

# The Feast of **PASSOVER**

An Appointed Time on God's Calendar



**God's Promises for  
Protection, Prosperity,  
and Peace**

Dear Inspiration Partner,

God said He would bless you and make you a blessing. As you sow your Passover offering into the Good Ground of Inspiration Ministries, you are blessing others with the Gospel. Every eight seconds, someone is making Jesus Christ the Lord of their life through this ministry!

Together we've won souls to the Lord in over 200 different nations and territories, and hundreds of thousands of people are making Jesus their Lord through Inspiration Ministries every month.

It's my prayer for you that as you release the financial seed from your hands, God will release His harvest of blessing from His hands into your life.

May the Lord multiply your seed back into your life in the form of the personal harvest you need and in the form of a harvest of souls!

When Moses reminded the people of what God had commanded, they reaffirmed their covenant with Him by responding, "We will do everything the LORD has said, and be obedient" (Exodus 24:7). Will you respond in the same way? Your obedience releases God's blessings. Test Him in this, and see if He will not do what He's promised in His Word!

Please join me in honoring God...obeying His Word...and taking a step of faith by celebrating Passover. Let's come before Him together with a special Passover offering to honor Him and bless His holy name.



God Bless You,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David".

David Cerullo

## God's Plan of Redemption

From the moment Eve bit into the forbidden fruit, God put His plan of redemption into place. The whole Bible – from Genesis through Revelation – is the story of **our need for redemption**, God's plan for providing it, and its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus' finished work on the cross.

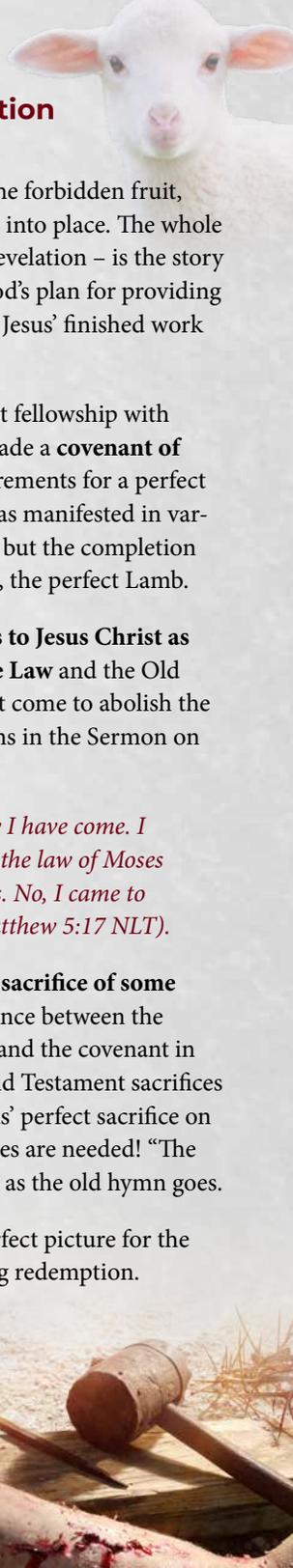
Because imperfect people cannot fellowship with a holy and righteous God, He made a **covenant of redemption** to satisfy His requirements for a perfect blood sacrifice. This covenant was manifested in various ways throughout Scripture, but the completion came through Jesus the Messiah, the perfect Lamb.

All of the **Old Testament points to Jesus Christ as being the consummation of the Law** and the Old Testament covenants. He did not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it as He explains in the Sermon on the Mount:

**D**on't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose (Matthew 5:17 NLT).

**All covenants required a blood sacrifice of some kind** (Hebrews 9:18). The difference between the covenants in the Old Testament and the covenant in the New Testament is that the Old Testament sacrifices had to be repeated, but after Jesus' perfect sacrifice on the cross, no more blood sacrifices are needed! "The blood shall never lose its power," as the old hymn goes.

The very first Passover was a perfect picture for the Israelites of the Messiah's coming redemption.



## History of Passover

We celebrate Passover in the first month of the Jewish calendar (Nisan), which is during March-April on our Gregorian calendar. For both Jewish and Christian believers, **Passover (Pesach) proclaims Jesus Christ as our eternal Passover Lamb!**

For 430 years, God's chosen people had been enslaved in Egypt, and as their desperate cries rose to God year after year for His salvation, He sent them a deliverer named Moses. Ten times Moses tried to convince Pharaoh to **"Let my people go!"** But Pharaoh refused even after nine plagues ravaged Egypt and its people (Exodus 5-10).

So God gave Moses His plan for redeeming each Israelite household – a plan that foreshadowed God's act of sending His only Son Jesus to die and restore us, forever delivering us from the curse of sin, sickness, and death.

The head of each Israelite household was to choose a perfect lamb and sacrifice it to the Lord. Hyssop (an herb used for purification) was to be dipped in the lamb's blood, and then the blood was sprinkled on the doorposts and lintels of their homes. The lamb was to be roasted and ALL of it eaten that same night.

God's promise for their obedience was that when He sent the Death Angel throughout Egypt to kill the firstborn (human and animal) in every Egyptian family, it would **PASS OVER the Israelite homes where the lambs' blood was found.**

On that first Passover night, the head of each Israelite household obeyed God's instructions. The Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, but those in all the Israelite homes were spared!

Can you hear the words of John the Baptist hundreds of years later as he saw Jesus coming to be baptized by him? John said, **"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!"** (John 1:29).

