

SLAIN from the foundation of the world

Personalize your Passover



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: *Is Passover just another church service to you, or do you personalize it? WHY did Jesus/Yeshua have to die such a brutal death? When was He “as good as dead”? What does “Foundation of the world” mean? Are you accepted by God? Are you qualified for God’s kingdom? This blog will be a good review before and during Passover week so it’s so meaningful to you.*

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Revelation 13:8 speaks of Messiah, the Lamb of God as having been “SLAIN from the FOUNDATION of the world” . What does that sentence mean to you? As we enter Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread, it’s a good thought to have in our minds.

Have you made that statement a personal one to yourself?

I’m Philip Shields, host of Light on the Rock. If you use the Search bar on our website, you’ll find we have many blogs and sermons on Passover season. Just type in “Passover” or “Unleavened Bread” or “see the blood” and you’ll see a lot of topical and seasonal sermons.

(Opening prayer)

Isaiah 53:4-6

“Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions,

He was bruised for our iniquities;

The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,

And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;

We have turned, everyone, to his own way;

And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

To Christians, Passover is about God's son being slain for us, for our sins.

But to JEWS, Passover is a time to recount the story of the Exodus. That's wonderful but they miss the point of all that pointing to the Messiah who was the Lamb all those little lambs being slaughtered pictured. Too bad.

WHY Did Messiah have to be slain? Because the wages of sin is DEATH, our death in the Lake of Fire if we don't repent (Rom 6:23). And we've ALL sinned. Doesn't matter if you never killed or raped anyone. Your other sins, still required your death. There's no getting around that – unless Someone was willing to die *for* you. You know that's where Jesus comes in.

But now personalize it. Let me explain.

Do you see yourself – really – as having done things worthy of causing the cruel and painful tortured death of someone because of you? Really think and honestly consider how you really feel about that question.

Imagine if, because of our sins, we could actually SEE and watch a young man in his early 30's being savagely beaten/whipped until you could see his flesh torn off and bones exposed -- and then have 5" spikes hammered into his wrists/hands and ankles -- and then left hanging on a cross or stake, hardly able to breathe. Could you HONESTLY admit YOU caused that? For yourself? YOUR sins caused that. Mine did too.

I wonder if we REALIZE what we each caused? It's easy to recite "he died for our sins" – without personalizing it or realizing the magnitude of what happened. For you. Start by saying to yourself, "Jesus died for MY sins."

In fact, before I forget, please read the blog "**Price of Forgiveness**" posted from my friend who goes by pen name of R. Herbert. He does a nice job. <https://www.lightontherock.org/index.php/blog/entry/the-price-of-forgiveness>

WHY did Jesus have to be brutally Executed?

Now in scripture we find a teaching that the Lamb of God, who we know was Jesus the Anointed one (which is what Messiah and Christ both mean) – was **SLAIN way, way back, long ago – "from the foundation of the world"**. He did not just die a natural death – though he willingly offered himself (**John 10:17-19**) but he **HAD to be SLAIN, had to be sacrificed, as the wages of sin is DEATH.** As humans we all die. But the

wages of SIN is ***death by execution***. So Jesus was executed for you and for me because of our sins. And that is also why he had to die by crucifixion.

- ***He had to be executed in a most painful way because sin requires execution and sin causes a lot of PAIN.***
- ***He had to die by shed blood*** – not just a broken heart. Life is in the blood. **Lev 17:11** – “For the life of the flesh is in the blood....”
- And we are even washed in the blood of the Lamb of God (1 John 1:7; Rev. 7:14). So he lost a LOT of blood, not just from the scourging but I believe being pierced was his actual cause of his death. I know a casual reading makes **John 19:33-34** sound like he was pierced after he was already found dead. But I really believe the “soldier HAD pierced his side.”

The Bible discusses his piercing a lot. Not something you'd expect for anything done after a person was already found to be dead. When He returns, everyone will eventually see him, including those who pierced him (John 19:37; Rev. 1:7). [There are more comments and explanations in the audio version]

John 19:31-37

“Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (**for that Sabbath was a high day**), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. {THAT sabbath was an annual holy day called “a high day”. It was the first day of Unleavened Bread, a commanded day to assemble and worship.}

32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. **33 *But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.***

34 *But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.*

35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. 36 For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, “Not one of His bones shall be broken.” 37 And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.” (Zech 12:10).

Zechariah 12:10

“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the ***Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will***

look on ME whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”

Notice in the context of being stabbed/pierced – God says even with all that, He will pour out on to the Jews his “spirit of grace and supplication” – in spite of their role in his dreadful execution of an innocent man, the very Son of God.

So the piercing surely could not have been just an after-thought after finding Jesus already had died. No, his blood gushed out at exactly the same time as the blood of the slain lambs on the temple mount was being washed down to the Valley of Hinnom.

