



March 27, 2022
"Jesus: Our Passover Lamb"
[Luke 22:1-20](#)
Pastor Gary Hamrick

For centuries Jews around the world have celebrated Passover to commemorate their deliverance from slavery in Egypt, but when Jesus shared his last Passover with his disciples, he expanded their understanding of Passover—that it was not simply looking back to their deliverance from the slavery of Egypt but looking forward to a greater deliverance for all people from the slavery of sin!

1. Jesus eats the Passover
 - a. [Luke 22:1-2, 7-20](#) – *"Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people. ... Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. And He sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat.' So they said to Him, 'Where do You want us to prepare?' And He said to them, 'Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters. Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, 'Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?'" Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready.' So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover. When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, 'With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in*

remembrance of Me.' Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.' "

2. Jesus comes into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)

- a. Pastor Gary said, "The last six chapters of Luke ... detail the final week of Jesus' life and ... chapter 19 records how Jesus [came] into Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday... for the Jewish Feast of Passover. ... It will be his last Passover meal. ... He [would] be hanging from a cross in less than twenty-four hours after this. This last Passover meal that Jesus [shared] with his disciples is more commonly known in our culture as The Last Supper. ... When Jesus took the bread and said what he did, and he took the cup and he said what he did, ... [that became] the language that we quote whenever we share Communion together. ... The Communion celebration or the Lord's Supper is a remembrance of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, the bread being a symbol of his body, the cup - the wine [or] the juice - being a symbol of his blood. ... Communion was derived straight from the Jewish Passover. [Jesus took] an ancient Jewish feast that the Jews had been celebrating at the time of Jesus for about 1,450 years [and connected] it to his own sacrifice on the cross, and by connecting the two, Jesus [gave] new meaning to an old feast."

3. Passover

- a. Pastor Gary said, "In about ... 1880 BC [or] 1900 BC ... a group of seventy Israelites that ... comprised the entire nation at that time [made up of Jacob, eleven of his twelve sons, and their wives and children], ... made their way from Israel to Egypt because ... there was a severe famine in Israel. ... They [went] down to Egypt where they [were] reunited with ... [their twelfth brother] Joseph [whom they had betrayed]. Joseph, by God's providence, had been ... promoted to become the second most powerful man next to Pharaoh himself in all of Egypt. ... [There was] this wonderful exchange of forgiveness for how they mistreated him, and those seventy [received] favor from ... Pharaoh because of Joseph's high standing, but that Pharaoh [died] eventually. ... Succeeding Pharaohs [resented] the Hebrew foreigners who were in their land. ... The Egyptians enslaved them and used them as slave labor for four hundred years; four hundred thirty to be exact. [The] initial group of seventy [would become] a few million people living in the land of Egypt, and Pharaoh [used] them to build ... some of the great ancient cities of Egypt. ... The Bible says that over the course of this four hundred plus years, the Hebrew slaves [cried] out to God. They [were] mistreated [and] ... oppressed. ... The Bible says that their cries [went] up to God and God [saw] their oppression. ... He [raised] up a deliverer. ... His name [was] 'Moshe' [in Hebrew]. His given name that we refer to in English [was] 'Moses.' ... Moses [confronted] Pharaoh, [and demanded] that Pharaoh would let the people go, but Pharaoh [was] very angry and very reluctant, ... so God then

[unleashed] a series of nine plagues to wear Pharaoh down, but Pharaoh [was] still reluctant to let them go, [and] so then God [unleashed] a tenth plague. ... The tenth plague [was] so severe that Pharaoh not only [allowed] the Hebrew slaves to go back to Israel, he [ordered] them out of his country. ... God [struck] down the firstborn of every family and every animal ... throughout the land of Egypt because of Pharaoh's stubborn refusal to let God's people go. ... Among the Hebrews who [were] living ... in Egypt at this time, their firstborn [were] protected because God gave careful instructions. [They] were to slay a lamb. ... [They] were to take the blood of the lamb and a hyssop branch used like a paintbrush, and [they were] to splash the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of [their homes] so that when God passed through the land to administer the sentence of death, he would pass over those homes that were marked by the blood of the lamb, thus the term 'Passover.' In Hebrew it is 'Pesach.' ... Passover was actually an eight-day feast, ... to commemorate this great, miraculous deliverance because at this point ... after the tenth plague, Pharaoh ordered the Hebrews to go. ... The first of the eight days was called Passover. That was the day on which the lamb was slaughtered and ... eaten as a family meal, and then the seven days that followed [were] called the Feast of Unleavened Bread ... because ... of the hasty departure that the Israelites made when they left Egypt [and] ... didn't have enough time to add leaven or yeast to their bread. The Bible says that they just grabbed their kneading bowls of dough and ran. ... They were to commemorate this great, miraculous deliverance by eating bread without yeast. 'Matzah' is what it's called in Hebrew. ... All of this [happened] ... as part of God's divine orchestrated plan of a great deliverance from the slavery of Egypt. ... The main purpose of Passover ... is that it commemorates God's deliverance of the Jews from the slavery of Egypt."

