

MARCH

PASSOVER – PESACH

What does Pesach mean to Jewish people? What does Passover mean to you? Passover (Pesach) usually comes in April. It is a celebration of remembrance of Jewish people being delivered from oppression and bondage during the days of Moses. The Seder calls to remembrance the suffering of the Israelites, their deliverance by God through Moses and hope for the future.

The feast of Passover and unleavened bread was commanded by God and is recorded in the Jewish Bible. We read of these days in the Torah, the third book of Moses, Leviticus, chapter 23, verses 4-6: ***“These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. In the fourteenth day of the first month, at evening is the LORD’S Passover, and on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD. Seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.”***

God’s instructions to Moses for the original Passover were given about 3,500 years ago and are recorded for us in the Bible book of Exodus in chapter 12. We have, in these verses, God’s commands to Moses and the children of Israel giving the specific instructions as to how their firstborn child would be spared from the stroke of the death angel that went throughout the land that night. This would be followed by their liberation from bondage as God led them out of the land. The miracle of the parting of the Red Sea by God through Moses brought the children of Israel to freedom on ***“dry ground.”*** Almighty God can do anything to bring to pass His will. The army that pursued the Jewish people drowned when the waters of the Red Sea flowed upon them at God’s command.

The story of the first Passover is true, for were it not, we would not have Israel as a nation today. God performed many miracles to bring the Jewish people out of the land of bondage and into the Promised Land. This was one of the many miraculous events that God would bring to pass to fulfill His Word in Genesis, chapter 12, verses 1-3: ***“...I will make of thee (Abram – Abraham) a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”*** This promise to Abraham and his descendants brought the Hebrew people out of bondage so they would record for us God’s Word, the Bible. God has given to us in the Bible the history of our Jewish people and His will for Jews and Gentiles in their relationship to Him. Through the recorded Word of God, the Bible, men, women and young people throughout history found the way to true peace in this life and for eternity in Heaven after death.

God has performed a great miracle to bring both Jews and Gentiles out of spiritual bondage. It is the miracle of spiritual new birth through the cleansing of our sins by the

Lamb of God (Messiah) who shed His blood that we might be forgiven of our sins. By placing our trust in God's plan for our lives, we can be delivered from the bondage of sin and its consequences. We would not have the Bible in which we find God's plan for our lives if the first Passover had not happened. But it did, and we thank God for it.

The Jewish Bible in Isaiah, chapter 53 foretells the coming of the Messiah to earth to die to provide His blood as the sacrifice that is needed for atonement. To be forgiven of sin, all people must have the blood of atonement (read the book of Moses, Leviticus, chapter 5, verses 5-10 and Leviticus, chapter 16). Leviticus, chapter 17, verse 11 reads: ***“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I (God) have given it to you upon the altar (in the Jewish Tabernacle and Temple and now in Messiah) to make an atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”*** In the Bible book of John, chapter 1, verse 29, we read: ***“the next day John (a Jewish Bible-believer) seeth Jesus coming unto him and saith, Behold, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.”*** Again in the Bible we read in 1 Corinthians, chapter 5, verse 7: ***“Even Messiah, our Passover, is sacrificed for us.”*** In Messiah Jesus, we have the Passover Lamb, so that in trusting His blood of atonement to cleanse us of our sins, we are delivered and set free. The fear of death is gone, and we will never face an eternity in Hell. Heaven is our eternal home!

If you have the opportunity to attend a Passover Seder, you will find it to be a blessing as you remember how God delivered our Jewish people from bondage. You will realize how the same Almighty God can work in our lives today as we seek Him in the Bible and find His peace and joy by faith in Him and His written word.