

The Passover

The burden of this sharing is the three annual feasts in the bible - The Passover, Pentecost, and tabernacles. Historically, the church has gone through the phase of Passover and Pentecost. We believe the church is in the final feast (the tabernacles). However, individuals may still go through the Passover experience in their daily lives, which is the burden of this message.

Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread (Passover), and in the feast of weeks (Pentecost) , and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

Deuteronomy 16:16 KJV

And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, [2] This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. [3] Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: [4] And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. [5] Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: [6] And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. [7] And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. [8] And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. [9] Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. [10] And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. [11] And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover. [12] For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. [13] And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. [14] And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. [15] Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. [16] And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh

day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you. [17] And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever.

Exodus 12:1-17 KJV

Three Components of Passover

Passover has three components.

1. The Passover,
2. The Feast of Unleavened Bread and
3. The First fruits.

Israel was an agricultural nation so hence the use of farming terminologies in the scriptures. There was a time of sowing and time for the *first* harvest, which was the harvest of *barley*. Barley was common and accessible, just like the salvation of Christ Jesus. Everyone who walks with God starts with the common ground of salvation, which is readily available to all who believe (all that sow a seed of faith). Salvation is the foundation.

The emphasis of the message is to receive the foundation which is a walk with God. Passover was the beginning of a journey which began in Egypt. God told Moses to bring His people out during his encounter with God in the burning bush. The Bible speaks of Moses, Enoch and Abraham as men who walked with God (Gen 17:1; Gen 5:22-24). All these people had a personal Passover (a solid foundation of walking with God). The Passover was the start of a new beginning for the Israelites (Exo 12:1-2). The Lord's salvation comes to us with a new slate, a new beginning. The Blood of Jesus has the power to give you a 'life from the dead' experience and save you from a fatal judgment/retribution of sin. When God says I will bring you out of Egypt, He is bringing life out of death. God's message today is to give you a new experience different from anything you ever experienced.

First Step in Experiencing the Passover - The Blood

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. Leviticus 17:11 KJV

The Passover journey begins with the blood. In ancient Egypt, the Israelites used the blood of sheep/goats. Today, we can begin a personal/corporate Passover by the blood of Jesus.

The blood contains life (Lev 17:11). The blood that marks the Passover gives a life-giving experience to the participants of the feast. Before Passover, the state of things in 'Egypt' (a life away from God) was darkness, sorrow and death.

There is the natural blood and the spiritual blood. The spiritual blood of Jesus is seen in Revelations 13:8 which says the blood of Jesus was shed from the foundation of the world and Hebrews 12:24 which speaks of the blood of Jesus that speaks better things than that of Abel. These are not references to natural blood. The key to overcoming is by this blood. (Rev 12:11).

A New Beginning

Are you ready for the change that comes with new experiences? The Bible says in Exodus 12:8-9 that the sacrifice to the Lord cannot be boiled. They must be roasted. Fire changes the state of a thing. We come raw to God and He puts us through the fire (Mal 3:2-3). Fire changes the texture of who you are. Moses was a man who was a learned prince in Egypt but became shy and timid. Moses' experience of the fire of God, however, completely transformed him. The lintel represents the mind. The strength of the door is in the post. These represent ancient altars and strongholds in our lives that must be dealt with.

The sacrifice of Jesus is the highest landmark in history. It is a powerful weapon of warfare of God to the pulling down of strongholds (2 Cor 10:2).

There were strongholds in Egypt. Moses and the people of God were in a hurry to leave Egypt, but God wanted to judge Egypt and its gods. Oftentimes we are in a hurry, but God often wants to deal with these strongholds. Each one of the ten plagues God sent addressed a god in Egypt. In a similar way, the soul of man is a place with deadness, yet the Lord says he has given the blood to make atonement for the soul.

As Jesus lived, God's intent is that we hear Him in every situation (John 6:57). In doing this, you cannot go wrong, as a believer. For it is written, that that which is born of God overcomes the world (1 John 5:4). Learning to walk with the Lord is the Passover experience. There were four rivers in Eden - Pishon, Tigris, Gihon, and Euphrates. Euphrates means a new beginning.

As we come by the blood of Jesus, we get to experience the feast of the Passover, life to seemingly hopeless situations, salvation and deliverance from strongholds, a new beginning and life everlasting. Amen.