

PASSOVER 2020

COULD THIS BE THE YEAR OF THE NEXT
GREAT EXODUS?

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SCRIPTURE AND PROPHECY

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THE FEAST OF PASSOVER

The Feast of Passover is one of several feasts God gave His people to observe and remember. These feasts are not just religious things to do, rather they are believed to point to the Messiah. Every year when the feasts come around, I put myself on high alert. I wonder, is this the time when God will do something incredible?

Most Christians today are confused about these feasts. They think they are just religious actions the Jews used to do during Old Testament times, or worse, they don't know about the feasts at all! Why? Because frankly, most pastors don't teach or know about them either.

The word feast in Hebrew is the word *moed* (מועד), which more accurately means appointed time. These are the times and specific dates which God has ordained, typically to do amazing and important work in regards to His people. We can see these feasts laid out for us in the Book of Leviticus, chapter 23. However, in this book, we will only examine the Feast of Passover. As you read about these events throughout scripture, remember when you see the

English word “feast,” it means “appointed time.” Let’s take a quick look at the first few verses of Leviticus, chapter 23.

“And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, **2** Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the **feasts of the Lord**, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. **3** Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings. **4** **These are the feasts of the Lord**, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. **5** In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the **Lord’s passover**. **6** And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the Lord: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. **7** In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. **8** But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.” Leviticus 23:1-8 KJV

WHEN WE SEE the phrase “feasts of the Lord” throughout scripture, the more accurate meaning in the original Hebrew would be “the appointed times of Yehovah.”

Yes, God is telling the Israelites to perform certain rituals and ceremonies and to have an actual feast, but more importantly, He is telling them to pay attention, because these are His appointed times. Times He has ordained and chosen in advance to do amazing works.

In this short booklet, we will be taking a closer and

deeper look at the Feast of Passover, specifically, but not limited to, passover in the year 2020. I believe something prophetic could be happening to our generation right now. We need to open our eyes, minds and hearts to this possibility and prepare ourselves for what is to come.

THE FIRST PASSOVER

In the Book of Exodus, we read about the very first Feast of Passover. The Hebrews were commanded to kill a lamb, put its blood on the doorpost outside their house, go inside and eat the passover meal with haste. While they are inside eating the meal, God would then pour out His judgement upon Egypt, as a plague would sweep through killing all the firstborns of Egypt. However, when the Lord would see the blood of the lamb on the doorpost of the Hebrews, He would passover these homes and the Hebrews would be protected and the plague would not touch them.

Now, this story is just littered with prophetic meanings and foreshadows which point to the Messiah and His death on the cross. We will examine His death as the final passover a bit later. For now, let's look at the beginning of the Exodus passover story and see if there is a prophetic meaning to be had for us right now.

“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.” Exodus 12:1-12 KJV

WHAT I FIND VERY interesting is the part where they are commanded to be inside their house and to eat with haste. Not only eat with haste, but to be completely dressed, with their shoes on and their staff in hand.

“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.” Exodus 12:11 KJV

YOU SEE, the Hebrews needed to be ready to leave Egypt at a moment's notice. They needed to be prepared and ready to answer the call. The judgement was going to come down on the Egyptians, and afterwards the Hebrews would be hurried out of the land and free from their bondage.

This has a great prophetic meaning for us today. Just like the Hebrews, we are to be ready. The passover story is teaching us to take this posture, knowing the Lord could appear in the sky at any moment. This is why I believe it's important for Christians to memorialize the Exodus passover story and have a passover meal while also being dressed with our shoes on and ready to go if the trumpet were to sound from Heaven.

PASSOVER 2020, A PROPHETIC TIME?

I'm not one to argue over rapture doctrine or attempt to predict the return of Messiah. I am, however, one to point out interesting signs and ask questions in order to get myself and others to think and consider our current situation.

As I am writing these words on April 4th, 2020, we are only a few days away from Passover which will begin at sunset on April 8th. At this very moment, the world seems to be falling apart around us, and Christians are faced with a very interesting, albeit frightening, challenge right now. Not just Christians, but Christians and non-believers alike. Nearly all of humanity. This situation we are facing is unprecedented.

