

Exodus 12 Passover, Part 1

There's something about Passover that is fulfilled in Jesus and Easter. We no longer need Passover because the thing that Passover pointed to has arrived. You don't need more GPS instructions when you arrive at your destination. The Passover has faded from our memory and we no longer need its direction because we have arrived at our destination.

The attention to the calendar is important.

This great section on the Passover begins with mention of a new month and a new year. They've been living on someone else's schedule for a very long time. As a mark of freedom, they get to choose their own calendar. They have been slaves for 400 years. They have not had the opportunity to choose dates, months or years.

God is starting something new. Moses is speaking to a new group of people. Notice in verse 3 – tell the whole community – you might have a translation that says tell the congregation. That word – community or congregation has not yet occurred in the Book of Exodus. They have been called Hebrews or Israelites, but they have not been referred to as a community.

This is a new beginning. God is shaping them with this new identity as a new nation. They are to see themselves differently now. They are not to see themselves as slaves to Egypt but as God's people. That's quite a change.

The selection of the lamb was very important.

A one year old male without defect. A perfect God would some day provide a perfect sacrifice for his people. A one year old animal without defect was a good animal to have. This was not the worst animal you had but the best. With this standard, the Passover became a personal sacrifice for you as well. Passover was costly.

The blood of the lamb is most important.

The emphasis in the Passover is the lamb and specifically, it's the blood of the lamb.
I see that in v 13 – *when I see blood.*

God doesn't say, when I see that you've eaten the entire lamb or picked the right lamb.
When I see the blood of the lamb, I will Passover you.

When John the Baptist first saw Jesus, he looked at Him and said, "Look, the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29) Not only did John understand that description but he expected his audience to understand that description as well. Lamb of God.

The Lord's Supper was instituted for the same reason:

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)