


March 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

## The Purpose of the Passover Lamb

*1 John 3:1-8*

Throughout history, Christians have connected Holy Week with the Jewish celebration of Passover. We are familiar with Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Resurrection Sunday. Passover has been observed in the Jewish nation for centuries. It was not just a tradition; it was a commandment to be observed throughout generations. Passover was instituted when the Israelites were rescued from Egypt and headed to the promised land. The reason for this is that God had a magnificent plan!

Passover is the celebration of the night when God killed the firstborn in Egypt with a plague so that the Israelites would obtain full freedom from slavery. The Israelites were protected because they marked the doors of their houses with the blood of a lamb and when the Angel of Destruction saw the blood, he passed over the houses, sparing their firstborn children. That night was the first Passover.

 Exodus 12:3, 5-8, 11b-14, 23-27

### Jesus' Plan.

*Matthew 26:1-2 "When Jesus had finished all these sayings, He said to His disciples, 'You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.'"*

❖ Christ came to die on Passover, fulfilling the plan of God; He, Christ, is our Passover lamb.

*John 1:29 "The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"*

❖ Christ is our Passover lamb.

*1 Corinthians 5:7 "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."*

❖ The Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil, fulfilling God's divine plan of salvation throughout the ages.

*Ephesians 1:7-10 "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth."*

❖ The arrival and teaching of Christ, His crucifixion and death, as well as His resurrection; were the plan of Jesus motivated by God's purpose.

*Hebrews 10:4-7 "For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, He said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for Me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings You have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God, as it is written of Me in the scroll of the book."'"*

*Luke 2:49 "And He said to them, 'Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?'" NKJV*

*Mark 1:38 "And He said to them, 'Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.'"*

*John 18:37 "Then Pilate said to Him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.'"*

*John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me."*

📖 John 10:10-18,

- ♦ Jesus was fully invested in the purpose of God, and therefore He had a plan.
- Have you experienced the purpose of God in your life?

### **Jesus' Passion.**

- ❖ The passion Jesus had for humanity led Him to become the sacrificial lamb.

*Hebrews 12:2-4 "looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood."*

- ♦ What was the joy of Jesus?

☞ To rescue sinners.

*Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

*Luke 5:32 "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."*

*Luke 15:2 "And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'"*

*Mark 6:34 "When He went ashore He saw a great crowd, and He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And He began to teach them many things."*

☞ To please the Father.

*John 5:30 "I can do nothing on My own. As I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I seek not My own will but the will of Him who sent Me."*

*Matthew 26:39 "And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.'"*

☞ To glorify God.

*John 8:49 "Jesus answered, 'I do not have a demon, but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me.'"*

*Philippians 2:8-11 "And being found in human form, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

*Romans 11:36 "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen."*

- Has God's passion for you and in you transformed your life?

### **Jesus' Power.**

- ❖ The reason Jesus was able to destroy the works of the devil was that He had the power of God.

*Luke 4:32 "and they were astonished at His teaching, for His word possessed authority."*

*Mark 1:27 "And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, 'What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.'"*

*Mark 4:39-41 "And He awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, 'Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?'"*

*Mark 11:27-28 “And they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to Him, and they said to Him, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?’”*

✞ *Matthew 28:18 “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.’”*

➤ Have you experienced the power of God in your life?

*Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

*2 Peter 1:3 “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence.”*

#### Endnotes:

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