

The Lord's Passover

Subject: A Study of the difference between the Lords Passover and what is called in scripture, the Jew's Passover.

Passover of the Jew's is mentioned in the book of John, 2:13, 6:4, 5:1, 11:55 and 19:42. The Lords Passover is found in Exodus 12:11, 12:27, Leviticus 23:5, Numbers 28:16, and Deuteronomy 16:1.

Most think that the name Jew as mentioned in the prior paragraph is talking about our brother Judah, but it is not. Therefore some groundwork must be established before we can gain an understanding of this important topic. God's word must establish the groundwork.

The Book of Revelation, revealed to the Apostle John by Jesus Christ himself finds no fault with two churches and we can read of this in Rev. 2:9, and Rev 3:9. Both churches taught "who those were that say they are Jews and are not but do lie". To grasp an understanding of how a manipulation of an entire race of people occurred is very unsuspecting to say the least. We are told in Genesis 49:10, "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet until Shiloh come, and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be. How could someone actually steal a prophesy? Lets understand.

First Kings 14:15, "For the Lord shall smite Israel as a reed is shaken in the water, and He shall root up Israel out of this good land which He gave to their fathers. And shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their groves (idolatry), provoking the Lord to anger.

That scattering did happen. The prophesy in 1st Kings was fulfilled about 740 B. C. when the northern Kingdom of Israel was carried away by the Assyrians. They then became "The Lost House of Israel". Later most of the southern Kingdom now known as "The House of Judah" was captured by Sennacherib

and joined their fellow Israelites in captivity. Both houses were scattered and lost to everyone but God.

The inhabitants of the city of Jerusalem had escaped deportation to Assyrians and were later captured by Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon. We can read of this account in the book of Daniel, 1:1. The name Jew was given to the remnant of Judah by the gentiles. Compare Dan. 1: 6 with Dan 3: 8 and 12.

In the year 540 B. C., Cyrus, King of Persia overthrew the Babylonian empire. It was this Cyrus that issued a decree that allowed those of the captivity to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. Having lived among the Babylonians, Judah, Benjamin along with the tribe of Levi to whom the book of Ezra is written intermixed with the customs and traditions of the people. Ezra 2:42 and 43, we learn that those with Babylonian names had returned with the remnant of Judah and, “ could not show their fathers house and their seed whether they were part of Israel”. Ezra 2:59.

The Babylonians had mixed with God’s people while in captivity and the tribe to whom God had entrusted the priesthood was lost. Ezra 8:15, last part of the verse, “ and found there none of the tribe of Levi. Is it any wonder when we come to the book of Malachi, one of the restoration books written after the Babylonian captivity and written to the nation 400 years before Christ we read, Mal. 1:10, last part of the verse, “ I have no pleasure in you, saith the Lord of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

By the time of Christ, Matthew 23:2 reads, “ The Scribes and Pharisees sit in the seat of Moses. And Mark 7:13, “ Making the word of God of none effect through your traditions which ye have delivered and many such things do ye”.

It is obvious that the religious community had learned how to worship God through tradition and the teachings of men and not in obedience to God. Is it any wonder why Christ had to start and build his church? Matthew 16:18.

Thus the Feasts of the Lord had eventually become the feast’s of those that say they are Jews and are not as we find in Rev. 2:9,

3:9.

The Season of The Passover

But how is the Passover reckoned? Did Jesus parents keep the Passover at the correct time? Lets take a look at what is recorded for us in Luke 2: 41, “ Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. Jesus was 12 years old and we quote the last part of verse 46, “ sitting in the midst of the doctors both hearing them and asking them questions”. And verse 47, “ and all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.”. Why were the religious leaders astonished at His understanding and answers? Did Jesus understand the season of the Passover? Is that what they were talking about? Scripture doesn't tell us but His next statement gives us a strong clue. Last part of verse 49, “ Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business”? Isn't that our duty even today? To search, teach and edify those that are called and interested. Isn't this the kind of scripture we should be mediating on?

