

In The Beginning Was The Word

John 2: 13-25

INTRODUCTION: WHY JESUS THREW THEM OUT OF THE TEMPLE -PASSEVER

John stresses the deity of Jesus Christ. He gives us seven miracles that serve as signs that Jesus is the Messiah. So in this section he records Jesus describing himself as the bread of life, the water of life, the light of the world, the door, and also the good shepherd.

John provides teachings of Jesus found nowhere else. This is also the most theological of all four gospels.

John opens Chapter Two with the record of the Jewish Passover which was “at hand”, which meant that it was ready to be celebrated.

For this reason Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

This would be a time for the Lord to see for Himself how the Passover was being kept, which was an ordinance from the Lord at that time which was to be observed at a specific day in the year.

Nobody was aware of who was going to attend the Passover feast. But every Jewish male was expected to make the pilgrimage to Jerusalem during this time. (Deut 16:16).

Deuteronomy 16:16

¹⁶ Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

1. This was a weeklong festival, but the Passover was one day. And the feast of unleavened bread lasted the rest of the week.
2. The entire week commemorated the freeing of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. (Exodus 12:1-13).

Exodus 12:1-13

12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying,

² This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

³ Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:

⁴ *And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.*

⁵ *Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:*

⁶ *And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.*

⁷ *And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.*

⁸ *And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.*

⁹ *Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.*

¹⁰ *And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.*

¹¹ *And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's passover.*

¹² ***For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn*** in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

¹³ *And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.*

- a) Jerusalem was both the religious and political seat of Palestine, and the place where the Messiah was expected to arrive.
- b) The temple was located there and many Jewish families from all over the world travelled to Jerusalem during the key feasts.
- c) The Temple was build on an imposing site, a hill that overlooked the city.
- d) Solomon had build the first Temple on the same site almost 1000 years earlier (949 B.C.), but his temple was destroyed by the Babylonians (2 Kings 25).
- e) The Temple was rebuilt in 515 B.C. , and Herod the Great enlarged and remodeled it.

Here are some interesting facts about the Biblical Passover.

Bible Feasts:

Paul said in [Colossians 2:16-17](#) that the Jewish feasts and celebrations were a shadow of the things to come through [Jesus Christ](#). And although as Christians we may not

commemorate these holidays in the traditional biblical sense, as we discover the significance of each, we will certainly gain a greater knowledge of God's Word, and improved understanding of the Bible, and a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Colossians 2:16-17

¹⁶ Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: ¹⁷ Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

Passover Feast - Pesach:

Passover commemorates the freeing of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, as recorded in the [book of Exodus](#).

1. On Passover, Jews also celebrate the birth of the Jewish nation after being freed by God from captivity.
2. Today, the Jewish people not only remember an historic event on Passover, but also celebrate in a broad sense, their freedom as Jews.
3. The Hebrew word *Pesach* means "to pass over." During Passover Jews take part in a meal known as [the Seder](#), which incorporates the retelling of the story of Exodus and God's deliverance from bondage in Egypt.
4. Each participant of the Passover Seder experiences in a personal way, a national celebration of freedom through God's intervention and deliverance. *Hag HaMatzah* or the Feast of Unleavened Bread and *Yom HaBikkurim* or Firstfruits are both mentioned in [Leviticus](#) 23 as separate feasts, however, today Jews celebrate all three feasts as part of the eight-day Passover holiday.

Time of Observance:

1. Today, Passover begins on day 15 of the Hebrew month of Nissan (March or April) and continues for 8 days.
2. Originally, Passover began at twilight on the fourteenth day of Nissan (Leviticus 23:5), and then the next day, day 15, the Feast of Unleavened Bread would begin and continue for seven days (Leviticus 23:6).

• Bible Feasts Calendar for the actual dates of Passover.