I asked if you have personalized His execution. ***WHO was all that royal, holy, godly BLOOD spilled for? For whom was it spilled?***

Paul teaches us to apply all this to ourselves, as we come to Passover. Notice how Paul personalizes Christ’s death – stated at the end of a familiar verse:

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, ***who loved ME and gave Himself for ME.***”

So as we come to Passover and eat of the broken unleavened bread and Drink of the Master’s cup as we swallow the red wine – remember, this was personal. Sure, he died for everyone who would accept him. But it was personal. He did it for you. He did it for ME, as apostle Paul says.

WHEN did Jesus die? Sure, we all say about 2,000 years ago. But really, He was as good as crucified long before that. You knew this already, but it’s good to review it as we come to Passover.

Revelation 13:8

“All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the **Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**”.

1 Peter 1:18-21

“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with **the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

20 He indeed was foreordained BEFORE the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you **21** who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”

Peter calls it the “precious blood”. I urge you again to read the blog “The Price of Forgiveness”. God’s forgiveness is so costly that we could never pay it back. And it is used on us over and over – because we all still sin and fall short of our goals. And it doesn’t run out. There’s a lot there.

WHY from before the foundation of the world?

*I believe the term “the foundation of the world” refers to the time beginning with the first sin of Adam/Eve – and their expulsion from the presence of God, in the garden of Delights (Eden = delights). That event began the “world” as I see it – which we are supposed to come out of. “The World” is the present order of kingdoms as contrasted with the kingdom of God. We are not to be a friend of the world (**James 4:4**) and we are to come OUT of the world and Babylon (Rev. 18:4). So I believe this is referring to the beginning of Satan’s rule over his people. That was “the foundation of the world” I believe.*

*God KNEW sin would happen, and so in their planning for the salvation of mankind, the Word volunteered to die for humanity (**John 10:17-18**). It was His choice. God also gave up His close COMPANION He had had for eternity -- The WORD, who became flesh (John 1:1-3, 14). **Zech 13:7** calls him “My Companion and best friend/acquaintance”. This was done - Peter says – BEFORE the Foundation of the world, so it was all part of God’s plan from way, way back.*

Before Adam and Eve were even created, this plan of God to bring children into their family, was already all mapped out. God Most High wants children. Jesus is the FIRSTBORN among MANY brothers and sisters yet to come (Romans 8:29) as we read in several places. I’ll expound on that when I give an updated sermon on God’s amazing plan for most of us humans to be a real part of His family. No angels call God “Father”. But we can! **Read Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6-7.**

But God Most High – whom we know as “The Father” – knew ALL HUMANS would sin, if they were of the seed of Adam. And so ALL humans would be guilty of sin, and its penalty – which was DEATH. ALL humans come from Adam and Eve—and so when God put them out of his presence, that meant every human – all who were in their seed – were thrown

out too. Only those invited back in could come to God. Adam and Eve were under the death penalty for their sin – and so were their seed, all humans.

So every human when born, is born with the curse of Adam—condemnation and death. As David said in Psalm 51, “In sin did my mother conceive me”.

Romans 5:12-19

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned — 13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. ‘

15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. 16 And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification.

17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the GIFT of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to ALL men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the FREE GIFT came to all men, resulting in justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.”

So how are we made righteous? By our obedience or by our works? It won't be perfect – so no. *We are made righteous by Jesus' righteousness GIFTED to us as Rom 5:17-18 says. Philippians 3:9-11 also.*

Also the end of Romans 4 explains how God imputed His righteousness to Abraham when he believed God. It goes on to say – but not just to him, but to us also who believe in Jesus by faith (**Romans 4:19-25**).

Now let's go back a few verses:

Romans 5:6-11

“For when we were still without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.** 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be SAVED FROM WRATH through Him.

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom **we have now received the reconciliation.**”

Now WHY WAS Jesus not born automatically under the death penalty of Adam – like every other human is at birth?

ANSWER: Because the seed that conceived Jesus was not from Adam or any man, but from the power of God in the Highest. Mary was impregnated by the power of the Holy Spirit. By being conceived by God’s spirit, Jesus avoided Adam’s curse.

Luke 1:35

“And the angel answered and said to her, **“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you;** therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” (Also Luke 1:31-32)

Matthew 1:20

“But while he (Joseph) thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, **for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.**”

Therefore the one who was SLAIN for me and you - was VERY GOD himself, who was with God Most High. Your Savior was God’s close companion, the WORD of God. So personalize this high calling.

The wages for our labor of sin – was our death. God and the Word also knew that we would sin – over and over and over again. As we do. Our spirit is willing but our flesh is weak.

