

Jesus the Messiah: Significance of Passover

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29, ESV)

What is the event of Passover? How is it different from the Day of Atonement?

1) The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2) "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. 3) Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. 4) And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. 5) Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, 6) and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

7) "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8) They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9) Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. 10) And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 11) In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. 12) For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. 13) 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 no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

14) "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. (Ex 12:1-14, ESV)

Note the importance of the Mosaic Covenant in stipulating the memorial of Passover.

4) "These are the appointed feasts of the LORD, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them. 5) In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is the LORD's Passover. 6) And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. (Lev 23:4-6, ESV)

How is Jesus Christ associated with Passover? What is the significance of this association? Discuss how John the Baptist prophetically sees Jesus Christ as the link between Passover and the Day of Atonement in John 1:29.

Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. (1 Cor 5:7, ESV)

17) And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18) knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19) but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (1 Pet 1:17-19, ESV)

5) And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." 6) And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. (Rev 5:5-6)