

The Passover... An Escape Mechanism!

This Passover is one of the most prominent festivals of the Old Testament nation, Israel. We look with interest on the occasion in Egypt. It was a plague of death to the first born and the final blow to the Egyptians. The Egyptians were so exasperated when their first born sons died that they gave the Israelites all they had, gold and silver the finery of Egypt just to get rid of them, go they said. This festive occasion comes up over and over again at special interest points along the history of Israel in the Old Testament. It seems that it was 40 years to the day that the nation was poised on the west bank of Jordan and ready to do God's will regarding Jericho, it was time for the Passover again. You can find this for yourself with a little enjoyment, looking over hidden details in the early chapters of Joshua.

The word Passover is unique to the situation in Egypt and unique to the cross and death of Christ. It was Christ Himself that asked the disciples to go and prepare the Passover, Lu. 22. There was always a preparation for the Passover; the Pascal lamb had to be chosen under strict requirements and it had to be ready to be sacrificed. Down in Egypt the full symbolism of the event is very clear and unmistakable. The lamb's blood had to be shed and captured in a basin. Then the blood had to be applied to the entrance of the home in just the prescribed way. If this wasn't done the first born of the home would have to die. This Passover requirement was the thing to obey from the Lord on every 14th of Nisan. The English spelling for the Hebrew word Passover is *peh-sakh*. The meaning of this word is so fitting. There are two things about this word that are significant. To get the full meaning of the word one must put the two ideas in the word together. The first part of the word means "an exemption." The second part of this word focuses on a "victim."

During the Passover in Egypt if the blood was applied as required the first born son was exempt from the judgment of the destroying angel that passed through the camp of Israel that dark scary night. But it was because of the victim that died in and for the place of the first born of the family that no one who obeyed the word of the Lord became a victim themselves. When we think about it for ourselves as a believer in Jesus Christ we are exempt from the judgment of God that would have been placed on us because of our sins because of the victim who died in our place (Jesus Christ the Lamb of God). "When I see the blood I will pass over you..." God has said (Ex. 12:13). You and I can and do **ESCAPE** the judgment of God because of the Pascal Lamb of God, Christ our Savior who died for us. He holy and a just one died for us the unholy and unjust that He might bring us to God... We apply the blood by faith and God exempts us from Judgment.

This truth is the crux of the matter that relates to the Lord's Supper. We continue the celebration of the Lord's Supper because **we are exempt and have escaped the judgment of God**; the Victim has died for our sins. We must return often to the cross as it were in the Lord's Supper where we had Jesus Christ our sacrifice engaged for us, thus the Passover. Do you know what this fully means and what the Bible simply says and happy people we should be? Let us forever be loyal to Him for **he died in our place** and **we are exempt** and have **ESCAPED** the judgment of God.

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