The only one who would be **able to remain sinless** was One not conceived of the seed of Adam, but of the Seed – or spirit, of God himself. This also

explains why Jesus did not come under the Adamic Curse or Romans 5 – where all other humans are automatically born in sin. Psa 51 – “In sin did my mother conceive me.”

Romans 5 says as in one man Adam, all have sinned and died, so ALL who are from that line – are under that curse. Jesus was not of that line but was conceived by God through the Holy Spirit. So when God calls us and we respond, Jesus pays the death penalty of our sins and so now we are FREE children of God. And Jesus paid for our death penalty himself, and now we are free to be children of GOD.

Hebrews 9:24-28

“For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, ***now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 not that He should offer Himself often***, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another — 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; ***but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.***

27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 ***so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.*** To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, ***apart from sin, for salvation.***”

Not only did He pay our death penalty for us but – he also gave us HIS righteousness.

2 Corinthians 5:21

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that WE might ***become the righteousness of GOD in Him***”

Because of Jesus Christ – you also are now accepted in Christ by the Father. God now accepts you. So many wonder if God will ever accept them. That doubt arises from focusing on yourself and your weaknesses, rather than on the strong righteous life of Jesus the Christ who is now our life (Col. 3:3-4).

Ephesians 1:5-6

“having predestined us **to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself**, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 **to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us ACCEPTED in the Beloved.**”

God's Word says we are accepted by God, because we are now in Christ. Jesus bought and paid for you and me by his own blood. Consider the VERY HIGH PRICE God paid for you and me: the life of His perfect sinless SON who was also God! We are now His. We belong to Him, part of Him, of his body – the Church.

Acts 10:35 – we of course we have to reject the world's ways, and work righteousness by Christ in us - -and we will be accepted.

Too many brethren suffer from “WILL I make it?” Syndrome.

Worried if they'll make it into the kingdom of God. IS it up to you to make it into the Kingdom or not? If it's all up to you or me – I'd be worried too. We have to come to believe that our righteousness is by faith in Christ. Read **Philippians 3:9-11.**

Remember **GAL 2:20-** -- how Paul says he no longer lives but is crucified with Christ – and the life he now lives, he lives by faith in Christ “who died for ME” but then few people go on to read the next verse. Be sure you understand it!

Galatians 2:21

“I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

And meanwhile, are you “qualified” for the kingdom of God – or not?

Colossians 1:10-14

“that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

12 giving thanks to the Father who HAS QUALIFIED US to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and CONVEYED US into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

God had called Israel out of the kingdom of Egypt to become their own nation, their own Kingdom. Israel was freed from Pharaoh, his slavery and from Egypt. In the same way, we also have been delivered from this world, from Satan and from sin. If we truly would realize this, we should be experiencing a lot of joy and peace.

UNDERSTAND The Unleavened Bread YOU ARE EATING

So as we come into the days of Unleavened Bread, remember we are to eat unleavened bread for seven days (Ex 12:15). *But even the unleavened bread we eat for seven days does not picture US putting sin out. No, it pictures me putting Christ IN.* I cannot pick out every fault and sin in my life and therefore ever hope to eventually become ‘unleavened’ spiritually. Once ‘leavened’, which we all were, all we can do is throw that old way, that old life OUT – purge the old leaven, throw it out. Then we bake or buy fresh Unleavened Bread.

Unleavened Bread is bread that has never before ever had any leaven. Never. So that cannot be us. We undoubtedly will have some sin even during the days of Unleavened Bread. So the Unleavened Bread can't be us. No, Unleavened Bread pictures Christ's sinless life. WE become sinless only when Christ becomes our life, which is something he offers, and we accept.

So rejoice in the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread and make it more personal for you this year. Don't just show up to Passover without a lot of forethought. Pray and seek God beforehand. Express profound and deep appreciation for what God has done and shown you by calling you now.

So at Passover – Do the FOOTWASHING:

- YES IT PICTURES SERVING one another – but much more: it also pictures us acknowledging that we see each of our brothers and sisters as washed by Jesus. He even washed Judas' feet!
- **Eat the Unleavened Bread:** we are taking in Christ as our life. “This is MY body” – remember? Humble, clean, pure, no sin.
- **Take The CUP** – Jesus focuses on taking the CUP, not just the wine. “The CUP” meant accepting whatever God has in store for us.

Luke 22:20

“Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.”

Luke 22:42-44

42 saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”

43 Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. 44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

Matthew 26:39-43

“He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My **Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.**"

40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "**O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.**"

‘43 And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.’”

So yes, drink of His cup – and accept whatever God allows you to go through, with thanksgiving as Philippians 4:6-7 tells us.

Philippians 4:6-7

“*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything* by prayer and supplication, with **thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the **peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Closing prayer.