A virus is sweeping the plains of the earth and has caused great hysteria among the people. Although one might argue the government and media around the world are actually to blame for the mass hysteria. Either way, the hysteria exists and most of the world is currently under quarantine orders from their government. This is a very frightening time because there seems to be no real end in

sight. Each day the headlines and predictions get worse. The reported cases and deaths continue to rise. There is much fear among the people. Not just fear of the virus itself, but of the fallout as a result of the virus. Many believe the world's economies will not survive a complete shutdown of nearly every industry. I fear they may be correct for their concerns. Others think this will lead to a complete social and economic collapse which will in return lead to a one world government and the arrival of the anti-christ and the biblical end of days. I can see how this is also possible. Time will tell.

I'm personally praying for the miracles of God to be demonstrated around the world, causing a great revival and a great awakening of the nations. I'm praying for peace, prosperity, hope and joy to return to the earth. After all, what do we have if we don't have hope? We are left with nothing but despair.

I say all of this to point out a very interesting theme and maybe prophetic meaning for passover this year.

For the first time, since the very first passover in Egypt, all of God's people will be celebrating with just their immediate family, quarantined inside their homes to avoid the plague! There will be no church passover gatherings, large seders, or synagogue gatherings. Even Israel, just like America and most the rest of the world, is under lockdown, stay-at-home orders. Essential travel only. At this moment as I write this, we may only leave to buy groceries or go to work if considered essential.

This passover we will be in our homes, with the door shut, eating a passover meal alone with our families. We are all praying and hoping for the plague to move on, to pass and not touch us and our loved ones. In addition, we are

also praying for God and all His mercy to bring an end to this sadness.

I'm reminded of a passage in the Book of Isaiah.

“Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. 21 For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.” Isaiah 26:20-21 KJV

COULD there be something prophetic happening during passover this year? I'm not sure about you, but I plan to dress nicely and enjoy a passover meal. I will be remembering how God rescued the Hebrews out of Egypt, how the plague didn't come near those who had the covering of the blood. I'm going to eat it with my shoes on, my lions girded and with haste. I'm going to prepare my heart for the possibility I might be called out of this land and brought to a land, flowing with milk and honey, prepared by God. A land flowing with the peace and joy of the Messiah, flowing with hope, light and the Spirit of God.

JESUS (YESHUA) THE PASSOVER LAMB

The passover we read about in Exodus is also a great foreshadow to what the Messiah would do for the whole world, for anyone who would put their faith and trust in Him. Jesus was crucified on passover, He was the Lamb without spot or blemish. His blood was shed for all of us, so that God might pass over our sins and we might avoid His wrath. Much like the Hebrews had the blood of the lamb on their doorpost in the Exodus story, we too are covered by the sacrificial blood of the Messiah.

This is the completion of the passover story. This is what it's really all about. It's about Jesus and His death and resurrection. It's about Him becoming a sacrifice for all of us. Not only do we see the obvious foreshadow in the Exodus passover story, but we see the prophets proclaiming it as well and then it being confirmed by the New Testament letters written by the Apostles.

IN ISAIAH, we read.

“He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: **he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter**, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.” Isaiah 53:7 KJV

WHEN JOHN the baptist saw Jesus on the horizon, he proclaimed Jesus was the Lamb who would take away our sins.

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29 KJV

THE APOSTLE PAUL tells us to cleanse out our leaven (sin) that we might become a new lump because of Jesus being the Passover Lamb.

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. **For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:** Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I Corinthians 5:7-8 KJV

THIS THEME RUNS through the Bible making it very clear

Jesus is the Final Passover. He is the Lamb, whose blood was shed for us, so that God might pass over our sins and His wrath will not come near us.

I'm amazed at how few Christians know and understand the passover story. After all, it's made very clear, even if you only read the New Testament letters. Paul even tell us, in the verse quoted above, to keep the feast!

“Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” 1 Corinthians 5:8 KJV

THIS IS SIMPLY because the feasts are rarely taught in churches anymore. Passover has been replaced with a religious Easter tradition. Now, I have no problem celebrating Resurrection Sunday and praising God for raising the Messiah from the dead. After all, it is because of His resurrection we now have hope we will also one day rise! However, I do have a problem with paganism entering the church and passover being forgotten. It is a great tragedy and many Christians are missing out on the importance of the Feast of Passover, its prophetic meanings and foreshadows to the Messiah.

A PASSOVER RESURRECTION

As I mentioned earlier, I am not one to argue over rapture doctrine. I'm not interested in debating whether the catching up of the saints is pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation, or post-tribulation. I happen to think we are all a little right and all a little wrong. I prefer to keep my eyes on Jesus (Yeshua) with an expectation He could arrive at any moment. There are countless examples in the Bible, where Jesus (Yeshua) warns us to always be watching and ready for His return. I recommend checking out my devotional book on the end of days. I go into great detail and spend the first 7 days of the devotional talking about this very subject. You can find it at the link below.

<http://scriptureandprophecy.com/book>

IN REGARDS to the rapture or the resurrection of the saints there is an interesting event which is often missed or overlooked, which took place on passover during the crucifixion of Jesus.

“Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. **46** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? **47** Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. **48** And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. **49** The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him. **50** Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. **51** And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; **52** **And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,** **53** **And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.”** Matthew 27:45-53 KJV

DID you catch the last verse? The graves were opened and the saints who had passed away arose? Now, it appears they rose from the dead at the crucifixion and then physically came out of the graves and appeared to many after the Messiah's resurrection. I suppose the timing could be argued; however, either way, this took place within a 3-day window of the Messiah's death on the cross and His resurrection.

My point is simply this, while we don't know the day nor the hour when Jesus (Yeshua) will return, or when we will be caught up in the air to meet Him, I can't help but wonder if it will occur during a passover feast day. After all, we just read an example of this happening during either the Feast

of Passover or the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which immediately follows passover.

There are many arguments which can be made for a rapture or resurrection which could align with any of the feasts or appointed times of Yehovah. All of them make valid points. With that being said, they can not all be correct, but they all could be wrong as well. I just wanted to stir a thought within us and make us more aware of the possibility for a second passover exodus or even a catching away event.

THE CATCHING AWAY

In regards to the rapture or catching away, there is one argument I'm willing to debate. As I mentioned multiple times before, I don't want to argue over whether the catching away is pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation or post-tribulation. The reason being, I simply don't know for certain and I don't want to make claims out of ignorance or for the purpose of protecting a favorite pet doctrine. I would rather take a position of humility and admit I'm unsure.

However, I will partake in one argument and that is whether or not anyone believed in a catching away or rapture before the 1800s. There are those who claim the rapture doctrine is a made up theory which didn't exist until the 1800s. This is a ridiculous and quite easily refuted argument.

First off, the catching away is clearly in the scriptures. Let's look at what Paul told the Corinthians.

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but

we shall all be changed, **52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 KJV

AGAIN, Paul describes this event to the Thessalonians.

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. **15** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. **16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: **17** **Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.** **18** Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 KJV

WE ALSO SEE an interesting description of the catching away in the Apocryphal Book of 2 Esdras. This particular book was included in the 1611 King James Bible, long before the 1800s. The book was later removed from the Bible in the late 1800s.

“And suddenly shall the sown places appear unsown, the full storehouses shall suddenly be found empty: 23 And the trumpet shall give a sound, which when every man heareth, they shall be suddenly afraid. 24 At that time shall friends fight one against another like enemies, and the earth shall stand in fear with those that dwell therein, the springs of the fountains shall stand still, and in three hours they shall not run. 25 **Whosoever remaineth from all these that I have told thee shall escape, and see my salvation, and the end of your world.** 26 **And the men that are received shall see it, who have not tasted death from their birth: and the heart of the inhabitants shall be changed, and turned into another meaning.** 27 For evil shall be put out, and deceit shall be quenched. 28 As for faith, it shall flourish, corruption shall be overcome, and the truth, which hath been so long without fruit, shall be declared.” 2 Esdras 6:22-25 1611 KJV

THERE ARE SO many interesting thoughts in this passage. I can't help but be taken back by verse 22, which speaks to empty store houses before the trumpet blast. Especially as we are seeing these shortages begin to take place here in America and around the world right now as people hoard and panic over the virus, hysteria and lockdowns.