As soon as the Egyptians discovered that all their firstborn children and animals had been slain by the Death Angel of the Lord, Pharaoh ordered the Israelites to leave Egypt immediately.

**R**ise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also (Exodus 12:31-32).

While their exodus and wilderness wanderings for the next 40 years would not be easy, God delivered them from slavery in Egypt as He had promised.

Afterward, they were commanded to observe the memorial of Passover every year, so they could remember the amazing miracle God performed to deliver them from the Egyptians.

**T**his day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance (Exodus 12:14).

## God's Promises Are for Us, Too

**W**ith the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot (1 Peter 1:19).

God promises that as you are obedient to His Word and faithfully celebrate Passover, you will receive the seven blessings listed in Exodus 23:20-30.

1. An angel of God will be assigned to protect you (v. 20).
2. God will be an enemy to your enemies (v. 22).
3. He will prosper you (v. 25).
4. God will take sickness away from you (v. 25).
5. You will not die before your appointed time (v. 26).
6. Increase and an inheritance will be yours (v. 30).
7. The Lord will return to you what was lost to the enemy (v. 29-30).

## Passover Is Forever!

If God has commanded us to observe Passover forever, why aren't more believers today celebrating this sacred event?

In the fourth century AD, Emperor Constantine convened the Council of Nicaea, which, among other issues, detached the church from the Hebrew calendar, including separating the celebration of Jesus' resurrection (now called Easter) from Passover.

Later, Christians habitually observed only Resurrection Sunday and let the traditions of Passover fall by the wayside in the church. As God's commandments regarding Passover are restored to the church, the blessings He gave His chosen people for their faith and obedience will be ours.

Some may argue that Passover is an old covenant teaching given under the Law. As believers, we now live under a new covenant of grace! That's true. **God has given us a new covenant, and we now live by grace because of Jesus' blood.**

But nowhere in the Old or New Testaments does the Word say we are to neglect celebrating God's special feasts, including Passover. Through Jesus Christ, the Old Testament was fulfilled, not abolished!

**S**o this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance (Exodus 12:14).



## Jesus, the Apostles, and Passover

### Not Just an Old Testament Ritual

Your salvation is NOT based on observing Passover – or any of God’s special feasts – nor has the church taken the place of God’s chosen people, the Jews!

Celebrating Passover is not just an Old Testament religious observance...it’s a GOD-ordained, appointed time of blessing for all believers!

God commanded His people to celebrate the feasts forever. Leviticus 23, which further discusses God’s three appointed times, says this about the feasts:

**T***his is a permanent law for you, and it must be observed from generation to generation wherever you live (v. 14 NLT).*

Because Passover is special to Him, celebrating this feast must be special to us as well. When you come before the Lord in faith and obedience to His Word, God promises to release His seven-fold Passover blessings into your life!

Passover was a time of celebration, joy, and blessing for the Israelites. And what a season of joy and blessing it will be for you as you come before God to honor Him with your worship and your Passover offering during this special time!



The Seder meal is part of the traditional Jewish celebration of Passover. The Seder includes many elements that point to the redemption story.

Jesus and His disciples celebrated the Feast of Passover their whole lives. When Jesus began His formal ministry and the disciples began following Him, they continued to observe the Jewish feasts and ordinances. In fact, the final night they had together before Jesus’ crucifixion was Passover:

**N***ow on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?”... When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve (Matthew 26:17, 20).*

As a pious pharisee, Saul would have adhered to every guideline for every feast. After his conversion when he became the apostle Paul, he continued to keep the feasts in order to maintain credibility with the Jews to whom he ministered (1 Corinthians 9:20).

**B***ut we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days (Acts 20:6).*

For today’s believers, Paul reminds us to keep Christ, our perfect Passover Lamb, as the main theme of our Passover celebrations:

**T***herefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (1 Corinthians 5:7-8).*

## How to Celebrate Passover Today

While each family has its own traditions for Passover, most celebrations include a special meal, a reminder of why the day is special, gifts, prayers, and other unique practices.

The traditional Passover meal is called a Seder, which comes from the Hebrew word for order, and includes symbolic food to represent key aspects of the Passover story.

You can look up the Haggadah (the booklet read during a Seder that gives the Biblical account and the order of the ceremony) from a variety of sources online to help you recreate the Seder as faithfully as possible. You could also read the account of the very first Passover in Exodus 12.

A good way to tie together and commemorate both the Passover and Jesus' death and resurrection, which took place during Passover, is to observe communion.

**F**or I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread...In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me" (1 Corinthians 11:23, 25).

As you celebrate, pray for deliverance in whatever area you need – physical, relational, emotional, spiritual. As you honor God's appointed time, He will meet with you in a new and exciting way.

The Bible teaches that faithfully celebrating Passover (and God's other appointed times) will bring God's blessings into our lives to a greater degree and in a greater dimension than we've ever experienced before. This is a time to praise God for His faithfulness in your life over the past year and honor God by giving Him your special Passover offering.

As Exodus 23 reminds us, God says we must "celebrate three festivals in [His] honor" every year, AND "No one may appear before me without an offering" (vs. 14-15 NLT). So not only are we to observe the Feasts of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles, but we are also to commemorate them with an offering above and beyond our regular tithes.

Malachi 3:10 teaches us that 10% of our income – the tithe – belongs to God. But during the feasts we are instructed to bring God an offering from the rest of our income...a special gift for Him.

**What will you bring to God this Passover season to claim His special promises for you this year?**



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