JESUS THE PASSOVER LAMB - CONCLUSION

In the first part, we established that Jesus Christ was indeed the Passover Lamb (**1 Cor 5:7**, **John 1:29**).

In the second part, we addressed the controversies of some of the sects in Jesus's day and when they observed the Passover. We further established that Jesus Christ was crucified on the day of Passover in fulfillment of the Biblical requirements. And we began to further explore based on what we determined as the time of Jesus' death and burial to show that in keeping with the three days and three nights He resurrected around the evening of the 7th/1st day of the week (i.e. Saturday evening/Sunday evening).

In this part we would conclude with an exhortation to the Church with respect to the Biblical festivals that God commanded.

The Biblical festivals of God convey deep insights and meaning, especially for us New Testament believers. They not only show what Jesus Christ fulfilled, but they also point to what is to come.

We as believers have a copious amount of reasons why we ought to continually commemorate the Biblical Festivals that God commanded in **Leviticus 23**, that is the: weekly Sabbath, Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of Firstfruits, Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Feast of Tabernacles.

I address this in the book, "*The Biblical Festivals of God*": it is helpful to understand that the first festival, which was the weekly Sabbath that was inaugurated after the six days of creation (**Gen 2:2-3**), ought to have been the only festival mankind would have needed. It was not only a time to rest from one's work, but also a time to fellowship with God. It was a memorial for which we were to praise God for His achievements in creation, and a memorial of who we were created to be, i.e. sons and daughters made in the Image of God (**Gen 1:26-27**). That was the essence of the Sabbath for us after creation, it was to foster relationship with God.

The other festivals came as a result of the fall of mankind. So you'll find that from Passover to Day of Atonement God demonstrated His rescue plan for redeeming and reconciling mankind to Him; and the finale of the Feast of Tabernacle showed His plan for judgment and retribution for those who rejected Him, while offering restoration and eternal habitation for those who choose Him.

But it is really fascinating, and worth emphasizing that His original plan and purpose for mankind did not change, hence the intent of the weekly Sabbath that was inaugurated after creation was still maintained as the first of all the festivals in the midst of the rescue plan (**Lev 23:3**). As a matter of fact the only portion of Scripture which God wrote with His own Hand was the Ten Commandments, among which the Sabbath was also commanded (**Deut 9:10**, **Deut 5:12-15**). What this says is that God's intention for fellowship with mankind is at the heart of everything. His covenant purpose is for us to enter into His Sabbath rest (**Ex 31:13**, **17**, **Heb 4:1-3**, **9-11**). Hence the weekly Sabbath stands as a memorial for

us to build and maintain a relationship with God the Creator, Who made us in His Image (**Gen 1:26-27**).

And despite the fact that the devil deceived mankind and caused us to adopt the image and nature of sin (**Rom 5:12, 3:23**), God sent His Son, Jesus Christ to take away the stain and reproach of sin (**John 1:29**, **1 Peter 1:18-21, 1 Cor 15:55-57**), so that THROUGH Him we could once again bear the Image of God and be restored to fellowship with Him (**Col 1:15, 19-20**, **Rom 8:29, 2 Cor 3:18, 1 John 3:2**).

So all the other festivals are really important and serve as a memorial to what Jesus Christ accomplished, and will accomplish when He returns; but the reason He did all that was to reconcile us back to the One Who created us (**2 Cor 5:17-21**). Hence the goal is the Sabbath, that we might truly enter into the REST of the Lord (**Heb 4:1-3, 9-11**).

So when you observe the weekly Sabbath for starters, you are reminded of God the Creator: to give praise to Him, and to fellowship with Him because He is our Father; and that in turn reminds you of your identity as a child of God. One who is grounded in his true identity in God, just like Jesus Christ (**Matt 4:3-11**), would not easily be deceived by the devil, as Eve was, forgetting that she had been created in the Image of God hence the devil actually had NOTHING to offer her to make her more “like” God (**Gen 1:27**, **3:4-5**). So, that for one, is plenty enough reason why we need to keep the festivals as memorials.

Another reason is simply the fact that God commanded the festivals to be a lasting ordinance for all generations (**Lev 23:2, 21, 31-32, 41, 16:29-31, Ex 12:14**). Jesus

said if you loved Him you should keep His commands (**John 14:15**, **Luke 6:46**, *1 John 5:3*). And He Himself commanded us to always observe the Lord's Supper, which was a Passover Seder (**Luke 22:15**, **19-20**). Even Paul received from Christ the DIRECT revelation to keep the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Him (**1 Cor 11:23-26**, **Gal 1:11-12**). It is also worth highlighting that all the other Biblical festivals point to Christ, and I clearly show how each does this in the book, "*The Biblical Festivals of God*". That being the case, it stands to reason that we ought to commemorate the Biblical Festivals, because all of them are Sabbaths/holy-convocations unto God, which are fulfilled in Christ Jesus. So just like the weekly Sabbaths, these are also days of rest (Sabbaths) which we're to spend before the Lord.

Sadly in the Church, a lot of doctrine has crept in to deliberately redefine or annul that which God has spoken. And in the process introduce things that have little to no Biblical bearings.

For instance, the "sanctification" of Sunday as a "holy day" was a man-made agenda driven by blind antisemitism. And that same agenda "desanctified" Saturday (the 7th day), and threatened people who dared to observe the Sabbath with the curse of "*anathema*". Both Jesus and the early century believers observed the Sabbath by doing good and teaching the Word of God to draw people to Him, among other things. So it is unjustifiable for people to rise up centuries later to pronounce curses on those who wanted to keep the Sabbath, and instead force on them a different "holy day". In the book, "The Biblical Festivals of God", I provide the necessary quotes and references to back up what I'm saying here.

It is not only in the subject of replacing the weekly Sabbath with Sunday that the Church has taken preference the teachings of men over the commands of God. We've done so with Passover as well, by replacing it with “Easter”. And just before you say that, no, they're the same thing, I need to emphatically say that that's a lie, they are NOT the same.

Should we ignore that the word “Easter” is connected to the pagan goddess “Ēostre” or “Ishtar”? How about the fact that the date is determined by its own calculation as the first Sunday after the full moon of the spring equinox, and not Nisan 14th as God commanded in the Bible. “Easter” may try to mask itself as being connected to Jesus Christ, the Passover, and the resurrection, but NOTHING about it in it's name, date, or symbols (i.e. the rabbit/rodent, and “Easter eggs”), has any connection whatsoever with Jesus Christ or Scripture.

I hope this can serve as a wake up call to the Church, galvanizing us to stand for truth and allow no compromise that has been enshrined in the name of tradition (**Matt 15:8-9**). And I also hope that this call will get believers once again grounded in the word of God, and encourage the commemoration of the Biblical festivals with a deep understanding of what they are, what/Who they remind and point us to, and our identity and purpose expressed in them.

My prayer is that this speaks to you, and that God would furnish you with the Grace needed to understand and know Him more as you walk with Him (**Eph 1:17-18**). Shalom and God bless!

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