Bible Feasts Calendar 2013-2017

Bible Feasts Calendar					
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Holiday	Holidays begin at sundown on the evening of the previous day.				
Feast of Lots (Purim)	Feb 24-25	Mar 16-17	March 5-6	Mar 24-25	Mar 12-13
Passover (Pesach)	Mar 26	April 15	April 4	April 23	April 11

Feast of Weeks or Pentecost (Shavuot)	May 15	June 4	May 24	June 12	May 31
Jewish Year	5774	5775	5776	5777	5778
Feast of Trumpets or New Year (Rosh Hashanah)	Sept 5-6	Sept 25-26	Sept 14-15	Oct 3-4	Sept 21-22
Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	Sept 14	Oct 4	Sept 23	Oct 12	Sept 30
Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)	Sept 19	Oct 9	Sept 28	Oct 17	Oct 5
Rejoicing in the Torah (Simchat Torah)	Sept 27	Oct 17	Oct 6	Oct 25	Oct 13
Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah)	Nov 28	Dec 17	Dec 7	Dec 25	Dec 13

1. This Bible feasts of [Jewish holidays](#) and feasts.
2. We can compare Gregorian calendar dates with the Jewish calendar.
3. From this we also learn important facts about each of the major feasts of the Bible.
4. Today most western nations use the Gregorian calendar, which is a solar calendar.
5. It is called the Gregorian calendar because it was established in 1582 by Pope Gregory VIII.
6. The Jewish calendar is based on both solar and lunar movements.
7. Since the Jewish day begins and ends at sunset, the holidays begin at sundown on the evening of the previous day.
8. The New Year of the Jewish calendar begins on Rosh Hashanah (September or October).
9. An easy way to calculate the Jewish calendar year is to add 3761 to the Gregorian calendar year.

Scripture Reference:

The [story of Passover](#) is recorded in the Old Testament book of Exodus 12.

About Passover:

1. [Joseph](#), son of [Jacob](#), after being sold into slavery in Egypt, was kept by God and greatly blessed.
2. Eventually he was put into a high position—which was second-in-command to Pharaoh.
3. In time, Joseph moved his entire family to Egypt and protected them there.
4. Then about 400 years later, the Israelite population had grown to about 2 million.
5. There were so many Jews in Egypt that the new Pharaoh was afraid of their power, therefore to maintain control; he turned them into slaves, oppressing them with harsh labor and ruthless treatment.
6. Yet, through a man named [Moses](#) (the great, great grandson of Jacob), God came to rescue his people.

- A. At the time Moses was born, Pharaoh had ordered the death of all Hebrew males, but God spared Moses when his mother hid him in a basket along the banks of the Nile.
- B. Pharaoh's daughter found the baby and decided to raise him as her own. Later Moses fled to Midian after killing an Egyptian for cruelly beating one of his own people.
- C. There God appeared to Moses in the flames of a [burning bush](#) and said, "I have seen the misery of my people. I have heard their cries, I care about their suffering, and I have come to rescue them. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people out of Egypt." (Exodus 3:7-10, paraphrased)

FINALY:

1. After making some excuses, Moses finally obeyed God and confronted Pharaoh.
2. But when Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go, God sent a series of plagues to persuade him.
3. With the final plague God promised to strike dead every first-born son in Egypt at midnight on the 15th day of the month of Nissan.
4. But to Moses, the Lord provided instructions so his people would be spared.
 - Each Hebrew family was to take a Passover lamb, slaughter it, and place some of the blood on the door frames of their homes.
 - When the destroyer (The Lord) passed over Egypt, he would not enter the homes covered by the blood of the Passover lamb.
1. These and other instructions became part of a lasting ordinance from God for the observance of the Passover Feast, so that the generations to come would always remember God's great deliverance.
2. At midnight, the Lord struck down all the firstborn of Egypt, and that very night Pharaoh called Moses and said, "Up! Leave my people. Go."
3. They left in haste and God led them toward the Red Sea. After a few days Pharaoh changed his mind, and decided to send his army in pursuit.
4. When the Egyptian army reached them at the banks of the Red Sea, the Hebrew people were afraid and cried out to God.
 - Moses answered, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today."
 - Moses stretched out his hand and [the sea parted](#), allowing the Israelites to cross on dry ground, with a wall of water on either side.
 - And when the Egyptian army followed, it was thrown into confusion.
 - Moses then stretched out his hand over the sea again and the entire army was swept away, leaving no survivors.

