16 time the plague struck (8)
- 17 this sort of resident not allowed to eat Passover (9)
- 18 Passover was a lasting one (9)
- 19 victims of the plague (9)
- 21 meal was eaten with these on (7)
- 24 time of day for the slaughter (8)
- 27 lamb could have none of these (6)
- 28 a requirement for participation (12)
- 29 play to stay the night of Passover (6)

Down

- 1 Passover (6)
- 2 a sign (5)
- 3 quality of the sacrifice (7)
- 4 small households could do this (5)
- 6 the whole _____ was to participate (9)
- 7 to be obeyed (12)
- 10 God brought this on the Egyptian gods (8)
- 12 included in the plague (7)
- 13 will ask what it means (8)
- 15 weren't to be broken (5)
- 17 the final plague (5)
- 20 herbs that were a part of Passover meal (6)
- 22 same requirement for them to participate (5)
- 23 none of these (9)
- 25 animal to be sacrificed (4)
- 26 dipped into the blood (6)



Puzzle Answers



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