

What Does Passover Mean To Christians?

Every year in the spring, people of faith celebrate the Feast of Passover or Resurrection Sunday.

The celebration is to remind us of the deliverance of the Jewish people from their bondage in Egypt.

Christians celebrate Passover for many of the same reasons.

Therefore, we will learn what Passover mean to Christians:

Where did Passover – Pesach originate?

The story of Passover-Pesach is found in Exodus 12.

In the beginning of the chapter, God laid out a calendar of events starting with Passover.

He commanded that on the **10th day of the first month** they would take a one-year-old male lamb that was free from any disease or blemish and separate it from the other animals and observe it until the **14th day of the month**.

On the 14th day, they were commanded to kill the lamb in the evening and take its blood and apply it to the top and sides of the doorpost of their houses. Then they were to take the lamb and roast it and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

They were further commanded to eat it clothed in such a way that they were going to take a journey.

God then explained that when they did this that **He** would pass through the land of Egypt that night and strike all the firstborn with death, both man and beast, and smite their Egyptian gods in judgment.

The blood of that lamb that the Israelites applied on their doors would protect all that lived in that house. He continued by telling them that they would also eat unleavened bread for the next week.

We see from this account the events that became known as Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

These two feasts would become the first of seven major feasts that God instituted with the Israelites. However, these feasts also pointed toward things to come in the future.

How does Passover apply to New Covenant Christians?

The Bible teaches that since the death of Christ, Christ fulfilled the law with His death on the cross; the Old Testament feasts point to New Testament events.

In the case of Passover, John the Baptist made reference to this as applying to Jesus/Yeshua as our Passover Lamb – John 1: 1

Verse 29 John saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold the lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.” (See also 1 Corinthians 5:7-8; 1 Peter 1:18-21).

The Passover Lamb of the Old Testament pointed toward Jesus Christ, who was crucified on the cross and His shed blood cleanses our sins and protects us from death.

The Bible says, “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23.

But, God loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to be born as a baby, grow to be a man, and live a perfect life without ever sinning. Because He never sinned, He did not have to pay the wages of sin, which is death. However, He allowed Himself to be wrongfully crucified to pay for our wages of sin and rose from the dead three days later, proving what He said was true 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

The Bible says whosoever believes in Him, meaning what He did on the cross to pay for our sins, shall not perish, but have everlasting life John 3:16.

Conclusion

Passover pointed toward Jesus as the Lamb of God, whose death and shed blood would protect those who trust Him as their Savior from death. The death of Jesus on the day of Passover, not only literally fulfilled the Feast of Passover, but also demonstrated to us that God is faithful in carrying out His prophetic plans. Just as the Israelites experienced freedom from Egyptian bondage, we experience freedom from the bondage of sin.

What happened on Passover week leading up to Jesus/Yeshua’s death and Resurrection?

Day 1 – Palm Sunday

The last week of Jesus’ earthly ministry began so drastically different then the way it ended. The ones who welcomed Him as their King were the same ones who were calling for His blood by screaming, “*Crucify Him*” at the end of the week. It begins with Jesus

telling His disciples to, “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.

When He came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” “I tell you,” he replied, “If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out” Luke 19:30-40.

Day 2

Jesus’ popularity may have reached its peak until He cleansed the temple. This may have been the second time He had done so & it shows that Jesus was not always, as many portray, meek and mild. He had righteous indignation at times:

Matthew 21:12-13, “Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the benches of those selling doves. “It is written,” he said to them, “My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”

You can tell that Jesus was not concerned with being popular – He was concerned with truth. The chief priests and teachers of the Law heard about this “cleansing” and began plotting for a way to have Him killed Mark 11:18.

When these self-righteous men heard the children shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David” they were filled with rage and told Jesus, “Do you hear what these children are saying?” and He responded by saying, “Yes...have you never read, ‘From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise” Matthew 21:14-16

When the Greeks requested to see Jesus, it seems Jesus ignored their request and replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me” John 12:23-26.

In what seems a validation for Jesus’ purpose for coming into the world, a voice came from heaven saying, “I have glorified it, [His name that is] and will glorify it again” John 12:28b.

Day 3

Tuesday morning of the Passover week, Jesus is confronted by the religious leaders again. In an analogy of those who reject Him, Jesus cursed the fig tree that was bearing no figs and by the next day, it had withered Matthew 21:20-22.

Jesus then gave them a parable about two sons in Matthew 21:28-32 and they understood that it was about them and their rejection of Him as the vineyard owner's son. [The first said he wouldn't go, but then changed his mind and obeyed the Father, the second son said he would go, but never did.]

