

# Passover Feast



**Book 3 / 7**

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# Passover Feast

We are commanded to keep the Feast of Passover. And in these few verses we get quite clear instructions.

Yet, if you and I attend a Passover Seder we find a completely different procedure. Now I am not saying that this is wrong. What I am saying is that much of this is man's interpretation ... what Jesus called the "traditions of man".

A careful look at some of these rituals will reveal that the early Rabbis had an understanding of the spiritual intent of the Feast – and there are powerful declarations (prophetically) during the Seder.

During the Seder meal, it is traditional that 4 cups of wine are served ...



The second cup of wine is not drunk – but in this case we see that this is where you would put your little finger into the cup (dip it into the wine) and declare for example: “We have been delivered from the lice by the Blood of the Lamb!”

Think about this for a minute - although it is a tradition ... do we declare with meaning that the plagues are defeated by the Blood of the Lamb - personally - in **my life today**?

**Leviticus 23:4** “These are the appointed Feasts of the Lord, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them.”

**Leviticus 23:5-8** *“In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is the Lord’s Passover. <sup>6</sup>And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. <sup>7</sup>On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. <sup>8</sup>But you shall present a food offering to the Lord for seven days. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.”*

## **What is it that we are asked to do?**

- ◆ Meet with God on the right day (14<sup>th</sup> day at sunset) of the first month
- ◆ Eat the Passover meal
- ◆ Eat Matzah (unleavened bread) for 7 days
- ◆ Keep the first and seventh days as a Shabbat - day of rest
- ◆ Give a first-fruits offerings of the barley harvest

That’s all ... not too difficult is it?

## **Jesus keeps the Passover Feast**

God’s Commandment to the Israelites goes back decades - they have wandered through the Wilderness and have become men of valour. They are now about to enter the Land. They are about to fulfill prophecy. As they prepare to go into the Land, Joshua calls them together and tells them that we all celebrate Passover and tomorrow we cross over into our purpose and destiny

**Joshua 5:10-12** *“While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the Land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the Land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.”*

We come to understand some of the **meanings of this Feast**.

Not only do we celebrate a deliverance (and that applies to each one of us, describing the day that we crossed over from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Light)

### **BUT!!**

We also celebrate the meaningful call to spiritual warfare and our engagement with the enemy as we take up our rightful mandate to take dominion of our promised heritage (many people struggle with this simply because they never get to know / understand what it is that God has planned for them) and

We come to understand that we can walk in victory celebrating many victories in the same order and dimension as that of Jericho because Jesus is on our side (many people live a life of victory and defeat—the lesson of Jericho is this - as long as the Jericho in your life—that very first “thing” that you have to overcome remains defeated, you will have victory in Jerusalem.

However if Jericho rises up and is rebuilt, then the spiritual victory of Jerusalem will be lost as well.)

For example: If you had a problem with LUST at the time when you were born-again (and you managed to overcome that sin in your life-through prayer / fasting and deliverance ) in other words, you conquered “Jericho”, then you are able to live victory, in “Jerusalem”.

However , if you should at some point in the future succumb to this sin in any way, shape or form (of LUST) – it means your Jericho has risen up again, and you no longer rule in “Jerusalem” ...

These lessons are so important for the Israelites that it becomes the first thing that they do when, after being in exile for so long, they return to the Land.

**Ezra 6:19-22** *“On the fourteenth day of the first month, the returned exiles kept the Passover. <sup>20</sup>For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together; all of them were clean. So they slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the returned exiles, for their fellow priests, and for themselves. <sup>21</sup>It was eaten by the people of Israel who had returned from exile, and also by every one who had joined them and separated himself from the uncleanness of the peoples of the land to worship the Lord, the God of Israel. <sup>22</sup>And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the Lord had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, so that he aided them in the work of the House of God, the God of Israel.”*

When Jesus comes to walk on the earth to fulfill His mission, we note the same pattern. One of the first recordings of His life, is when He is lost and found teaching in the temple. However, it's the pattern of His attendance of the Passover Feast that really stands out.



The final Passover Feast describes this meal with His disciples - and what is recorded in history for us to see.

### 1. Jesus celebrates the Passover before He crosses over to deal with the cross

**Mark 14:12-16** *“And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him, “Where will you have us go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?”<sup>13</sup> And He sent two of His disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him,<sup>14</sup> and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, Where is My guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’<sup>15</sup> And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.”<sup>16</sup> And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.”*

### 2. Jesus celebrates the victory of dealing fully and comprehensively with the power of the kingdom of darkness

### 3. Jesus declares our “partnership” in the ongoing victory by presenting us with the power of the Holy Spirit to fight every day battles and ensure that we are overcomer

**John 19:14-19** *“ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!”<sup>15</sup> They cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”<sup>16</sup> So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus,<sup>17</sup> and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.<sup>18</sup> There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.<sup>19</sup> Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “**Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.**”*

## Physical vs Spiritual

Paul teaches us an important principle. We are no longer focusing on the physical dimension. We will do things in the physical to help us understand the spiritual, and we will do things in the physical in order to transform the “intent / meaning / value” of a Commandment into a spiritual reality - so that we can present an acceptable offering in the Living stone Tabernacle.

**1 Corinthians 15:45-49** *“Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.<sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual.<sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the Second Man is from Heaven.<sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the Man of Heaven, so also are those who are of Heaven.<sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall[ ] also bear the Image of the Man of Heaven.”*

And then Paul tells us to keep the Feast of Passover.

**1 Corinthians 5:8** *“Let us therefore celebrate the Festival ...”*

## **JOSHUA TAKING THE PROMISED LAND FROM THE PHYSICAL LAND TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

We are looking at the concept of transforming from the physical dimension to the spiritual.

A wonderful example where this principle is demonstrated is in the story of Joshua and the taking of the land. Although we are busy taking something physical – land - the goal was always to build a Tabernacle / Temple in “the place where God would reveal Himself – namely, Jerusalem, and the place where He would come to dwell.

Joshua does all of the preparation work on the other side of the Jordan - and then the journey will begin.

As we continue to read the story further in detail, we find that in a few days, it will be Passover – on the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month.

So working backwards, we can estimate that they most probably crossed over on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of this month - being the 1<sup>st</sup> day in God’s calendar

They use this time, between crossing over and Passover, to:

- ◆ Build the stone altar of 12 stones
- ◆ Make sure that all the men are circumcised.

## **KEEP PASSOVER**

Then we read that on the 14<sup>th</sup> day they celebrate Passover.

## **KEEP UNLEAVENED BREAD**

What happens next is for 7 days they will march around Jericho. For six days we only hear the shofar blowing, but on the 7<sup>th</sup> day we have the shofar and the shout of the people.

**Jos 6:15-17** *“On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. <sup>16</sup> And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, “Shout, for the LORD has given you the city. <sup>17</sup> And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the LORD for destruction.”*

This coincides directly with the 7 days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread - in fact, the 7<sup>th</sup> day is considered a Shabbat / holy day. Which is even more mind blowing is that we see when the people do as God says (keep it holy), then the walls of Jericho fall.

## **KEEP THE FEAST OF FIRST FRUITS!!**

On the following day the people collect all the gold and silver for the Tabernacle. They bring a first-fruits offering of something they did not produce by the works of their own hands.

## THE LESSON

Taking Jericho opens the door to the building of and the maintaining of the spiritual Tabernacle in Jerusalem.

Keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the physical, takes you into the realm of spiritual warfare, and dealing with the old-man takes you into the realm of the One New Man.

## SEVEN TIMES AROUND JERICHO AND SEVEN TRUMPETS

Let us now take it to the very end of time - to the Book of Revelation.

We read in Revelation of the **seven trumpets** that must sound at the end of times.

These are a direct parallel to the seven days of Trumpets in Revelation and what Joshua and his people do when they walk around Jericho.

In both these event we read that the city walls have fallen and the people are defeated !!!

## JERICHO

**Joshua 6:20** “ So the people **shouted**, and the **trumpets were blown**. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city.

**Joshua 6:21-24** “Then they devoted all in the city to destruction, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys, with the edge of the sword. <sup>24</sup> And they burned the city with fire, and everything in it. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.”

**Does this not read very much the same in respect of the end times?**

## BABYLON

**Revelation 18.2** “And he called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! AND this is the result of the seven trumpets, that must be blown one after another - in sequence !!”

**Revelation 11:15** “Then the seventh **angel blew his trumpet**, and there **were loud voices** in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.” <sup>16</sup> And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, <sup>17</sup> saying, “We give thanks to You, Lord God Almighty, Who is and Who was, for You have taken Your great power and begun to reign.”

## **SIGN ON FOREHEAD AND RIGHT HAND**

And now, the final reason why you would want to celebrate Passover / Unleavened Bread is this ..

We all have an expectation that the final days on earth will be difficult. God however, promises you that you can have a sign on your forehead and your right hand that will be the ultimate protection.

## **What's that?**

The sign that is given by the keeping of the Feast of Unleavened Bread

**Ex 13:9** “Unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days; no leavened bread shall be seen with you, and no leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory. <sup>8</sup> You shall tell your son on that day, ‘It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’ <sup>9</sup> **And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth.** For with a strong Hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt. <sup>10</sup> You shall therefore keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year.”

## **Let us therefore celebrate the festival!!**

Is he saying it is about a physical Feast? ... **YES and NO.**

We will gather together on the correct day of the year - we will make sure that it is a day of rest - a Shabbat – **we will pick up the unleavened bread (matzah) to eat for 7 days. But it is also about a SPIRITUAL DIMENSION.**



And then Paul demonstrates this physical / spiritual transformation.

It's not about the MATZAH ... that of its own does not make any difference in the Kingdom of God - if it did, you should eat Matzah every day of the year!!!

We eat the Matzah in a process that makes us think about the state of our SPIRIT-MAN ... how are we really doing?

### **In other words, are we clean or unclean??**

This time period of making a conscious decision to avoid leaven (which tastes sooo good! does it not?), and to choose to eat the unleavened bread, HELPS you to focus - helps you to think about the malice and evil that you have thought, planned, implemented, and about the people that you have wounded, disadvantaged or wronged.

You see, if you have come to understand the purpose of Passover, and you have come to understand that you are on a life journey with God - then you will realize that you:

- ◆ Cannot cross over into your Promised Land for this year in the state that you are in
- ◆ You will not arrive at Mount Sinai for the infilling of the Holy Spirit (Shavout / Pentecost)
- ◆ You will not be invited as the Bride to the Wedding Feast of the Lamb (Sukkot / Tabernacles)

**1 Corinthians 5:6-7** *“Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? <sup>7</sup>Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.”*

And then Paul lists the “unclean “ things - the things that he considers are leaven in our lives.

**1 Corinthians 5:8** *“Let us therefore celebrate the Festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”*

Wickedness and evil - these words and actions are LEAVEN.

As you eat the matzah, you are challenged to think about your lifestyle. Paul wants you to think about the way in which you interact with this world, both with other believers, but also with the non-believers who you do business with.

## Love your Neighbour

The two primary Commandments are simple:

- ◆ Love God with all of your heart and
- ◆ Love your neighbour as yourself

**Romans 13:8-10** *“Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: **“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”** <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

The wickedness and evil that Paul talks to has to deal with our **attitudes towards our fellow man** (our neighbour). Loving your neighbour has two legs:

- First, do them no harm.
- Secondly, do good whenever you can.

**Proverbs 6.16-19** *“There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.”*

The prevailing attitude in the world today can be summed up in this phrase:

### **WHAT’S YOURS IS YOURS; AND WHAT’S MINE IS MINE**

It is the attitude of a people who do not care for anybody - we are totally absorbed by our own needs and desires that we fail to see the opportunity to help others. While we may not take from others, we seldom stand up for the rights of others, and more often do not defend the helpless, the abused.

While you think about this, consider this ... this was the prevailing attitude of the people of Sodom!!

While we only think of ourselves, we engage in what Paul describes as the deeds of the flesh ... these are the wicked and evil things.

**Galatians 5:19-21** *“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.”*

## Let us Celebrate this Passover!!

We are back with that final Passover Feast, together with Jesus - in that upper room. After He breaks the news that one of the disciples will betray Him, He continues with the meal:

**Mark 14.22-25** *“And as they were eating, He took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is My Body.”<sup>23</sup>And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it.<sup>24</sup>And He said to them, “This is My Blood of the Covenant, which is poured out for many.<sup>25</sup>Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the Kingdom of God.”*

## **What did he do?**

### **1. He took the bread and broke it, inviting all attending to share ...**

Will you take a MATZAH ... share it with someone that you know / your family?

BEFORE you eat (focus) ... is there any wickedness / evil that you have thought / done / to someone in this room?

If you face God tonight, you will need to rectify those actions ... with GOD and with the people, before YOU CAN CONTINUE.

- ❖ Restore relationships
- ❖ Ask forgiveness
- ❖ Make restitution

### **2. He took the cup and offered it to you and I, so that we could be fully restored to complete son / daughter-ship (to complete inclusion in the Covenant ... to wholeness)**

**CELEBRATE THE FEAST!! - JESUS DID!!**

**AMEN**