Jesus and Passover:

In Luke 22:15-16, Jesus shared the Passover meal with his [apostles](#) . Saying,

¹⁵ *And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:*

¹⁶ For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

1. (Luke 22:15-16.) Jesus is the fulfillment of the Passover.
 2. He is the [Lamb of God](#), sacrificed to set us free from bondage to sin. (John 1:29; Psalm 22; Isaiah 53) His blood covers and protects us, and his body was broken to free us from eternal death. (1 Corinthians 5:7)
- In the Jewish tradition a hymn of praise known as the [Hallel](#) is sung during the Passover Seder. In it is Psalm 118:22, speaking of the Messiah:

Psalm 118:22. The *stone which the builders refused* is become the *head stone of the corner*.

3. "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." Jesus said in Matthew 21:42, one week before his death, that he himself was **the stone the builders rejected**.
- ❖ As God commanded the Israelites to always commemorate his great deliverance through the Passover meal, we Christians were instructed by Christ as well, to continually remember his sacrifice through The Lord's Supper.

More Facts About Passover

1. Jews drink four cups of wine at the Seder. The third cup is called the cup of [redemption](#), the same cup of wine taken during the [Last Supper](#).
2. The bread of the Last Supper is the *Afikomen* of Passover, or the middle [Matzah](#) which is pulled out and broken in two. Half is wrapped in white linen and hidden. The children search for the unleavened bread in the white linen. Whoever finds it brings it back to be redeemed for a price. The other half of the bread is eaten, ending the meal.

Passover in the Bible

- Passover in the Old Testament: Exodus 12; [Numbers](#) 9: 1-14; Numbers 28:16-25; Deuteronomy 16: 1-6; [Joshua](#) 5:10; 2 Kings 23:21-23; 2 Chronicles 30:1-5, 35:1-19; Ezra 6:19-22; Ezekiel 45:21-24.
- Passover in the New Testament: Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 2, 22; John 2, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19; Acts 12:4; 1 Corinthians 5:7.

Deuteronomy 16:1-6

¹ Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the LORD thy God: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night.

² Thou shalt therefore sacrifice the passover unto the LORD thy God, of the flock and the herd, in the place which the LORD shall choose to place his name there.

³ *Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.*

⁴ *And there shall be no leavened bread seen with thee in all thy coast seven days; neither shall there any thing of the flesh, which thou sacrificedst the first day at even, remain all night until the morning.*

⁵ *Thou mayest not sacrifice the passover within any of thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee:*

⁶ *But at the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name in, there thou shalt sacrifice the passover at even, at the going down of the sun, at the season that thou camest forth out of Egypt.*

1. It is no wonder then that when the Lord came to the Temple and saw what manner they were keeping in the house of the Lord. The Temple at that time. There was much to say.
2. Remember that this was the place which the Lord had reserved for worship, and a place that the Jewish people could come to Him for forgiveness.
3. But instead it was made into a “Den of Thieves” as the Lord said.
 - It is the very same thing that is happening in the churches today. People have made the place of worship of God. (Jesus and His Father) into a “Den of Thieves”.
 - It has turned into a place where people meet to discuss business and other things, and the place is not longer a place of worship but a place of entertainment disguised under the umbrella of Christianity and worship.
 - If our Lord were to come now he would do the same thing he did here in John 2:15. He would overthrow the tables, and entertainment and drive them out as thieves with their merchandise.

It is the same scripture that we see in book of Acts.

Acts 6:14

¹⁴ For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

Mark 14:58

⁵⁸ We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another **made without hands**.

PRAYER.....CLOSE