He quoted Psalm 118:22-23 when He told them, "*Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes' Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and **given to a people who will produce its fruit.***"

Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed" Matthew 21:42-44.

There is no doubt that they had read the Scriptures but their hearts were hardened by jealousy and concern that the people would choose to follow Jesus over them. The parable of the Wedding Banquet clearly angered them because they understood that Jesus was saying that they would not be welcomed when the Kingdom of God came and they would be left out

Matthew 22:1-14.

Day 4

When Jesus came to Bethany and resided at the home of Simon the Leper, "*a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. 'Why this waste?' they asked. 'This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.'*" Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "*Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. **When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial.** Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her"* Matthew 26:7-13.

The symbolism here is that Jesus was being anointed for a coming death. The custom when the dead were buried was that they were anointed; but this was done prior to His death as well as afterwards.

Day 5

Jesus had arranged for preparations for the Passover ahead of time and then at the Passover reminded the disciples about the importance of this particular Passover as *“It was just before the Passover Festival & Unleavened Bread. Jesus knew that the hour had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”* John 13:1 and so *“When the hour came, Jesus and His apostles reclined at the table. And He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.*

For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God”

Luke 22:14-16.

John 13:2 and so Jesus then *“Got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him”* John 13:4-5.

Jesus Himself washed the disciples’ feet to remind them of their own role in the church of being a servant. He set this as an example for all believers to follow.

Day 6

About midnight, Jesus was arrested and illegally tried when *“A large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people”* Matthew 26:47.

The trial was illegal because of the many false and conflicting witnesses who gave false testimony and lies as evidence. No trials could be held at night and not all of the council was present. He was falsely charged with blasphemy and at this darkest of hours; even Peter denied Him and even cursed to remove all doubt that he was one of Jesus’ disciples Matthew 26:57-75.

He was denied by His own disciples, betrayed by one of them, falsely accused by His nation, lied about in the testimony, tried illegally at night, and abandoned by the same people who earlier in the week proclaimed, *“Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”* *“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”* as recorded in Luke 19. These same people now screamed, *“Crucify Him.”*

He is sentenced to death and dies around 3 PM this day. The same time the Passover Lamb is being offered and dies for the sins of Israel.

While He hung on the cross in one of the most incredible acts of forgiveness ever recorded, He says, *“Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing”* Luke 23:34.

While He hung on the cross in utter agony, He was mocked, ridiculed and scorned by everyone. This was despite the fact that the law said a person could either be beaten or crucified but not both.

Jesus endured both so under Jewish Law and Roman law, He was illegally tried, convicted, punished, and sentenced.

Day 7 and 8

In the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea is where Jesus' body was laid for three days.

Just before dawn Sunday, the stone had been already rolled away and the tomb was found empty.

He had risen! In one of the greatest historical events in all of human history, Jesus had risen from the dead.

Since Jesus was sinless, death could not hold Him.

The resurrection is the most prominent part of the Gospel as was proclaimed in Acts 2:24 *“But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him.”*

This is why Christian churches worship on Sunday.

It is because this was the day of the Lord's Resurrection.

The stone was rolled away not so that Jesus could get out but so those who were His followers could get in...to see the empty tomb.

The world would never be the same again.

He is risen and since He is risen, we too will be.

The Resurrection from the dead will be eternal life for those who place their trust in Christ.

If they don't, then they will be raised for eternal punishment Revelation 20, 21.

He became sin for you 2 Corinthians 5:21 so that the wrath of God, which was already placed on Christ, might not be placed on those who believe in Him.

It is my prayer that you will come to Jesus today or return to Him as your first love to place your trust in Him 2 Corinthians 6:2 – or Celebrate His life, death and Resurrection as a believer and follower of Yeshua/Jesus.

As we celebrate His life today, the Lord's Supper/Communion elements are different.

We have the Matzah and the juice this morning.

As we enter the Week of Unleavened Bread – the Matzah is special as it symbolized His body without leaven/sin – striped with the beatings & judgement – pierced with the spikes of crucifixion.

The Matzah and the juice are His reminders to us of the price HE paid for our redemption.

***SHOW MEDIA OF JESUS DYING ON CROSS AND RESURRECTION**

[Notes for me only]:

Today, if you need to receive the sacrifice Yeshua/Jesus has made for you and invite Him into your heart to be your Lord – this is the time to do that.

We are going to give you an opportunity to come for prayer and confirm your surrender to His Lordship at the close of this service.

Now as we prepare our hearts to receive Him, please join in this prayer: