

***London Justice House of Prayer - Donna Taylor***  
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***Additional Notes to the Exodus Story***

**I.      **Passover - Egypt****

**A.      **John's Gospel Emphasizes Passover****

In John's gospel he repeatedly mentions Passover to frame Jesus' ministry and mission. There are a number of passages where the Passover is mentioned. The first is in John 2:13, 23 where it says the Passover of the Jews was at hand and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Again, in John 5:1; 6:4; 11:55; 13:1, all these passages are where John is literally marking time with the mention of the many Passovers and the events surrounding them.

***13 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem...23 Now when he was at Jerusalem at the Passover feast many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. John 2:13,23***

***1 After this there was a feast of the Jews and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. John 5:1***

***4 Now the Passover the feast of the Jews was at hand. John 6:4***

***55 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. John 11:55***

***1 Now before the feast of the Passover when Jesus knew that the hour had come to depart out of the world to the father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. John 13:1***

These various mentions of these references to Passover underscore the importance of Jesus as the fulfillment of the themes of Passover.

From Christian theology, we call him the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. But, because of our gentileization of Christianity through the centuries we often do not connect the language of lamb of God from the idea of a Passover lamb who was sacrificed on Passover.

In John 6:4, we find the feeding of the 5,000 of Jewish men, who would also have wives and children with them, so this could have conceivably been a crowd of 30,000 up to 50,000 people all of whom are Jewish.

The fact that the feeding of the 5,000 occurs in conjunction with the Passover is often overlooked in Christian teaching. But, when Jesus feeds the 5,000, this foreshadows Jesus as the true bread of life whose flesh will provide eternal sustenance to those who feed upon him.

## **B. Jesus is the Lamb of God**

This identification of Jesus as the lamb, not just any lamb, but the lamb of God is found early on in John's gospel, John 1:29. This ties directly to the Passover lamb whose blood spared Israel's first born about 14 centuries earlier and later is found in Revelation 5:1-10.

***29 Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John 1:29***

In Revelation 5, we find Jesus being worshiped as the lamb who was slain and worthy to receive power and glory. In fact, he's the lamb who was slain before the foundation of the world. The idea of Passover was foreshadowed with the eternal slaying of Jesus as the Passover lamb and becomes an earthly manifestation of a heavenly reality.

The Passover which takes the Jews out of captivity and slavery in Egypt is in fact a prophetic sign or early manifestation and foretaste of an eternal reality which God the Father had in his mind and his heart before time began.

So John's gospel brings bridges or connections, between the Old Testament Passover lamb, Jesus crucifixion and the ultimate victory of the lamb found in the book of Revelation. The plan of redemption.

## **C. Eating of the Passover Lamb and Jesus Zeal for God's House**

In John 2:17, eating the Passover lamb and Jesus' zeal for God's house are linked together. There is also a reference made to Psalm 69:9, zeal for your house has consumed me.

***17 Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up." John 2:17***

The context of John's statement here is in the cleansing of the temple which occurs during Passover. This is a picture of the Exodus when the children of Israel left Egypt and passed through the Red Sea which was symbolic of them being cleansed as they left not only slavery, but idolatry behind them.

In the original Passover, the Passover lamb was sacrificed and eaten as a sign of the participation in the covenant. In the same way, Jesus calls his followers to partake in his body and blood symbolized in our partaking of Communion. This is a means of entering into that new covenant.

#### **D. The Timing of the Crucifixion and the Passover Lambs**

John establishes the timing of Jesus' crucifixion taking place at the same time with the slaughter of the Passover lambs. Jesus crucifixion occurs at the very same hour, the Feast of Passover was being celebrated by all who came up to Jerusalem. The other gospel accounts do not mark this timing as John does. We find this in John 19:14.

***14 Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" John 19:14***

John calling it out as the day of preparation is significant. It reveals the theological meaning of Jesus' death, just as the blood of the lambs protected Israel during the first Passover. Jesus blood provides eternal protection and deliverance from sin. It reinforces Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice of Passover.

#### **E. The Hyssop Branch**

When Jesus is on the cross, he is offered sour wine on a hyssop branch. This detail carries significant Passover symbolism in Exodus 12:22. Hyssop was used to sprinkle the lamb's blood on the doorposts and lentils marking the homes for Israel's deliverance. In John 19:29, John specifically states it was a hyssop branch.

***29 Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. John 19:29***

John connects Jesus' crucifixion to the original Passover. It wasn't just any branch or stick. It was a hyssop that was used to offer Jesus sour wine. The presence of the hyssop branch that was used in Egypt to apply the blood to the door posts and lentils of the people is symbolic of the application of Jesus' blood to the hearts and lives of all of us who believe. Jesus, the true Passover lamb, brings us rescue and salvation.

Jesus unblemished sacrifice, not like the animal sacrifices of the old covenant, was once and for all perfect and complete; sufficient to atone for sin for all time.

## II. Summary

### A. Exodus Theme of God Revealing Himself to Israel

The people of Israel are unique. They are unique in that God gave them the covenant. They were given the mission of declaring that covenant to the entire world. Just as Jesus says, “I have manifested, I have revealed myself to them that they would pick up the new covenant and become the bearers of that new covenant.

The deliverance of the Jews from Egypt through the Red Sea in Exodus also coincides with the believers being delivered from sin through the sea, we might say the sea of Jesus’ blood. These are now the words of Paul we find also in I Corinthians 10:1-5.

***1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. I Corinthians 10:1-5***

When we think of the deliverance from Egypt through the Red Sea in Exodus, this is what Paul is picking up here in this passage. This is mirrored in John’s gospel as well.

These passages in John are not just passages, they are themes that run through John which echo and mirror the Exodus. This is why Paul is emphasizing the story of Exodus, and teaching that all born again believers, spirit-filled followers of Jesus are the New Exodus people of God.

Today, as we gather in celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus during the actual time of the Feasts of Passover, we come to have a deeper and clearer revelation of what Jesus accomplished on the Cross. We will be celebrating every one of the Feasts of the Lord when Jesus returns and will celebrate it with Him!