4. An even greater deliverance

- a. Pastor Gary said, "Then Jesus ... [described] an even greater miraculous deliverance, and he [brought] new meaning to the whole Passover feast. ... He [took] the bread ... and he [gave] thanks and he [broke] it and he [said], 'This is my body, which is given for you,' broken for you, 'take and eat in remembrance of me.' ... This [was] brand new to the meaning of Passover. Jesus [was] about to be crucified and he [took] the bread without yeast and he [said], 'This is a picture of my body. This is a picture of my life.' ... Then he [took] the cup. Now there are four cups to the Passover meals. Jesus [took] the third cup; ... the reason we know he [took] the third cup is because ... it says, 'after supper.' The cup that was taken after supper was the third cup. ... It was the cup of redemption. Jesus [took] the cup of redemption and he [gave] thanks. ... and then he [added] ... 'This cup is my blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you. Drink all of it in remembrance of me.' ... It

totally [changed] the meaning. Through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, Jesus [took] this ancient Passover feast that the Jews had been celebrating for centuries and ... [said] that all along Passover was ... really pointing towards something forward, to a day of greater deliverance for all people, not from the slavery of Egypt, but from a greater bondage, which is the slavery of sin that Jesus came to set us free from, to offer us forgiveness and life in his name, through his sacrifice on the cross."

- i. [1 Corinthians 5:7](#) - "...Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." (ESV)
- ii. [John 1:29](#) - "Behold! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

5. How is Jesus our Passover Lamb? What does that mean for each of us?

- a. The lamb was selected or inspected on the tenth of Nisan ([Exodus 12:3](#))
 - i. Jesus was selected/inspected on the tenth of Nisan (Palm Sunday) when he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey ([Luke 19:28-48](#))
 1. Pastor Gary said, "[The Jews] were to take a lamb from the flock and ... were to observe it and inspect it. It was to be observed to make sure that there was no sickness, no disease, that it wasn't crippled, and it wasn't defective in some way. ... on the tenth of Nisan. ... When Jesus came into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, it was the tenth of Nisan on the Jewish calendar."
- b. The sacrificial lamb was to be a "year old male" ([Exodus 12:5](#))
 - i. Jesus died in the prime of His life
- c. The lamb was to be "without defect" ([Exodus 12:5](#))
 - i. Jesus was a sinless sacrifice - "A lamb without blemish or defect" ([1 Peter 1:19](#); 1984 NIV)
 1. Pastor Gary said, "Peter tells us that Jesus was our lamb without spot or blemish, without blemish or defect. He was a sinless sacrifice. He committed no sin. He who knew no sin became sin for us. In other words, he took on our sin that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus."
- d. The lamb was to be sacrificed on the fourteenth of Nisan at "twilight" ([Exodus 12:6](#))
 - i. Jesus would have been crucified on the fourteenth of Nisan and He died "at the ninth hour" [3:00 p.m. Roman time] ([Matthew 27:45](#))
 1. Pastor Gary said, "A day to the Jews still today starts at sundown. Our day starts at midnight. That's when we see a new day that begins, but for the Jews, it starts at sundown. The lamb had to be sacrificed in a period just before sunset where the new day started. ... Twilight was considered 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Bible tells us in [Matthew 27:45](#) that Jesus died at the ninth

hour. Using Roman time, that's 3:00 p.m. He died exactly at the same time on Golgotha when the Passover lambs were being slaughtered on the Temple Mount."

- e. The bread (matzah) of Passover was without yeast ([Exodus 12:8](#))
 - i. Jesus was the "bread of life" without sin ([John 6:48](#), [Hebrews 4:15](#))
 - f. The lamb was to be sacrificed without breaking a bone ([Exodus 12:46](#))
 - i. Jesus was crucified and "not a bone was broken" ([John 19:36](#), [Psalm 34:20](#))
 - 1. Pastor Gary said, "Even when the Roman soldier thrust the spear up underneath Jesus' rib cage, he didn't break a bone. ... Even when he was crucified, they drove the nails between the bone structure. ... Not a bone was broken."
 - g. The blood of the lamb was God's gracious provision to save the Jews in Egypt
 - i. The blood of Jesus was God's gracious provision to save both Jews and Gentiles in the world!
6. Passover past, Passover present, fulfilled in Jesus
- a. Pastor Gary said, "Passover past (through Moses) commemorates the deliverance of the Jews from the slavery of Egypt. Passover present (through Jesus) commemorates the deliverance of all who believe from the slavery of sin."

Discussion Questions

1. Read [Luke 20:1-2, 7-20](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. What is the origin of the celebration of Communion? (See #2a above)
3. What connection did Jesus make between Passover and his sacrifice on the cross? (See #2a above)
4. Why do the Jews celebrate Passover? (See #3a above)
5. Read [1 Corinthians 5:7](#) and [John 1:29](#). Passover ultimately points to what? (See #4a above)
6. What was the significance of the date that Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey? (See #5a above)
7. What was the significance of Jesus' age when he died? (See #5b above)

8. Why is Jesus described as “a lamb without blemish or defect?” (See #5c above)
9. Why is the time of Jesus’s death significant? (See #5d above)
10. What does the absence of yeast in the bread represent? (See #5e above)
11. Why does it matter that Jesus died “without breaking a bone?” (See #5f above)
12. What does the blood of the Lamb represent? (See #5g above)
13. What is the significance of Passover past and present? (See #5a above)
14. Close your meeting by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)