

PASSOVER

The Passover is a Jewish celebration of the passing of the Lord through Egypt, nearing the exodus of the Hebrews from bondage. One of a series of plagues, the Passover occurred as the finale to convince the Pharaoh to honor Moses request and to release the Hebrews from slavery.



As Exodus describes, the event began with the instruction to apply an unblemished, year-old male lamb's blood on the doorframes of their homes. When the Spirit passed through, any home with the blood would be passed-over; but any home without the blood would lose the first born child and livestock to death. To lose a child was a tragedy, but to lose a first born child was the end of one's legacy or the passing on of an inheritance. Among the plagues, the Passover was the most severe and decisive.

In Exodus, the Lord instructs that this is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord – a lasting ordinance. The celebration is known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread; other references to the feast and Passover occur throughout the Old and New Testament.

In the days prior to Jesus' crucifixion, on the first day of the celebrated Feast, The Last Supper takes place in the upper room. During this meal, as described in the Book of Mark, Jesus leads the Lord's Supper:

- ⦿ the breaking and eating of the bread, as a symbol of his body given up for mankind
- ⦿ the pouring and drinking of the wine, as a symbol of Jesus' blood shed for the remission or forgiveness of sins

God's commitment to the New Covenant was possible only through Christ's atoning death; as the blood of lambs had been sacrificed in the Old Testament as an atonement for sin, Jesus' blood was shed as the final atonement for all of man's sin for time eternal. From this event in the upper room, Jesus redefined the Passover meal. Whereas the meal had been a celebration of redemption to the Hebrews from the bondage of slavery, the New Covenant represents Christians' redemption from the bondage of sin, death.

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