The Jews Passover

Lets take a look at how the Passover of today is arrived at. One goes out at night after the Vernal Equinox that marks the beginning of the Spring season and looks for the first crescent of the moon. If the crescent is sighted before the sixteenth of the month on the Roman calendar, the day of the Passover is then counted. If the crescent of the moon were sighted after the sixteenth, then one would have to wait until the sighting of the next phase of the moon in the following month. Why? We know from Moses writing's that there is a beginning of months. (Exodus 12) The counting would start with the first day of the new year and on the tenth of the month a lamb would be chosen, and on the evening of the 14th the lamb would be slain. The 15th of the month would be

a High Day and the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened bread (see Lev. 23). By comparing Gen. 7:11, 7:24, and Gen. 8:4, we find a five month period lasting 150 days. This tells us that there can't be any more than 30 days in any month. If one would reckon the Passover by the cycles of the moon, one would have to add a 13th month seven times in a 19th year cycle. What would David do with a priesthood of 24 courses in a year of 13 months? The observance of the lunar cycles for reckoning the Passover doesn't add up. We need to look elsewhere if we are to come to a right conclusion.

For Signs And For Seasons

Gen. 1:14, “And God said, let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night: and let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and for years”. Verse 15, “ And let them be for lights in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth”. Verse 16, “ And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also”.

Notice what the Apostle Paul says in 1st Thess. 5:4, “ But ye brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief”. And in verse 5,” We are all children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

The Apostle John adds to our understanding. John 1:4, “ In Him was life, and the light was the light of men”. Verse 5,“ and the light shineth in darkness; and darkness comprehended it not”. John 8: 12, “ Then spoke Jesus unto them again saying; I am the light of the world: he that followed Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life”.

The sun gives warmth, comfort and growth. The sun then is a physical type of God's Holy Spirit. One might say; you can't compare the physical creation with the spiritual creation. Let's see if God's word sheds any light on that statement.

Joshua's Extended Day

Joshua 10:12, “ Then spoke Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, sun stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou moon, in the valley of Ajalon”. Verse 13, “ and the sun stood still and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies”. It's the same with you and me today, Father will not let the sun set on us until we gain the victory. As Paul says in 1st Cor. 10:11, “ now all these things happened unto them for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world have come. Make a study also of the part the sun played in the days of King Hezekiah (2nd kings 20th chapter). The sun is not to be worshiped but Father did set the sun as a sign for the seasons of the year.

Thess. 5:1, “ But of the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you”. Why? Because God's word is easy to understand when we stay focused on it and study to show ourselves approved (2nd Tim. 2:15)

Beginning of Months

The word for month found in Exodus the twelfth chapter is the Hebrew word chodesh and is number 2320 in Strong's concordance and say's; The new moon by implying a month. It is the prime of 2318, to be new-to rebuilt-to repair. Chodesh means month not moon. Month of Abib is mentioned six times by Moses and is number 24 in Strong's Concordance and means; to be tender, green, young ear of grain.

The name Nisan is sometimes used as the first month of the Hebrew year along with Abib. Why two different names for the same month? The word Nisan is 5212 in Strong's Concordance.

It's name means flight. We find Nisan used two times in God's word and both times when Israel was in captivity (Neh. 2:1 and Est. 3:7. Our father is not the author of confusion and expects His children to understand why there is a change in His word.

Why The vernal Equinox?

Father never forces any one to follow him or choose to love Him. We are given the opportunity to make our own choices. Love is the first fruit of God's Holy spirit. No one can buy, order or demand love. So it is with our Heavenly Father. We need to choose for ourselves to be obedient to him.

Father, in his wisdom, gives us the Vernal Equinox at the beginning of months so we can make the choice. This time of the year is the start of the Spring season and it also the time of year when day and night are of equal length. We can be children of the day as Paul says or we can be children of the night. Father lets us make our own choice. He doesn't push or shove us to do his will. The Passover frees us from our past sins but the rest is up to us. We can of our own free will make an independent choice.

We read in Deut. 30:19, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live".

Joshua 24:15, " And if it seem evil to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom you will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the lord".

Conclusion

Sometimes to do what comes naturally and makes sense in our minds is ok even as far as God is concerned, but at the same

time could be totally wrong. A good example of this is found in 2nd Kings verse 1 to verse 15. To paraphrase: Naaman a Syrian King had leprosy and was told by Elisa to wash 7 times in the Jordan river. He became upset because it made sense to him if he had to wash he could just as easily wash in a Syrian river. He repented and did as Elisa instructed, washed in the Jordan river and was cured.

It's the Same way today. Some of our serving God is from our own motives, reasoning, or teachings of men. What's important in all this is not whether one of God's command's makes sense or what's the difference attitude. The lesson here is obedience.

Just as men determine the season of the year as occurring at the same time of the year, the Passover occurs at the same time of the year also and there is no allowance for each year a different date. Remember, God is not the author of confusion.