

He is food for the believer. You can often tell the spiritual health of the believer on the basis of the food he eats!

- b) Fellowship. Bitter herbs are included as a side dish at the table (Ex. 12:8). Surely, this speaks of the fact that the believer suffers on his way to glory (Acts 14:22). It also speaks of the cry of Paul to know His sufferings (Phil. 3:10). Would to God we would enter into this mystery in our experience!

3. DISPENSATIONAL

Those who study their Bibles keeping the dispensations in view see the Passover in at least three dispensations:

a. Past (Law):

In the O.T. the Passover provided the basis for God's deliverance for the nation. It anticipated God's provision of a lamb (John 1:29).

b. Present (Grace).

There is no present celebration of the Passover in view of the fulfillment in the Person of Christ (1 Cor. 5:8).

c. Future (Millennium).

The millennial reign of Christ will bring again the Passover feast (Ezek. 45:21). Not now in anticipation of the Lamb, but like our Lord's Supper as a memorial.

Conclusion: If you are unsaved, let the Passover lesson bring you to the feet of Christ! If you are saved, let the Passover lead you on with the Lord. It was designed for pilgrims (Ex. 12:11). Let us not be tourists, but a pilgrim with the one objective of glory! Let's not relegate the authority of Christ to the hymn book! Amen.

THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS

"The Passover"

Lev. 23:4, 5

Introduction

1. God has some appointed times which He desires Israel to remember. They are called "holy convocations" (v. 2). The Hebrew for "convocation" is employed no less than 11 times here and emphasizes the unity of God's people.

2. A number have raised objections over calling the "convocations" all "feasts." This is due to the use of various Hebrew words for "seasons" and for "feasts!" There may be some reason to heed this distinction semantically and label only three as "feasts" (cf. Ex. 23:14-16; Deut. 16:16). However, all are surely "convocations" and therefore are considered set periods of serious worship of the Lord.

3. These set times for worship of the Lord were degraded so that in the times of our Lord, they were known as "the feasts of the Jews" (John 5:1; 6:4).

4. One of the "convocations" ordered by the Lord is the "Passover." Its importance in the history of Israel and its rich typical teaching makes it a field of fruitful Bible study for the earnest student of the Word. Mark the following aspects of the matter:-

1. HISTORICAL

There is nothing which modern man is able to add to the Word of God. It is therefore the Word which gives the substance to the true meaning of the Passover. Prominent in the historical account are the following items:

a. Time of it.

The Scripture is clear that it was the month Abib (Ex. 13:4). This word means "young sprouts of grain." It was the time of the year when the young green plants were first pushing through the ground. All of nature proclaimed

a new year, a new start, and a new beginning. No wonder it is recorded that the Passover was a brand new beginning for the nation Israel (Ex. 12:2). What New Year's is to us, so Passover was to Israel.

b. Cause of it.

The story is beautifully told in the Bible (Gen. 37-50). It all focuses on Joseph and his sale to Medianites who ultimately sold him to the Egyptians. This led the entire family of Jacob into Egypt for a sojourn of 430 years. It was the deliverance from Egyptian bondage which was at the heart of the Passover feast (Ex. 12). Release from bondage is the key to the Passover. It stood in Israel as a testimony to the power of God only to be surpassed by a future deliverance from all the nations of the earth (Jer. 23:7, 8).

c. Plan of it.

Details for the Passover are given in the Word (Ex. 12:1-11). All is centered on the lamb and its killing, its blood, its provision for the safety of the firstborn, the cooking of it, and finally the eating of it.

2. TYPICAL

The Bible is rich in typological study. Types are like pictures. The O.T. presents truths which are foregleams of what is to come. The antitype comes up in the N.T. and fits the picture of the O.T. type. It is blessed to see in the Passover some wonderful Bible doctrines but this doctrine is considered in the light of the whole Passover being a type of the Lord Jesus in His Person and Work.

a. It is stated.

It is safe to conclude that the Passover lamb and convocation is a type of our Lord for a number of reasons. Take these:-

- 1) Scripture. Clearly the Word affirms that Christ is the Passover lamb (1 Cor. 5:7). If there were no other reason, this would be adequate.

- 2) Christ. The tie-in between the Passover and the Lord's Supper gives credence to the truth that Christ was actually teaching His disciples who the lamb really was (cf. Matt. 26:17-30). The broken bread and the cup of wine spoke so emphatically of Him!

- 3) Comparisons. Many striking similarities between the lamb and our Lord point to Christ also. This item has caused the saints through the ages to realize that the lamb was more than a beast, but a genuine type of the Son of God!

b. It is detailed.

Some of the major types provided in this study relate to two major doctrines of the Word of God. Here they are:-

1) Salvation.

- a) Its sufficiency. This is wonderfully brought out in the Word (Ex. 12:3). God would not mock the Israelites and suggest they do something for which a provision had not been made (1 John 2:2).
- b) Its singularity. It was only the lamb which provided the deliverance from the judgment-angel (Ex. 12:6, 13). Salvation is along through Christ, the Lamb! That Christ is the true Lamb is shown by a comparison of the time element involved. "The evening" (Ex. 12:6) is the same as the "ninth hour" (John 18:28). He died at the same hour as the Passover Lamb! Christ is the ONE WAY to the Father (John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5).

2) Sanctification.

This relates to the items of the Passover enjoyed inside the home. The items relating to salvation generally speak of the matters done outside the home. Once saved, the child of God will enter into the truth of His Lord and grow. This will include:-

- a) Food. One item mentioned for good here is the lamb (Ex. 12:8). When our Lord claimed to be the "Bread of Life," He did not distort the truth (John 6:48).