While an argument can definitely be made about the timing of the catching away or as it's commonly known “the rapture,” one can not deny the existence of the event. Even so, let's address the root of the argument. The real question is, were there people who believed in a rapture event during the times of the early church? The answer is YES! We have examples and quotes from early church fathers who

believed in this event. It was not made up in the 1800s. I will show you one example from Irenaeus.

Irenaeus, AD 170

Against Heresies 5.29 - When in the end that church will suddenly be caught up from this, it is said, "there will be tribulation such as not been since the beginning, nor will be."

I DO NOT KNOW when this event will take place. Like others, I can only guess and speculate. I am also unsure of how it will come about and what it will look like. We can get some general ideas from the scriptures, apocryphal text and the early church fathers, but it still remains a mystery. Only the most prideful of believers can dare claim to have it all figured out.

PASSOVER DEVOTIONAL

Hard times have come upon us in the year 2020, and much is uncertain. We must remember not to be filled with fear, but to be filled with faith. We must not be filled with despair for the future, but with a great expectation of God's grace and mercy, if you know Him and His son, Jesus (Yeshua).

May we remember the hope which is to be associated with the Feast of Passover. It is an appointed time of Yehovah, therefore, expect miracles! Passover is a reminder for all believers that our sins have been covered and we will be passed over when the wrath of God is poured out upon the earth.

AS IT IS WRITTEN,

“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, **IO** Who died for us,

that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.” 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 KJV



LET us remember the Feast of Passover is a spring feast. With the season of spring comes renewal and hope. The grass turns green and the trees begin to bud. The bright sun beats down on our skin, warming us, and reminding us better days are ahead. While the winter is harsh, hard and cold, spring brings new life and a reminder summer is near.

Be at peace, Loved Ones, and remember who your God is. He loves us and has not forgotten nor forsaken us.

This passover, put on your best clothing, eat a nice meal, including dessert. Rejoice in all that God has done for us and let us have a heart of thanksgiving. Put on your shoes, and have your staff in hand, for we might be called to leave quickly.

However, if this is not the case, let us rejoice nonetheless for God has given us more time to bring in the harvest, more time to live for Him, more time to be grateful and thankful, and more time to be a salt and light to this hurting world.

“A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth. 2 O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.”
Habakkuk 3:1-2 KJV

THE END OF DAYS, A 30 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Interested in the end of days and Bible prophecy? Please considering reading my 30-day devotional entitled -

“The End of Days, A 30 day Devotional: Watching for the Return of Messiah”

<http://scriptureandprophecy.com/book>

Devotional Description:

Strange times are upon us. We are living in a time of great confusion and uncertainty. Pestilence, genetic modification, artificial intelligence, social and economic unrest, wars and rumors of wars, strange weather, and earthquakes dominate our daily news headlines. Could we be living in the End Times?

Unfortunately, many are not paying attention. Even Christians have fallen asleep and are at risk of being caught off guard. Both the world and the church seem to ignore the cries of the watchman. They do not understand time is short! Over the course of 30 days, this book will help you navigate the strange times we are living in, while also

helping you understand what Bible prophecy has to say about these last days. More importantly, this devotional will help you focus on the imminent return of the Messiah and point you toward a closer and more intimate relationship with Him.

The return of Jesus, our Messiah, is near and the end of days may be upon us. Are you ready?

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ABOUT SHAWN OZBUN

Shawn L. Ozburn is an independent podcaster, author, and commentator of many biblical topics, most notably eschatology. Shawn is a student of the scriptures, ancient writings and biblical Hebrew language. He focuses primarily on End Times prophecy, biblical history, apocryphal text, and the Dead Sea Scrolls. Most importantly, Shawn is passionate about delivering the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Shawn loves to both read and write devotionals based on the scriptures he loves so dearly. You can receive his weekly email devotional by signing up at <http://scriptureandprophecy.com>

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